

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: Aug 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 AUGUST

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion service with Children's Church & Junior Youth

Refreshments - Trish Smithson

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>:

10am *Patronal Festival of St Mary:*



Family communion Service

Refreshments - Muriel Riddell

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>:

10am Praise Service with Children's Church & Junious Youth.

Refreshments - Michaela O'Neil

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family communion Service.

Refreshments - Karen Boyer



**Salt & Light Bible Study** meets every second Sunday (13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> this month) after the church service and morning tea. Bring along your "purple book".

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

This month -Children's church/Junious Youth is on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Scripture for the month:**



## AGAPE LOVE



Agape is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love, the highest of the four types of love in the Bible.

This Greek word, *agápē*, and variations of it are frequently found throughout the New Testament. Agape perfectly describes the kind of love Jesus Christ has for his Father and for his followers.

Agape is the term that defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind.

It is his ongoing, outgoing, self-sacrificing concern for lost and fallen people. God gives this love without condition, unreservedly to those who are undeserving and inferior to himself.

"Agape love, says Anders Nygren, is unmotivated in the sense that it is not contingent on any value or worth in the object of love. It is spontaneous and heedless, for it does not determine beforehand whether love will be effective or appropriate in any particular case."

A simple way to summarize agape is God's divine love.

Another meaning of agape in the Bible was "love feast," a common meal in the early church expressing Christian brotherhood and fellowship:

*These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; (Jude 12, ESV)*

## AGAPE LOVE IN THE BIBLE

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

(John 3:16, ESV)

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35, ESV)*

*Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them. (John 14:21, NIV)*

*I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (John 17:23, ESV)*

*Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:14, ESV)*

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16, ESV)*

*Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8, ESV)*

## Friends of Hospital Chaplaincy Concert:

Saturday 2 September, 7.30pm  
at St. Paul's Collegiate Chapel. Adult \$20.00,  
Student \$5.00

## CHEQUES TO ST MARY'S:

If you are writing a cheque  
3out for the parish, please  
ensure it is made out to:  
"Gordonton Anglican Church"

## This Month in Christian History:

**1744:** English religious leader Ann Lee and a small band of her followers arrive in America at New York City. Her sect, the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, is commonly known as the Shakers.



## Hall Building:

Thank you for all those who participated in the recent Hall Resources Study and gave your input. If you haven't, it's not too late to do so, so please contact the vicar. A report on the outcome of the Study should be ready this month.