# **THIS SUNDAY -  11th December**

MORNING SERVICE, 10.30am  
[**In Church**](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Articles/607245/Church_Building_Open.aspx?redirected=1)**,** [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksgillingham) **and** [**Youtube**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1b5IAYzi3iBqXPBu0OnRrQ/videos?view=2&live_view=502)

**Title:** Third Sunday of Advent   
**Speaker**: Catharina Olsson Gisleskog

**Reading:** Matthew 11:2-11 Love- John the Baptist

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS

**GEMS & PEBBLES**

Children’s groups will be running this Sunday as it is all age. Parents can drop their children off from 10.15am and pick them up at 12pm.   
  
**SUMMIT | 6:30-7pm | Old Vicarage**  
Summit will be running as usual.

## This week

Home Groups  
Throughout the week

Joining a **home group** is a brilliant chance to meet and pray with others, build relationships, support one another, exchange views and explore God's word together. [Take a look at the groups and sign up here](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Groups/268148/Small_Groups.aspx) or contact the office.

Ladies Group

Meet at the Old Vicarage from 10am – 12 noon each Wednesday.

Last Wednesday of the month men are very welcome to join.

We are currently studying the book of Jonah.

Tea/Coffee, biscuits and cakes are served.

Standing in the Gap (Prayer meeting)

**Saturdays | 7 - 8am | Online**

On Zoom, join us [online here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2238511807?pwd=TU94WVN3cDlaSWxnejhHZTYxMTdvdz09).  
[Meeting ID: 223 851 1807 | Passcode: inthegap]

Open Church  
**Tuesday | 10am - 12pm | Church**

Come along for a chat, fellowship or private prayer. Refreshments will be served. Please be aware masks are advised.  
If you are interested in volunteering please contact Dammy via [admin@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org).

Dementia Cafe

14th and 28th December|1pm to 3pm | Church

Parent & Toddlers

Wednesdays, 1.15-2.45pm, Vicarage Hall

Fun space for children to play and for parents/guardians to connect. No need to book, just drop up. Wednesdays in term time.

The Gathering

**Join the Junction Small Group for an intimate time with God and the Bible in the Old Vicarage on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm,  
on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month.  
All welcome.**

Peace and Hope

17rd December, 10:30am, Vicarage Hall

Bible Stream

**Sunday 11 December 6.30pm**

**Graham Wilkins will be teaching on Malachi and Obadiah; David Wilkins will be Mc'ing.**

Kids Gospel Choir

Every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30, Church

Medway Open Lecture Series 2022/23  
   
A collaboration between Kent, Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church universities.   
Lectures open to the public, as well as staff and students.  
These will generally be one lecture on the last Wednesday of the month from 6-7pm, delivered in the Pilkington Lecture Theatre.  
The first four lectures have been confirmed and you can book a free ticket here:  [**BOOK**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/medway-talks-universities-at-medway-open-lecture-series-tickets-428547987567)

### **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Christmas 2022 at St Mark’s Church, Gillingham

Sunday 11 December: 10.30am 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 11 December: 3.00pm Empty Chair Service

Saturday 17 December: 5.00pm Gospel Carols: Jesus’ Birthday Party

Sunday 18 December: 10.30am 4th Sunday of Advent, Service of Holy Communion

Saturday 24 December: 11.00pm St Mary’s Island, Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 25 December: 10.30am Christmas Day

Saturday 31 December: 11.00pm Gospel Night, Praise Night

You, and your whole family, are warmly invited to join us at any of our Christmas Services.

Christmas Community Choir

Would you like to meet new people and sing in a community choir. Refreshments will be available. Preform in various places for Christmas. Everyone is welcome. Rehearsals will start at the end of October. Please get in touch. Please contact the organisers either via phone: 07951147352 or email : singgillinghamsing@gmail.com

#### PLEASE PRAY –

Worldwide –

* **For Africa** – for a stand against corruption, Truth and fairness in the political arena, and Godly Righteousness in leaderships.
* For **Haiti** and **Latin America** in the many desperations they live with day to day – check out some countries through your preferred search engine.

The UK –

* for **UK**for patience, understanding and forbearance in times of strike action – a difficult decision to withhold labour or not;
* for the armed forces on standby and for a willingness to support where we can in our communities.

