

Saint Mary's Newsletter: February

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 842761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR February 2015

Sunday February 1st:

10am Candlemas Family Communion

Refreshments - Sara Kimpton

Sunday February 8th:

10am Praise Service with Children's
Church/Junior Youth

Refreshments - Sally-Ann Riddell

Sunday February 15th:

Outdoor Communion Service at
Pukemokemoke bush: See opposite for
more details

Wednesday February 18th:

7pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday February 22nd:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton



Parish Office Hours

The Vicar is available at the church each Friday, 9am to 2.30pm in vestry/office. Please feel free to drop in! The church is also open for prayer and quiet reflection.

Some important Dates:

Sun 15 Feb: Outdoor communion service @ Pukemokemoke reserve! Meet at the church carpark 10am and bring a packed cut lunch and drink. Good footwear required as is a bush walk to get to the top!

Weds 18 Feb: Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm. This solemn service marks the beginning of our Lenten Journey towards Easter

Sat 21 Feb: Youth BIG SPLASH! 5pm @ the Riddells 185 Whitikahu Rd. Swim & water-fight. \$2 each & bring sausages for BBQ

Parish Bank Account:

02 0410 0103053 00 Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

A Prayer for this month:

*Jesus, gentle Shepherd,
Bless Thy lamb to-day;
Keep me in Thy footsteps,
Never let me stray.
Guard me through the daytime.
Every hour, I pray;
Keep my feet from straying
From the narrow way. Amen*

To The Point

The following message from Dan Etheridge is so relevant I just have to share it!

"I've never actually met some of the people I work with. I don't know what they look like. Weird, right? Through my computer screen I communicate with people all over the world. The thing is, I rarely speak to them, and it's unlikely I'll ever meet them.

Outside of work, it's a similar story. I haven't seen some of my best mates for a while. I don't need to... I can text them. I upload snippets of my life on Facebook and Twitter and I catch up with them via their profiles. The shiny screens on my computer and phone are my gateway to the world.

And it's a safe world too. I don't have to speak to anyone. I can ignore the awkward silences and pauses. No one can tell if I'm in a bad mood and I don't have to deal with their moods either.

Brilliant.

Well, maybe not. Despite the benefits, life through a screen isn't all it's cracked up to be. Life is supposed to be about interruptions and interactions (and not of the retweet or 'FB Like' kind).

My real-life friends inconvenience me. They ask me to do stuff I don't really want to do. And that's the stuff that builds friendships. I've never bonded with anyone over a status update, but I have through a gig, a party or simply having a chat over a cuppa.

So today, just for a day, the challenge is to go screen free, and instead create some real life interactions. Call (don't text) a mate and hang out. Turn off your emails. Ignore the social profile updates. Reconnect with the real world. Explore your local park. Climb a mountain. Do something that widens your sense of wonder at the world. Go on, create some moments worth posting about.

Some things you can do now:

Why not try a bit of real life social networking to make your time away from the screen a little less daunting?"

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.'

Hebrews 10: 24-25

A Scripture for you:

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world – the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches – comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.*

Building Fund Update:

So far we have approx. \$10,000 in the Building Fund, therefore we can pay the Architect a first installment, and then we will be able to show preliminary plans. Keep those donations rolling in! The church account number is in this newsletter, and ensure that the donation is labelled "Hall Fund"

This Month in Christian History:

1933: The German Lutheran clergyman Dietrich Bonhoeffer gives a radio speech warning about the consequences of putting blind trust in any man (i.e. Hitler). His address is abruptly cut off at the warning.

