# **THIS SUNDAY – 3rd 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:** Advent HOPE – Jesus second coming   
**Speaker**: Catharina Olsson Gisleskog  
**Reading:**Psalm 25: 1-9

#### ****CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS****

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
  
Children’s groups will be not on as it is an all age service.

[More details about Youth](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Groups/268150/Youth.aspx)

Messy Church

Just for Christmas family fun Christmas crafts, stories, singing and food Saturday December 2nd 2:30 to 4:00 PM

St marks church Gillingham ME7 5TP

For more information contact:

Chris.curtis@stmarksgillingham.org

Peace and Hope

Saturday 2nd December

10:30, Vicarage Hall

Advent

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](mailto: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](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

Friday the 1st of December 6:30 PM create for Christmas

Saturday the 2nd of December 2:30 PM messy church Christmas party

Sunday the 3rd of December 10:30 AM first Sunday of advent all age service

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

Prayer Meetings for 2023

Meetings between 7 and 9pm

6th December, Old Vicarage, **Vicarage Road, ME7 5JA.**

Any questions, please email, catharina@stmarksgillingham.org

##### Pray for

**Worldwide -**

* **Ukraine**, as the bitter winter starts to take hold, that they are enabled to push back against their invaders.
* The **Holy Land** in all the complexity and suffering, and for Qatari mediators working with Hamas and Israel.
* For those trapped in the **Uttarakhand tunnel collapse, India**that they are saved.
* For those continuing to suffer, in different ways, in **Sudan, Yemen, Northern Nigeria, and Afghanistan**.
* This December marks the **75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**; and 2 Dec is the **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**.

**The UK –**

* For the power industry and utility services, for wise and fair decision making.
* For our waterways, rivers, coastal areas, and lakes, and the wildlife that inhabit them; for the green spaces of forest, moorland, hills & valleys, parks, and gardens, affording us beauty, splendour, and benefitting our wellbeing – pray, and give thanks for these wonderful places.

**God's Church –**

* Continue to pray for the family of **Shirley Tolhurst**who died recently, and for all who grieve.  Think of those persecuted for their faith, the isolated, the unfairly incarcerated, that they know the comfort and Presence of their Saviour.
* Open Doors at [www.opendoorsuk.org/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/) are hosting the World Watch List 2024 event on January 17, detailing the disproportionate persecution of Christians.  This will be hosted by Andrea Leadsom MP – and your MP can be invited to attend.
* For **Gillingham church groups, services, and activities** in the coming weeks; and pray that **souls are made ready** to hear and respond to the Lord’s invitation of life in all its fulness, in Christ.

**Gillingham and Medway –**

* Please pray for Uni students completing assignments & presentations, and preparing for exams in January; also, for those away from their families over Christmas. Also, **Sacred Space** is 1st Sunday each month.
* Pray about the **consultation**on the Dockside Business Campus Project which could generate many local jobs, for wisdom.
* 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.

Dorothy Brundle has kindly let us know that her daughter Shirley Tolhurst died on Monday, peacefully in her sleep, after a long battle with cancer. Please continue praying for husband David, and all the family in their grief. Thank you.

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

**Advent**

**10th December, 10.30am, Church**  
  
**Title:** 2nd Advent PEACE – John the Baptist

**Speaker**: Suen

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

Thank you for the week!

Thank you to those who ran Alpha and also those who tirelessly put up the church Christmas decorations.

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.***