

150 years



1866-2016

MARKtime

St. Mark's Church, Gillingham
with St. Mary's Island Church

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;
Learning Together

Mission Focus: All Mission
Partners

St. Mark's Event:
Christmas Services

23rd December 2018 to 6th January
2019

Advent 4

10.15am: Christingle Service in Vicarage Hall for Children's groups, parents are welcome to stay. Depending on numbers you may need to collect your children.

10.30am: Traditional Carol Service, St. Mark's Church.

3.00pm: Empty Chair Service - A reflective Service for anyone missing a loved one this Christmas, St. Mark's Church

5.30pm: Carols in the Pub, King George V, 1 Prospect Row, Brompton ME7 5AL

Other Services:

11.00am: Family Service, St Mary's Island

Prayer Ministry: *If you would like to pray or share concerns with someone, then prayer teams are available in the small chapel at the front of church.*



The **Church Office** will be closed from Mon 24th Dec - Tues 1st Jan and Fri 4th Jan 2019.

WHAT'S ON DURING THIS WEEK:

Mon 24th Dec: 4.00pm **Messy Crib Service**, St. Mary's Island

5.00pm: FOLLOW THE STAR - A Christmas Festival of carols, drama, community choir and refreshments, St. Mark's Church

11.00pm: Christmas Eve Midnight Service, St Mary's Island

Tues 25th Dec: 10.30am **Christmas Day CELEBRATION**

- All Age Service with Holy Communion, St. Mark's Church

Thurs 27th Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

Sat 29th Dec: 10.00am-12.00noon: **Foodbank**, Church



NEXT SUNDAY 30th Dec:

Christmas 1

10.30am: Service of the Word

6.30pm: No Evening Service

Other Services:

11.00am: Morning Worship St Mary's Island



WHAT'S ON - Week 31st Dec 2018:

Mon 31st Dec: 11.00pm **WATCH Night Service**

- a time to look back with grateful hearts for all that God has done in 2018 and to celebrate all God is going to do in our community in 2019

Weds 2nd Jan 2019: 9.00am **Holy Communion** in church

Thurs 3rd Jan: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

Sat 5th Jan: 10.00am-12.00noon: **Foodbank**, Church

2pm-5pm: Cinema Club, Moana

SUNDAY 6th Jan 2019:

10.30am: All Age Service

6.30pm: Prayer Stream

Other Services:

11.00am: Holy Communion St Mary's Island



Epiphany

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 7th Jan: 9.15am-12.15pm **St. Mark's Preschool** restarts in Vicarage Hall. (Mon & Tues 9.15am-3.15pm)

Weds 9th Jan: 9.00am **Holy Communion** church

9.45am: Ladies Group restarts in Old Vicarage

1.15pm: Parent & Toddlers restarts in Vicarage Hall

Thurs 10th Jan: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

Fri 11th Jan: 6.15pm **Kidz Klub**, ages 7-11, Old Vicarage

Sat 12th Jan: 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**, Church

SUNDAY 13th Jan 2019:

Baptism of Christ - Epiphany 2

10.30am: All Children's groups restart

10.30am: Holy Communion - Introduction to the Long Walk to Freedom



Bible Reading: Numbers 10:1-13

6.30pm: Bible Study Stream

Other Services:

11.00am: Morning Worship St Mary's Island

Weds 16th Jan: 6.30pm-8.30pm **Peace & Hope**, (formerly Faith & Light) returns in Vicarage Hall

FAMILY NEWS

Fri 18th Jan - Fri 25th Jan: 7.30pm-8.30pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -

18th Jan Salam, Nelson Road, 19th Jan St Mark's, Canterbury Street, 20th Jan 6.30pm United Services: SA Green Street. more details to follow in the next Marktime...

Marriage Course- 7 week course starting

Valentine's Day 14th Feb 2019 Could

your marriage be even better than it

already is? Why not join the Marriage

Course taking place at Pepe's Tea Room,



Gillingham. Looking at points such as knowing each other to build strong foundations, learning to communicate effectively and more. Speak to Saju or Amanda if you would like to know more and to sign up.

Richard Tolhurst on behalf of the ALPHA Team would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported them this year and, "helped it to be such a blessing."



POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

"But my eyes are fixed on You, Sovereign LORD; in You I take refuge – do not give me over to death. Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers, from the snares they have laid for me. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by in safety." Psalm 141:8-10 (NIV UK)

LORD thank you that I am safe in Your unfailing love and arms. Please help me to keep 'my eyes fixed on You' whatever the circumstances, so that Your holy Spirit can direct my life until I meet You face to face with reverence and awe in heaven. Amen.

Bring to the LORD any situation or circumstance you know of where the poor, vulnerable or destitute need help... **Praise** that, "LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in Your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief." (Psalm 143:1) Nothing is impossible for God (Matthew 19:26).

Ask the LORD to give you a Mission Partner to pray for over the Christmas period.

Praise for the **Men's Curry Night** and all the answers to prayer.

Pray for God's will to be done in the **BREXIT** deal which can unite our country and be fair for all sides in this dispute... **Ask the LORD** to protect the weak and vulnerable in our society.

Pray for the **Christmas Day CELEBRATION** will be a blessing for to all those who attend and they will sense the deep love and awe for our LORD and turn to Him.

Pray for the **Christingle Service** happening today the Vicarage Hall and for the various children's groups attending... **Ask the LORD** to protect everyone involved... for all the resources and volunteers needed... **For all our Christmas Services** that everyone will have fun, joy and a new sense of wonder at what our LORD Jesus Christ achieved in taking our form as a baby in Bethlehem to being the risen LORD and saviour at Easter.

Praise for all the LORD's blessings this year and for the wonderful ways that the LORD brings good in difficult circumstances.

Pray for all those who are missing loved ones this Christmas for whatever reason... **Ask the LORD** to be with each one bringing His love, joy and hope for all concerned.

Praise for extra government funding for Medway Council concerning rough sleepers... **Pray** for all those who don't have a safe place to call home.

Pray for all those who are experiencing bullying or intimidation of whatever kind... **Praise** that, "I call on the LORD in my distress, and He answers me." (Psalm 120:1)

Praise that the DVLA says **Lynda Smith** can drive for the next 3 years.

Bring to the LORD any situation whether in our church family, locally, nationally or internationally that you care about...**Praise LORD because,** "The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made." (Psalm 145.9)

Pray for **Raymond Shergill's Dad** who has been admitted to hospital in Lahore, Pakistan with pneumonia & for the families here and in Pakistan at this time... For **Vanessa Beck** who is in hospital with Sepsis will continue to make a full recovery... for **Promise Anga** whose niece died recently, pray for all members of the family at this time... for **Kate**... for **Keith Sheepwash**... for **Sheryl Gowan** ... for **Gill Marchand and family** ... for **Terence Herbert**... for **June Bloor and family**...for **Michael Stacey** will be in hospital until after Christmas now...anyone you know who needs the LORD at this time for whatever reason.

Please pray for: All Mission Partners & the Christmas Services

Except for the first Sunday of the month **during term time**, groups for children and young teenagers meet at the Old Vicarage, each Sunday morning. All our youth & children's workers are DBS checked for your child's protection and safety. **If you have young children** please feel free to take your children to the Creche area at the back of church, near the sound desk (ask if you can't see it). Children are important to us at St. Mark's and we want them to be happy. Please feel free to let them play quietly in the Creche; **we just ask that you stay with them and leave the area tidy!**

New Church Office Hours are:

Mon & Thurs 10.00am-3.00pm, Tues & Weds 10.00am-2.00pm, Fri 10.00am-2.30pm (by appointment only)