

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:  
All Christmas Services

8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> December:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent



10.30am **All Age Christingle Service** – A family friendly candlelit ceremony

Theme: Waiting – Luke 1:39-45

6.30pm: **Bible Stream – Genesis**

### Other Services:

11.00am: **Morning Service**, St Mary's Island

3.00pm: **Charing House**

5.00pm: **St Mark's House**

6.00pm: **Christmas Connect 2019 Live Concert** – carols for all of the family organised by Churches Together in Medway @ Prayer City, Buckmore Park, ME5 9QG. Parking is available.

7.00pm: **Summit**, Christmas Party, Old Vicarage

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

**Monday–Friday during term time, St. Mark's Preschool**, Vicarage Hall – children need to be registered first. Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9.15am-3.15pm Weds & Fri 9.15am-12.15pm.

## WHAT'S ON DURING THIS WEEK:

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 9.00am-noon: **Church is open** – Please speak to Dammy for details.

**Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 9.00am **Holy Communion** in church

9.45am: **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

1.00pm-3.00pm: **Dementia Café**, Old Vicarage – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. Please see Paul Harris or Pauline Jackson for more details.

1.15pm: **Parent & Toddlers**, Vicarage Hall

**Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 7.00pm-8.15pm **The Music Man Project CHRISTMAS CONCERT** @ St. George's Centre, Pembroke Road, Chatham Maritime ME4 4UH. There is free parking, no entrance fee, only a retiring collection.

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** **General Election**

1.00pm-3.00pm: **Foodbank**, in Church

1.30pm-3.00pm: **Church office will be closed during this time for staff prayer.**

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 6.15pm-7.30pm: **Kidz Klub**, Old Vicarage

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 7.00am-8.00am: **Standing in the Gap** – praying for families, youth & children's ministries, Old Vicarage

10.00am-noon: **Foodbank**, in church

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Office closed from 12.30pm

## Christmas Services at St. Mark's Church

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 5.00pm  
**Beyond the Star** – our huge annual Christmas festival!

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** 10.30am

**Traditional Carol Service** – A chance to sing some seasonal hymns

**Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am **Christmas Day** – All Age Holy Communion Service

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 11.00pm **Watchnight Service** – glorifying the LORD as we see in the New Year!



## SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

10.30am: **Holy Communion**

Theme: Watching – Luke 2:8-20

**Parkbench Conversation** – Belinda Beckhelling from the Medway Winter Night Shelter

3.00pm: **Empty Chair Service** – for those who have lost loved ones

6.30pm **NO EVENING SERVICE**

### Other Services:

11.00am: **Morning Worship**, St Mary's Island

7.00pm: **Summit**, Hillsong Christmas Carols



## FAMILY NEWS

We raised £722.63 for the **tearfund** October Harvest – a huge thank you to all of those who donated.

**Thank you** to all of those who filled 'Operation Christmas Child' shoeboxes. It was a short deadline, but we received a total of 35, thanks to an extra donation from our Mission Link Task Group!



Please help Foodbank by donating food items as demand is outstripping supply! Find the items needed either on the Foodbank website or Twitter account. There will be a box at the back of the

church with a sign saying 'Foodbank Collection Point'. Thank you.

**POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**



**"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance." Psalm 33:12 (NIV UK)**

**LORD thank you that You chose me before the world began – not because I'm special, but because of Your amazing love. Please help me to share this blessing with others, so that all Your Kingdom people will be able to come back home to You. Praise to You always. Amen.**

**Pray** for all our church leaders & office staff, especially in light of Saju's sabbatical - Amanda, Simon, Rob, Katie, Chris and our Churchwardens Helen & Raymond... **Ask the LORD** to grant wisdom, encouragement and His Godly discernment... *"May Your priests be clothed with righteousness, may Your faithful people sing with joy."* (Psalm 132:9)

**Continue to pray** for the general election on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Pray** for our **Mission Partner, The Family Trust...** **Ask the LORD** to protect, encourage and give the necessary resources to create His holy message of love, hope and salvation this Christmas... **Praise** for all the opportunities the LORD has given to share the good news with others and the friendships He is creating by His Holy Name.

