# **THIS SUNDAY – 10th 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:** 2nd Advent PEACE – John the Baptist

**Speaker**: Suen

**Reading:**Mark 1:1-8

#### ****CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS****

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Children’s groups will be running as usual Sunday. Parents can drop their children off from 10.15am and pick them up at 12pm.

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

We will meet on Wednesday at 10am at the Old Vicarage.

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.
If you are interested in volunteering please contact Dammy via admin@stmarksgillingham.org.

Dementia Cafe

13th and 27th December |1pm to 3pm | Church

Parent & Toddlers

Wednesdays, 1.15-2.45pm, Vicarage Hall

### **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Church news

Holy Communion

If you are unable to get to Church and would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact the Church office.  admin@stmarksgillingham.org 01634 570489.  You need to live in St Mark’s parish and be happy for your contact details to be passed to the home communion team.

St Mark's Gillingham Christmas

Sunday the 10th of December 3:00 PM empty chair service

Saturday the 16th of December 5:00 PM Christmas nativity production

Sunday the 17th of December 10:30 AM third Sunday of advent communion

Sunday the 24th of December 10:30 AM carols and lessons

Sunday the 24th of December 11 PM St Mary's island school midnight Holy Communion

Monday the 25th of December 10:30 AM Christmas Day service

Sunday the 31st of December 11:00 PM crossover praise night service

You and the whole family are warmly invited to join us for any of our Christmas services

St marks church Gillingham ME7 5TP

##### Pray for

**Worldwide -**

* A further **pause in hostilities** inthe Holy Land, for medical interventions, and aid;
* **Ukraine**, in their fight against injustice against them, and for their power supply safety & security this winter;
* the rains to come for the planting season to **Zimbabwe and Africa,** and other drought affected places; and for the stand against modern day slavery, that this evil trade comes to an end.
* Also, **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** at [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk/) highlight persecutions in **Vietnam** - CSW’s Founder President Mervyn Thomas said: *‘CSW condemns this recent attack on Khmer-Krom Buddhists in Dai Tho Hamlet, and the continued harassment that this community has faced since March 2022. We emphasise that this is part of a wider pattern of the targeting of religious and ethnic minorities across Vietnam that is often more severe in rural areas, and we urge the Vietnamese authorities to cease all harassment of Khmer-Krom Buddhists and other religious groups across the country.’*May the Lord bring fairness and equity to Vietnam and its peoples.

**The UK –**

* For our waterways, rivers, coastal areas, and lakes, and the wildlife that inhabit them.
* For the green spaces of forest, moorland, hills & valleys, and parks, affording us beauty, and ever reaching up in praise to the Creator – pray, and give thanks for these wonderful places.
* Pray into homes where neglect, abuse, mistreatment, and coercion prevail, that the Light of the Lord shine, bringing hope, help, and rescue.

**God's Church –**

* Think of the persecuted, the isolated, the unfairly incarcerated, the coerced, that they know the comfort and Presence of Jesus.
* For **Gillingham church groups, services, and activities** in the coming days, that **souls are made ready** to hear and respond to the Lord’s invitation of life in all its fulness, in Christ.
* Pray for the singers, that the Lord protect their voices and health.
* Continue to pray for the grieving.
* For the **Empty Chair Service** on 10 Dec.

**Gillingham and Medway –**

* University Campus Chaplain: Please pray for Uni students completing assignments & presentations, and preparing for exams in January; also, for those away from their families over Christmas.
* For our **schools,** that the Christmas story is told, and Christ included.
* For GP services, in the numbers of those leaving the profession; and for our local shops that they are valued and supported.
* numbers of those leaving the profession; and for our local shops that they are valued.

It would be lovely if people would please bring cakes to share. Please let the church office know if you can as then we are able to prepare enough space for them all.

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*

Silent Retreat

Come and meet with God in silence before the busyness of December Saturday 25 Nov, 10am - 2pm The Old Vicarage St Mark’s Gillingham

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/Desktop/fb.pdf

Medway Night Shelter

There are some gaps available for working and supporting this important work with the homeless, with a zoom training available too … ‘We are still on the lookout for volunteers to help with cooking 5.30-8.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday’. If you would like to be involved or donate, contact by email  medwayshelter@gmail.com

The night shelter are looking for volunteers for cooking and laundry.  If you are interested, can they please email.  Medway Night Shelter medwayshelter@gmail.com

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.

Warm Spaces weekly in Gillingham

Monday, St Mary’s Gillingham Green, 9am to 12pm

Tuesday, St Mark’s Church, Gillingham High Street, 12pm to 2pm

Wednesday, St Augustine’s, Rock Avenue, 9am to 11am, St Barnabas, Nelson Road, 1:30pm to 4pm

Thursday, St Augustine’s, Rock Avenue, 13:30am to 4pm

Sunday, St Luke’s Church Hall, 12:30pm to 4pm

##### Upcoming Events

NEXT SUNDAY

**Advent**

**17th December, 10.30am, Church**

**Title:** Holy Communion, Theme: 3 Advent JOY – Mary
**Speaker**: Catharina
**Reading:** Luke 1:46-55

Peace and Hope

Saturday 16th December

10:30, Vicarage Hall

Christmas Party

Thank you for the week!

Thank you to those who ran and attended the Christmas craft night and made some amazing table pieces. Also thank you to those who helped run the messy church Christmas party, the children who made the nativity scene should be proud of the masterpiece they have created, it is taking pride of place on the welcome table at the entrance doors.

St Mark’s Church
**Office hours:**
**St Mark’s Church
Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5TP
Registered Charity 1141709**

**Office**: The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Gillingham, ME7 5JA
**Tel.** 01634 570489 | admin@stmarksgillingham.org
**Office hours:**
Monday | 9.00am - 2.00pm
Tuesday | 9.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday | 9.00am - 10.00am, | 12:15pm - 3.15pm
Thursday | 9.00am - 1.00pm
Fridays | 10:00am – 12 noon
**Please contact the office if you need to make an**
***appointment & do not drop by without prior arrangement.***