

Saint Mary's Newsletter: June 2017

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 4th:

Queen's Birthday Weekend - NO SERVICE

Sunday 11th:

10am Family Communion Service with Bishop Helen-Ann.

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

Sunday 18th:

10am Praise Service.

Refreshments - Valerie Crowther

Sunday 25th:

10am Family Communion Service.

Refreshments - Karen Boyer



Salt & Light: Bible study group will be meeting after church on Sun 18th June.



Children's Church/Juniour

Youth: This month -Children's church/Juniour Youth is on the 18th.

Youth Group (Year 9+): Friday's 7pm @ Oaks church, Gordonton, & Weds 7pm "Ignite" @ - Horsham Downs Church.

Hall Finance update:

As at 31 March 2017 there is **\$48,996.62** towards the Hall Building

What is Christian holiness?

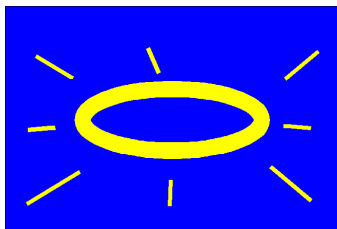
For many, holiness is a kind of goodness they can never reach. For others, it is a religious doctrine once taught and now forgotten. For most, it is perhaps an intimidating or even irrelevant notion.

Holiness is living in relationship with God, not using minor rules against others. However, holiness is not living without regard for God's law or intended way of life for us.

Most often holiness is associated with the curious language of Christian "perfection." This is not invented jargon. The Bible speaks of becoming perfect, perhaps most notably in Matthew 5:48. Yet again, what does this mean? The discipline of theology has traditionally made a distinction between two great works of God in the life of believers. The first is linked to the forgiveness Christ offers. This is called **justification**. We are considered to be just as a gift from God in Christ, even though we do not merit such treatment. The second is linked to the growth in grace that takes place following justification. This is called **sanctification**. We are invited to become that which God has considered us to be. Holiness or Christian perfection is closely connected to sanctification. Holiness is the reality of becoming/being that which God desires for us. However, even this description of holiness does not tell the entire story. If we conceive of holiness or Christian perfection or sanctification as a "process," we open ourselves to further questions. Can anyone ever reach it? Does it ever come all at once? How would we know if someone actually became all that God intended for that person? Perhaps we can understand why past dialogue regarding holiness has tended to move rather quickly from definitions to consideration of its possibility.

Many have expressed a conviction that holiness is a life-long journey. According to this perspective, we should not worry about identifying it so precisely. Others caution that such a process-oriented view amounts to neglecting the importance of holiness or explaining away its possibility in this life. Likewise, many understand holiness as a separation from the world, a cleansing from sin, and the refraining from certain behaviours. Others have understood it as engagement with the world for justice. The varied approaches can be perplexing, and they sometimes represent competing thoughts.

However, most would affirm that holiness is nothing without love. Therefore a careful consideration of love confronts every seeker after holiness, and this consideration must be grounded in the biblical witness and informed by principled theological reflection.



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"

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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This Month in Christian History:

2nd June 597: Missionary to England and first archbishop of Canterbury, baptizes Ethelbert, the Saxon king. Afterward the Christian faith spreads rapidly among the Angles and Saxons.



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