

Saint Mary's Newsletter: July 2016

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday 3rd:

10am Family Communion service

Refreshments - Daljit Singh

Sunday 10th:

10am Family communion Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

Sunday 17th:

10am Praise Service.

Refreshments - Judy Cole

Sunday 24th:

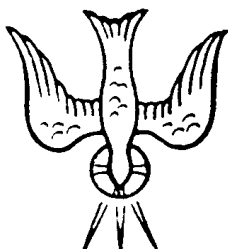
10am Family communion Service.

Refreshments - Sally-Ann Riddell

Sunday 31st:

10am Fresh Expressions

Refreshments - Trish Smithson



Care of Creation/Church Gully: Have you looked at the church gully lately? What was once a wasteland is slowly being transformed into a grove of native trees. Our creation service in Sept will see us planting more. Please donate to the cost of a native plant: The donation box is on the table by the church entrance. Below is a photo of the very first planting - how it has changed already!



Children's Church/Juniour Youth:

This month -Children's church/Juniour Youth is on the 3rd.

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

Scripture for the month:

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:20)



THE Christian life is supposed to be a life lived by faith. It is by faith that we enter into the Christian life, and it is by faith that we live it out. When we begin the Christian life by coming to Christ for forgiveness of sin, we understand that what we seek cannot be obtained by any other means than by faith. We cannot work our way to heaven, because nothing we could ever do would be sufficient. Those who believe they can attain eternal life by keeping rules and regulations—a list of do's and don'ts—deny what the Bible clearly teaches. "But that no one is justified by the Law in the sight of God is clear, for, "The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11). The Pharisees of Jesus' day rejected Christ because He told them this very truth that all their righteous deeds were worthless and that only faith in their Messiah would save them.

In Romans 1, Paul says that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power that saves us, the gospel being the good news that all who believe in Him will have eternal life. When we enter into the Christian life by faith in this good news, we see our faith grow as we come to know more and more about the God who saved us. The gospel of Christ actually reveals God to us as we live to grow closer to Him each day. Romans 1:17 says, "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." So part of the Christian life is diligent reading and study of the Word, accompanied by prayer for understanding and wisdom and for a closer, more intimate relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

The Christian life is also supposed to be one of death to self in order to live a life by faith. Paul told the Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Being crucified with Christ means that our old nature has been nailed to the cross and has been replaced by a new nature which is Christ's (2 Corinthians 5:17). He who loved us and died for us now lives in us, and the life we live is by faith in Him. It means sacrificing our own desires, ambitions, and glories and replacing them with those of Christ. We can only do this by His power through the faith that He gives us by His grace. Part of the Christian life is praying to that end.

The Christian life is also supposed to persevere to the end. Hebrews 10:38-39 addresses this issue by quoting from the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk: "Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." God is not pleased with one who "draws back" from Him after making a commitment, but those who live by faith will never draw back, because they are kept by the Holy Spirit who assures us that we will continue with Christ until the end (Ephesians 1:13-14). The writer of Hebrews goes on to verify this truth in verse 39: "But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul." The true believer is one who believes to the end.

So the Christian life is one lived by faith in the God who saved us, empowers us, seals us for heaven, and by whose power we are kept forever. The day-to-day life of faith is one that grows and strengthens as we seek God in His Word and through prayer and as we unite with other Christians whose goal of Christlikeness is similar to our own.

Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. Did you know that St Mary's has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese? Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

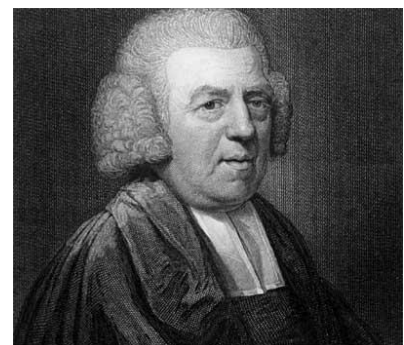
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CHEQUES TO ST MARY'S:

If you are writing a cheque out for the parish, please ensure it is made out to: "Gordonton Anglican Church"

This Month in Christian History:

24 Jul 1725: Birth of John Newton. He was a master of a Slave Ship for 10 years until he converted to Christianity in 1747. He then studied theology and became ordained as an Anglican priest and served his curacy in Olney in 1764. He became a friend of the poet William Cowper, and together they published the hymn "Amazing Grace".



Hall Building Fund:

Keep an eye on the "thermometer" in the church porch. We have raised approx. \$30,000.00 thus far! The hall building committee have met with the District Council in regards to planning consent around a heritage listed building. The new hall must be sited 10m away from the church building.