

MARKtime 02 December 2007

The Weekly News-sheet for St. Mark's Church, Gillingham
with St. Mary's Island Church (a Local Ecumenical Partnership)

A Mission Shaped Church

Connecting people with Jesus

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son
Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again
in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Today's Services

Advent Sunday

10.30 am: All Age Family Worship & Baptism

Reflection: Sarah Ryan

Readings: Isaiah 7: 14

Philippians 2: 5-11

Theme: 'Touching heaven, changing earth'

6.30 pm: Holy Communion

Reflection: John Saunders

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-9

Matthew 24: 36-44

Theme: 'Advent'

Other services today: 11.00 am - Holy Communion at St Mary's Island Church

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S

If you are new to St. Mark's we hope that you enjoy your time of worship here with us today and that you will want to come back again next week. Please pick up a Welcome Leaflet from the back of the church which has information about all the regular activities.

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 from 10.20 am. All children (except the under 5's) are escorted back down to Church at the end of the morning. Children in the Sramblers group (2-5 years) will need to be collected. There is usually a crèche for babies in the Church Vestry during the morning service.

What's on this week at St. Mark's

Monday 3rd	10.00 am - 12.00 pm - Coffee Shop in Church 7.30 pm - 9.30pm - Landmark at the Old Vicarage 'Awesome'
Tuesday 4th	7.45 pm - Prayer and Praise at Salem Church
Wednesday 5th	9.00 am - Holy Communion 10.00 am - Ladies Group at the Old Vicarage 'Christmas' 1.15 pm - 2.45 pm - Parent and Toddler group in Vicarage Hall 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm - ALPHA at the Old Vicarage - see opposite
Friday 7th	10.00 am - Lydia Prayer Group at the Old Vicarage 6.15 - 7.30 pm - Kidz Club for children 7 - 11 years at the Old Vicarage 8.00 pm - Choir Practise in Church
Next Sunday 9th Dec	10.30 am - Holy Communion 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

HOME GROUPS this term are following a title called **Distinctives** by Vaughan Roberts, of St. Ebbs Church, Oxford. Discussion questions are being published regularly in *Marktime* and will be preceded by a sermon series of the same title on Sunday mornings at St. Mark's. The course is published by Authentic, £5.99.

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 10th December - MTG meeting at St. Marks Vicarage

Tuesday 11th December - Carer's Service in Church

Sunday 16th December - Service of Carols and Readings

Monday 17th December - Coffee Shop Service

Sunday 23rd December - Bethlehem Village and Christingle

Monday 24th December - Late Night Communion Service

Tuesday 25th December - Christmas Day Family Communion



Ladies bicycle wanted - in good working order
please speak to Pam



Alpha

The ALPHA Course.....

Wednesday evening at the Old Vicarage

7.15 pm - 9.30 pm

End of course celebration
including DVD that asks

How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Please let John or Robin know that you will be there



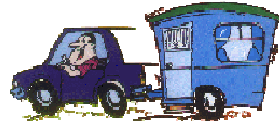
Camping and Caravanning Week 2008

May Bank Holiday 24th - 31st May

This year we are planning a week at St. Neots
Camping and Caravan Club site,
a superb site on the banks of the River Ouse.

Booking forms are available from Vince on
Medway 305587 or from the Church office.

Please complete and return to Vince by Christmas. Thank you



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (UK & Ireland)
A worldwide Christian Business Men's Organisation



BISHOP MICHAEL NAZIR-ALI

is the
Special Christmas Dinner Speaker

on
Thursday 13th December 2007 at 7.45 pm

at
The King Charles Hotel

Brompton Road, Gillingham, ME7 5QT

Reservations to Colin ASAP on 01634 377965 Cost £12.50

The Christmas Walk

will take place on
**Wednesday 27th
December**



more to
follow.....

BIBLE READINGS for - December

<i>Day</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
<i>Mon 3rd</i>	<i>Ps. 50</i>	<i>Isa. 25: 1-9</i>	<i>Matt. 12: 1-21</i>
<i>Tue 4th</i>	<i>Ps. 80</i>	<i>Isa. 26: 1-13</i>	<i>Matt. 12: 22-37</i>
<i>Wed 5th</i>	<i>Ps. 7</i>	<i>Isa. 28: 1-13</i>	<i>Matt. 28: 1 -13</i>
<i>Thus 6th</i>	<i>Ps. 42</i>	<i>Isa. 28: 14-end</i>	<i>Matt. 13: 1-23</i>
<i>Fri 7th</i>	<i>Ps. 25</i>	<i>Isa. 29: 1-14</i>	<i>Matt. 13: 24-43</i>
<i>Sat 8th</i>	<i>Ps. 9</i>	<i>Isa. 29: 15-end</i>	<i>Matt. 13: 44-end</i>

Points for Praise and Prayer

- Folks will be sad to know that Peter Townsend passed away late on Thursday evening at the Wisdom Hospice. Peter, married to Ann, was a very special person who maintained a firm faith in the Lord Jesus right to the end. His death, as well as being a welcome relief, is a sadness to Annie, Angie and the rest of the family. Please pray.
- The advert has gone into the CEN again this final week for an Associate Vicar here at St. Mark's who will live in the Garden House. Please pray that the right person will apply for the job.
- I expect you will know that the Church School on St. Mary's Island has had a successful outcome to the Ofsted Inspection a few weeks ago. Thank you for those people who have supported us in prayer.
- Our autumn Alpha Group comes to an end this week, we have had some good times together. Pray for those thinking about participating in a new Group next year. Speak to John if you are interested in whatever way.
- We continue to remember in our prayers those who are not well namely, Des and Celia, Rose, Joyce Martin and Dorothy Brundle.
- Parking in and around the church is quite an issue at the moment, if you have any comments please speak to the vicar since we will be writing to the Council next week about the issue.
- The Church is gearing up for the Christmas season, please pray for the different groups and organisations using the buildings, publicity and people power in the midst of everything else. Thank you.
- This month we remember in our prayers Carri MacFarlane studying at All Nations Bible College, Claire Coleman in New Zealand and Gillingham YFC. GYFC are still looking for a minute taker for their Exec. meetings, speak to Wendy H. if you can help.

Vicar:	Canon John Saunders	01634 851818
Youth & Children's Co-ordinator:	Sarah Ryan	07949 751730
Church Administrator:	Pam Alexander	Church office: 01634 570489
Playgroup Leader:	Julie Hanning	07807 577836
Pastoral Assistant:	Keith Sheepwash	01634 571841

If you would like a visit from one of the staff please phone to make an appointment

Email: admin@stmarkschurchgillingham.co.uk

Website: www.stmarkschurchgillingham.co.uk