

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: March

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

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

**Vicars Warden:** Roger Jennings 07 8243712



## SERVICES FOR MARCH

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

10am 7:30pm Ash Weds Service

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Kim Simpson

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Adrienne Calderwood

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - NO REFRESHMENTS THIS SERVICE

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion - AGM after the service

Refreshments - Malia Tala'ofa



**Ash Wednesday** 1<sup>st</sup> March 7:30pm. The service marks the beginning of Lent & involves the burning of last year's palm crosses on the altar, and marking of foreheads with ash as a sign of penitence.

**FAMILY FUN DAY  
& FUNDRAISER \$5pp  
Awapuni Donkey Farm  
372 Whitikahu Rd Gordonton 10-4pm  
Sat 18th & Sun 19th March 2017  
ph 07 8243 735**

We need all hands on deck for this. Please note that there will still be a church service on Sunday morning

### **Children's Church/Junior Youth:**

Vestry have decided that Children's Church/Junior Youth will be held monthly (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of the month) instead of fortnightly. This will be reviewed at a later date. Due to the Fundraiser falling on the 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be no Children's church/Junior Youth this month.

**Youth Group (Year 9+):** Combined churches youth Meet Fridays 7pm at Oaks Church Gordonton & Wednesdays 7pm "Ignite" at Horsham Downs Church.

## 10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

### **1 – The Writing of the Bible**

The Bible was written over a 1600 year period by approximately 40 men. The time of the writing was from 1500 BC to AD 100.

### **2 – The Divisions of the Bible**

While the Bible is 1 book, it contains 66 smaller books. The books of the Old Testament were written before the birth of Jesus Christ and the New Testament covers the life of Christ and beyond.

### **3 – Chapters and Verses**

Each of the books, except 5, are divided into chapters and verses. The 5 which aren't divided by chapters are Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. These are short books which only have verse divisions.

Chapters were introduced to the Bible in 1238 by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro. Verse divisions were not added until 1551 by Robertus Stephanus.

### **4 – The Longest and Shortest of the Bible**

The longest chapter of the Bible is Psalm 119 with 176 verses. The shortest chapter is Psalm 117 with only 2 verses. Incidentally, the middle chapter of the Bible is also Psalm 117.

The longest book of the Bible is Psalms with 150 chapters, or psalms. It contains 43,743 words. The shortest book is 3 John with only 1 chapter and 299 words.

The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9 with 90 words. The shortest verse is John 11:35 with only 2 words, "Jesus wept."

### **5 – The Bible is God's Word**

There are many books written about and by various religions. But the Bible is the only one which includes the actual words of God. Those who believe the Bible also believe that God inspired various people through the years to write down His actual words for mankind. The Bible says more than 3,000 times "thus saith the Lord." And the words which follow are quotes from God.

### **6 – The Bible is Historically Accurate**

There were several secular historians who wrote about the events of the New Testament at the same time the Bible was being written. Josephus is the most well-known of them. He was a Jewish historian. Tacitus was a Roman historian who would have no benefit from not telling the truth. Both these men, as well as others, can be used to back up the historical accuracy of the Bible.

There are historical discoveries regularly coming to light that continue to support the accuracy of the Bible. Merrill Unger, who compiled a Bible dictionary wrote, "Old Testament archaeology has rediscovered whole nations, resurrected important peoples, and in a most astonishing manner filled in historical gaps, adding immeasurably to the knowledge of Biblical backgrounds."

### **7 – The Business of the Bible**

There are more than 168,000 Bibles either sold or given away per day in the United States according to the Gideons, Wycliffe International and the International Bible Societies.

Historically it has been said that the Bible is the most sold book of all time. It is regularly on various best seller lists.

The Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages.

### **8 – The Bible Does Not Contradict Itself**

There are no contradictions in the Bible. Various people claim to find contradictions but they have to take verses out of context to do so. When looking at the Bible as a whole and understanding its teachings there are no contradictions. This is amazing when one considers that the Bible was written over such a long period of time.

### **9 – The Prophecies of the Bible**

There are more than 3,200 verses with fulfilled prophecy either within the Bible itself or since the Bible was written. But there are still more than 3,100 verses with unfulfilled prophecies.

### **10 – The Writers of the Bible**

While there were at least 40 different people who wrote parts of the Bible, some were more prolific than others. The Apostle Paul wrote at least 13 books of the Bible. He may have also been the author of the book of Hebrews. Moses wrote the first 5 books.

The Bible attributes more than 3,000 proverbs to King Solomon. These are not all written in the book of Proverbs. However, most of that book is said to be the proverbs of Solomon.

## **AGM**

The Parish Annual General Meeting is to be held after the Sunday Service. 26<sup>th</sup> March

## **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:

**02 0410 0103053 00**

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

*1843: Scottish clergyman Robert Murray McCheyne writes in a letter; "You will never find Jesus so precious as when the world is one vast howling wilderness. Then He is like a rose blooming in the midst of the desolation, a rock rising above the storm."*



## **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 – 3pm