

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: November

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

**Peoples Warden:** Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

**Vicars Warden:** Roger Jennings 07 8243712



## SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>:

10:30am (Note later start time) All Saints/Souls Day Communion.

Children's Church & Junior Youth

Refreshments - Melanie Holdsworth

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Combined Service with St Paul's Huntly

Refreshments - Jo Dudson

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>:

10am Praise Service  
Children's Church and Junior Youth

Refreshments - Sheryl Hill

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Brenda Stobie

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>:

10am Advent 1 Family Communion

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov:** All Saints/Souls: Please bring along a photo of your departed loved one so it can be placed on the altar during the service. ***Due to the Rugby World Cup Match, the service starts @ 10:30am***

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:** We welcome Stephanie Dole who is speaking to us in regards to Barnabas Fund and its assistance to help persecuted Christians. St Paul's Huntly will also be joining us.

**Operation Safe Haven:** (Barnabas Fund) Help persecuted Christians find refuge after fleeing ISIS and other persecutors. Parish families please donate \$15-20 (or more!) in the container on the Welcome Table by the church entrance.

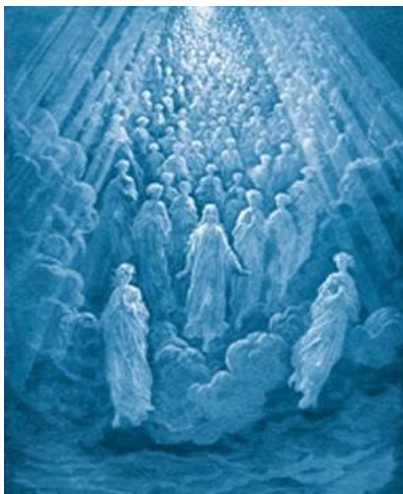
**Christmas Decorating of church:** Sun 22nd Nov after the service & each night from 6:30pm until finished.

**Children's Church/Junior Youth:** This month -Children's church/Junior Youth is on 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Youth Group (Year 9+):** Combined churches youth Meet Fridays Nov 7pm at Oaks Church Gordonton.

## Vicar's Verbatim: All Souls Day

November in the Northern Hemisphere is the cusp between the dying of summer passing into autumn and the cold harshness of the winter, and also the time where the Church likewise celebrates that “cusp” between life and death – All Soul’s and All Saint’s day. Here in the Southern Hemisphere, it is spring – a more of a “resurrection” season – therefore a more apt season, I think, to reflect on those loved ones who have gone before us, who are now with Christ. Luke 20:38 states: “Now He is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to Him all of them are alive.” They are not dead! They are alive, and what’s more, they are in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Furthermore, in Hebrews 11 St. Paul wrote about all those people of faith who had gone before us. Of them he further wrote in verse 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” They are aware of our journey in Faith, and we are surrounded by them, and I can imagine them cheering us on and praying to God for us. However, it is forbidden for us to contact and talk to them (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) but I believe as the great theologian N.T Wright believes; there is nothing forbidding us to *pray to God* for them – much like when they were still with us before they parted; we may have prayed to God to care for them: “Dear God, thank you for my Dad, take care of him, wrap him in your love, and let him know of my love too.” There is nothing from stopping you praying that when they have passed on to be with Him!



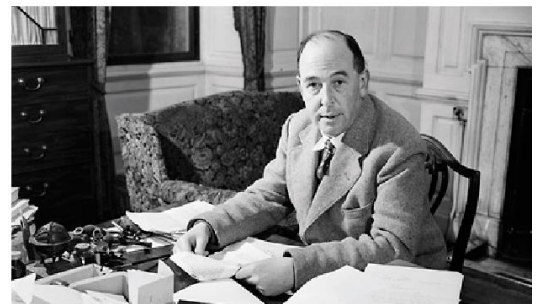
## Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is to raise funds for our proposed hall. Keep making those lovely handmade crafts & preserves. The Fair is next month 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am to 2pm. On the day please arrive approx. 8am to set things up. Contact Kim Simpson on 855 2422 or Sally-Ann Riddell on 824 3852



### **This Month in Christian History:**

*Nov 8 1931: Newly converted literary scholar C.S Lewis writes “One needs the sweetness to start one on the spiritual life, but once started, one must learn to obey God for his own sake, not for the pleasure”.*



### **Healing & Confession:**

Should you require prayer for healing, please indicate to the vicar at the altar rail during Communion so anointing with Oil can be given. The confidential act of Reconciliation/Confession (see page 750 of the Prayer Book) is also available on Friday’s at the church 9am – 2pm

### **Parish Bank Account:**

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