**Pray** for **Gay Gower** whose results from MRI Scans are "worrying". She praises the LORD in these difficulties and can see His planning, timing and presence in her life... Gay asks us to pray for Bethesda Medical Centre Doctors Surgery in Margate, which is, "a shining light as a Christian Surgery, but is heavily trodden on by the devil,"

and reports that people working there are struggling.

**Pray** for the **The Music Man Project CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December that everyone will feel God's blessing, His loving peace and joy.

**Pray** for all the Christmas Services taking place at St. Mark's, St. Mary's Island and in the wider churches of the Medway Towns... **Ask the LORD** to deliver His eternal message of grace, freedom and salvation, so that we His people can 'sing with joy' (Psalm 132:9).

**Pray** for all those who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason... **Ask the LORD** to be with everyone at the 'Empty Chair Service' on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm and grant them His peace.

**Pray** for **Vera Adams** as her sight deteriorates. Ask the LORD to bring His healing love and power to arrest this degeneration and give His wisdom to the specialist she is due to visit at Maidstone Hospital near to Christmas.

**Pray** for those who were affected by the London Bridge Attack... **Ask the LORD** to bring His healing into the grief, shock and horror of everyone involved including the attacker's family.

**Pray** for **Derick Thom** who recently had hip replacement surgery... for **Michael Stacey**... for **Trish Martin**... for **Paul Smith** and **Keith Sheepwash**... and for anyone you know who needs the LORD at this time for whatever reason.

**Bring to the LORD** any situation whether in our church family, locally, nationally or internationally that you care about... **Praise** *"Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise", says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them."* (Psalm 12:5)

∖ **Please pray for:** All Mission Partners; All ∖  
∖ Christmas Services ∖

**Bible readings for December 2019**

Day	Psalm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	44	Isaiah 30.1-18	Matthew 14.1-12
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	56	Isaiah 30.19-end	Matthew 14.13-end
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup>	62	Isaiah 31	Matthew 15.1-20
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	54	Isaiah 32	Matthew 15.21-28
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	86	Isaiah 33.1-22	Matthew 15.29-end
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	145	Isaiah 35	Matthew 16.1-12

<b>Vicar:</b>	Rev Saju Muthalaly	01634 570489	<b>Pastoral Assistants:</b>	Keith Sheepwash	01634 571841
<b>Curate:</b>	Rev Amanda Maskell	07496 023354		Jane Bannar-Martin	01634 574084
<b>Pre-School Leader:</b>	Julie Hanning	07807 577836	<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Raymond Shergill	07588 573928
<b>Operations Manager/Vicars PA:</b>	Rob Byrne	01634 570489		Helen Towers	07584 290058
<b>Youth &amp; Children's intern:</b>	Simon Morbey	01634 570489	<b>Church Administrator:</b>	Katie Jenkins	01634 570489
<b>Medway Campus Chaplain:</b>	Lynne Martin	07778 567097	Simon's email: <a href="mailto:simonmorbey@stmarksgillingham.org">simonmorbey@stmarksgillingham.org</a>		
<b>email:</b>	admin@stmarksgillingham.org	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stmarksgillingham.org">www.stmarksgillingham.org</a>	Lynne's email: <a href="mailto:medwaycampuschaplain@gre.ac.uk">medwaycampuschaplain@gre.ac.uk</a>		
<b>Safeguarding contacts:</b>	<b>Mike Haslam: 07786 696336</b>		<b>Office:</b> 01634 570489		
	<b>Karen Dyer: 07964 334878</b>				

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 through the second door on the left, at the front of church (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 9.15am-1.15pm (by appointment only)**