God’s Church –

* For the persecuted church in the world today; and for sharing in this Advent season.

If you would like to be added to the ***Prayer & Praise*** email list to receive weekly praise reports and prayer requests from our church family please contact Kath Burtrand: [*kathyb.nana@yahoo.co.uk*](mailto:kathyb.nana@yahoo.co.uk)

Notice of a loss and a funeral

Margaret Howlett, sadly passed away, peacefully on Wednesday 23rd November.

The funeral will be in the West Chapel at Medway Crematorium at 9.30am on Thursday 8th December.  All those that knew her are welcome and Margaret wanted people to wear colourful clothes where possible.

This will be followed by a very informal gathering at Anchorians Clubhouse in Darland Avenue, Gillingham to remember Margaret and also her husband David, who passed away in 2020 during Covid, which meant there was a very restricted gathering allowed to remember him.  Please could those who will be attending Anchorians let their son, Neil Howlett, know by confirming with him by email on [nttz1968@gmail.com](mailto:nttz1968@gmail.com).

Family flowers only please, if folk wish to please could they make a donation to Cancer Research in Margaret’s name.

Foodbank

If you would like to donate to foodbank here is the link to the shopping list of things that are needed for those who are in need.

[file:///C:/Users/Student.26327/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps\_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/5/Attachments/Shopping%20List%20July-August%2022\_large[1640].pdf](file:///C:/Users/Student.26327/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/5/Attachments/Shopping%20List%20July-August%2022_large%5b1640%5d.pdf)

STAMPS FOR LEPROSY MISSION

David Norton has asked that people collect stamps from any letters they receive. If you could keep them until you have a few and then give them to David, he will pass these to the Leprosy Mission.

OPEN CHURCH/WARM SPACE – Tuesdays between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm

We are all aware of the rising energy costs and we would like to offer a place where people can come to be warm. We are looking for people who are willing to volunteer on Tuesday mornings to man the church. This will enable us to open to offer a Warm Space for people to come where we will serve tea, coffee and or cup of soup. If you are available any time between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesdays and would be willing to help on a rota basis please get in touch with the church office. Other churches in Gillingham are opening on other days in the week, and once we have volunteers we will be included on a flyer which will show details of all available Warm Spaces.

WARM CLOTHING

Do you own any good quality warm clothing, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets etc that you no longer need. Please donate these to Street Angles to help others.

Empty Chair Service

Sunday, 11 December 2022 – St Mark’s Church – 3 p.m.

                        A service aiming to bring comfort and strength primarily for those missing a loved one this Christmas.

                        Singing of seasonal songs, a Bible reading with a message of encouragement, prayers and lighting of a candle in memory of the one(s) you loved, cherished and miss set within a time of reflection.

                        Other types of bereavement will also be acknowledged such as a broken relationship, loss of a job or career,  irreversible detrimental changes in life’s circumstances, permanent loss of health.

                        A listening ear and prayer will be available for those who wish to receive it.

                        Light refreshments will also be available after the service.

                        Please make it known to your neighbours, friends, work colleagues.

##### Upcoming Events

NEXT SUNDAY

18**th December, 10.30am, Church**  
  
**Title:** Fourth Sunday of Advent   
**Speaker**: Catharina Olsson Gisleskog

**Reading:** Genesis 1:1-15, Isaiah 9:2-7 and 11:1-5, Micah 5:2-5, Luke 1:26-33 and 2:1-7 8-20, John 3:16-17, Revelation 15:2b-4

Jesus’ Birthday Party

Saturday 17th December 5pm

A nativity about the birth of Jesus Christ featuring a drama and community choir with a meal served afterwards.

Gospel night- New year’s celebrations

Saturday 31st December 11pm-12:15am

Come and join in a midnight celebration to bring in the new year with Christ. All welcome, Refreshments and non-alcoholic bubbly served as well as other drinks.

Thank you for the week

Thank you for the amazing flower team who get the flowers ready for church each week.

St Mark’s Church **Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5TP  
Registered Charity 1141709**  
  
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**Office hours:**  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday | 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Fridays | 10:00am – 12 noon   
***Please contact the office if you need to make an  
appointment & do not drop by without prior arrangement.***