# **THIS SUNDAY – 24th 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:****  Carols and Lessons, 4 Advent LOVE ****Speaker****: Catharina

#### ****CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS****

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
  
Children’s groups will be off until January.

**25th December, 10:30am, Church**

**Title:**  Christmas Day  
**Speaker**: Catharina   
**Reading:** Luke 2:1-14

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**

We will be closed on December 26th as it is boxing day. 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](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org).

Dementia Cafe

27th December. 10th and 24th January|1pm to 3pm | Church

Parent & Toddlers

Wednesdays, 1.15-2.45pm, Vicarage Hall

### **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Church news

Office Closures during the holidays.  
Closed from the 20th of December and back open on the 3rd of January.  
  
The newsletter will have a week’s break over Christmas. The next one will be on the 4th of January.

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](mailto: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 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

Prayer Meetings **for 2024 -**

**17th January 2024**

**Then every Wednesday of the month**

**Vicarage Hall  
  
Meetings between 7 and 9pm  
  
St Mark's: 1 Canterbury Street, ME7 5TP.  
Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road, ME7 5JA.  
Any questions, please email, catharina@stmarksgillingham.org**

##### Pray for

**Worldwide -**

* For **a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit** in the world, that the name of Jesus be received, thought upon, spoken, and welcomed.
* For **unity**, after God’s own heart & teaching, in the world today and the coming days …. for a stand together against oppression and injustice.
* Pray for your own list of lands, peoples, or situations on your hearts - many of the Psalms have wonderful verses of honesty, petition, action, and power that we can declare, speak out, and proclaim, in the name of Jesus.
* #For **abundance** in provision for the hungry, the thirsty; those affected by war & violence; areas suffering severe weather events & disasters.  Include the *willingness of our response* to the news of these events, and ensuing appeals.   We are called in *Micah 6:8 … to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*
* For **truth**in the world, as against the lies of the enemy.  God is truth.  May truth be spoken out, be appreciated, and fostered, in every human heart.

**The UK –**

* Pray for homeless and destitute.
* For all the UK organisations working with the vulnerable, unfairly challenged, marginalised, and the poor – that there is sufficient for all in need.  For our community and neighbourhoods, that we each take up the mantle in meeting local need too.

**God's Church –**

* For the church to be built up and encouraged - we are called to enable one another in the faith: *Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.*
* For **services**through Christmas and into the New Year.  Please remember too our Mission Partners.

**Gillingham and Medway –**

* For the local **Medway Winter Emergency Refuge**, by organizers, One Big Family – this may be the only night shelter in operation.
* Medway Night Shelter, operated through the Medway Churches, are currently setting up support during the evenings, but not necessarily providing overnight support.
* Let us pray and support these initiatives, that the needs of the homeless and vulnerable are properly met this winter.

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)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**31st December, 10.30am, Church**  
  
**Title:**  Endings and beginnings  
**Speaker**: Catharina   
**Reading:** Luke 2:36-40

7th January, 10:30, Church

**Title:**  All age, First Sunday of the year  
**Speaker**: All Age Team

Thank you for the week!

Thank you to Peace and hope, Childrens Church, Worship groups, leaders and speakers, for all the spreading of the word in alternative ways to make everyone understand. A big thank you to those who participated in the Christmas nativity last Saturday, it was a hit and loved by all who attended.

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](mailto: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.***