

BIBLE READINGS for - December

Day	Psalm	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
Mon. 8 th	44	Isaiah 45:14-end	1 Thessalonians 1
Tues. 9 th	56	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Wed. 10 th	62	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2:13-end
Thurs. 11 th	54	Isaiah 48:1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
Fri. 12 th	86	Isaiah 48:12-end	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Sat. 13 th	42	Isaiah 49:1-13	1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Points for Praise and Prayer

- Give thanks for last Sunday's TEARFUND service and the lunch which followed. Lord, thank you for Ann, Terri, Vanessa and their respective spouses who worked with total dedication to provide a simple but enjoyable lunch. Praise the Lord for generous gifts which realized the amazing sum of £539.60 in support of Tearfund.
- Please pray for the Coffee Shop carol service at 10.30am on Monday morning. Would you also pray for the Medway Carers Service due to be held in St Mark's the following Monday at noon. Ask the Lord to use both of these services as a focus on the true meaning of Christmas.
- Please remember Janet Mann whose mother died recently after a long illness. Would you also pray for David Bairnsfather's sister, Ella, who suffered a severe haemorrhage, which has now been brought under control. She is still quite poorly.
- Continue to remember those of our number who are in need of the Lord's healing. Daphne Beck, John and Doreen Bodkin, Rose Clay, Des and Celia Dickinson, Chris Green, Bruce and Natasha McCreedy and Terry Whittaker. Pray also for six month old Zak (son of Bridget and Robbie Harvey) who is in hospital with bronchiolitis. Give thanks for the recovery of Joel Smith following his stay in hospital.
- In the aftermath of the massacre which took place in Mumbai last week, please pray for those who lost loved ones in this terrorist attack. Pray that the governments of both India and Pakistan will work together to bring to justice, those responsible for planning the attack. Also pray that the Indian government will offer compensation to the many Christians who have lost their homes and businesses after the violence in the eastern state of Orissa.
- Continue to pray for the people of Zimbabwe. Many are now suffering with cholera as a result of drinking water from an infected supply. There still appears to be little or no progress towards positive change, since the signing of the power-sharing agreement between Mugabe and Tsvangirai. Lord, have mercy on Zimbabwe!
- Our Mission Partner for the month is Carri McFarlane, see the missions board for info.

Associate Vicar:	Revd Glenn McWatt	01634 575280
Youth Worker/School Chaplain	Mike King	07790 178554
Children's Co-ordinator:	Sarah Ryan	07949 751730
Church Administrator:	Pam Alexander	Church office: 01634 570489
Playgroup Leader:	Julie Hanning	07807 577836

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

MARKtime 07 December 2008

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

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us, and with your great might help us.
That whereas, through our many sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered in running the race
that is set before us, your bountiful goodness
and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord Amen

Today's Services

The Second Sunday of Advent

10.30 am: All Age Family Worship

6.30 pm: Holy Communion

Reflection: Sarah Ryan

Reflection: Graham Wilkins

Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9

Readings: 2 Corinthians 7: 2-7+13b-15

Titus 1: 5-16

Theme: 'A Living Hope'

Theme: 'Titus'

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 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. There is usually a crèche for babies in the Church Vestry during the morning service. All our Youth Workers and helpers are CRB checked through the diocese for your child's protection and safety.

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

- Monday 8th** 10.30 am - Coffee Shop Christmas Service in Church
7.30 - 9.15 pm - Landmark - all 14-18's welcome Old Vicarage
'Your questions answered' with GYFC friend -
8.00 pm - MTG meeting - Garden House
- Tuesday 9th** 8.00 pm - Home Groups
- Wednesday 10th** 9.00 am - Holy Communion in Church
10.00 am - Ladies Group - Old Vicarage
'Christmas decorations'
1.15 pm - 2.45 pm - Parent and Toddler Group - Vicarage Hall
7.00 - 9.00 pm - Faith & Light Christmas Party - Vicarage Hall
- Thursday 11th** 7.45 for 8.00 pm - Special PCC meeting
- Friday 12th** 10.00 am - Lydia Prayer Group - Old Vicarage
6.15 - 7.30 pm - Kidz Klub (7-11's) - Old Vicarage
- Saturday 13th** 11.30 - 12 noon - Carol singing with the SA band
- see opposite
- Next Sunday - 14th December** 10.15 - 12 noon - Pathfinders & **SNUG** together - *meet friends, chill, refreshments and chat about what Christmas means*
10.30 am - Holy Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
- Monday - Friday** during term time - 9.30 am - 12.15 pm - Playgroup

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 15th December - Standing Committee meeting

Sunday 21st December - a.m. - Service of Carols and Readings

p.m. - 'A Take-away Christmas' (Event for all)

Wednesday 24th December - Late Night Communion Service

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day) - Family Communion Service

19 - 22 January - Diocesan Conference - Bognor

Bufukhula Uganda 2009

In August 2009 a team from St Mark's Church and St Mary's Island Church will be visiting Bufukhula to renew links and friendships. The plan is to fly on or about August 6th and return just over 2 weeks later. We believe that it is right to go and help in whatever way we can within this small village.

When we were there in 2006 we helped with a project to build water storage containers but it turned out to be so much more than that. As a result of our visit the village dug a trench to the nearest water supply to connect to the mains for when the tanks were dry. The trench was miles long. We visited homes of people in the village and showed we cared. We played with children and started a ladies group which is still going strong. We preached in church and ran a service for the children. It was a fantastic and challenging experience and 2009 will be very similar.

We would value your prayers:

- For the team as they begin to get to know one another
- For safety for us and our families as we plan to go and serve God
- For finances - the cost is around £1700 per person. It is a lot of money and more than we expected. However, we believe it is the right time to send a team and we need your support
- For people to be given time off work, where needed.

Please pray for us and, if you can give, Rod White and Luke Prankard have an Exodus account where funds can be deposited.

The team: Gary Atkins (team leader), Mike Haslam, Leslie Boast
Trevor Towers, Pauline Jackson, Bernie and Christine Pinner
Wayne Hickmott and Julija Varniene



Thanks to your kind generosity the total amount raised in support of Tearfund last week is now closing on £600.00
- see back page

Come and join a Merry Throng!

Carol singing
in the High Street,
Gillingham



with the Salvation Army band

Saturday 13th December
11.30 am - 12 noon