

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: May

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

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

**Vicars Warden:** Roger Jennings 07 8243712



## SERVICES FOR MAY

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

10am Family Communion Service.

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton

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

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Muriel Riddell

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

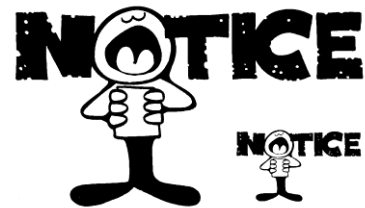
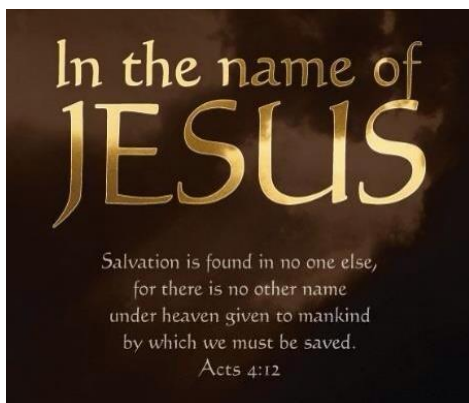
10am Pentecost Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

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

10am Trinity Sunday - Family Communion Service

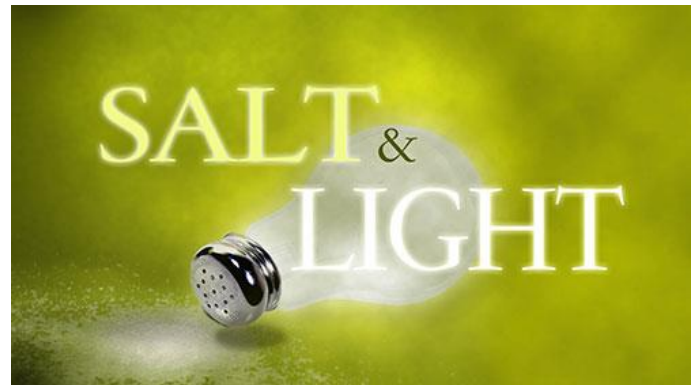
Refreshments - Melanie Holdsworth



**Next month 4<sup>th</sup> June:** *Queens Birthday Weekend* No service

**Fraser's visit:** Our "adopted Mission Family" the Fraser's from the UK will be in Gordonton for most of this month.

**Salt & Light Bible Study Group.** Meets after church every fortnight. This month, meets 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>



## Scripture for the month:

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

—2 Corinthians 5:17

### What is "Worldliness" ?

The dictionary definition of "worldly" is "relating to, or devoted to, the temporal world." Worldliness, then, is the condition of being concerned with worldly affairs, especially to the neglect of spiritual things. The Bible has a great deal to say about worldliness, none of it good.

Paul equates worldliness with spiritual immaturity in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, where he addresses the believers in the church of Corinth in regard to their worldly behaviour. Though they were believers—he calls them "brothers"—they were spiritual babies who could not understand the deep things of God that Paul wished to share with them. They had never progressed past learning the basics of the faith and were seemingly content to remain there. This lack of maturity led to their behaving as though they were still part of the unsaved world. They quarrelled among themselves as to which of them was greater because of which of the apostles they followed (1 Corinthians 1:11-13; 3:4), when in reality they followed none of them, following instead their own lusts and desire to elevate themselves above others. Paul exhorted them to grow up and mature in the faith so they would cease from worldly behaviour.

The epistles depict worldliness as the exact opposite of godliness. The world's wisdom is not wisdom at all (1 Corinthians 3:18-19). Rather, it is foolishness, especially the world's wisdom on the subject of religion. We see that today in the endless discussions of "spirituality" by men whose spiritual wisdom is based on nothing more than worldly illusions. True wisdom that comes from God is juxtaposed against the foolish "wisdom" of the world throughout Scripture. The message of the cross is foolishness to those with worldly wisdom who are perishing (1 Corinthians 1:18) because true wisdom comes not from man's philosophies, but from God's Word. True godliness is always opposed by the world.

Furthermore, Paul refers to a "worldly sorrow" (2 Corinthians 7:10) which is the opposite of the godly sorrow that comes from true repentance. Godly sorrow is what we feel over our sin when we come to see it as God sees it and when our view of it is in accord with His. Worldly sorrow, on the other hand, does not stem from the knowledge of sin against a holy God, but rather from circumstances in which the worldly find themselves. Worldly sorrow stems from a love of self and may arise from the loss of friends or property, from disappointment, or from shame and disgrace. But once the circumstances right themselves, worldly sorrow disappears. Godly sorrow, however, is only alleviated by turning to Christ, who alone provides freedom from the sorrow, the penalty and the power of sin.

Finally, Scripture draws a clear distinction between friendship with God and friendship with the world. James 4:4 tells us that "friendship with the world is hatred toward God." He goes on to say that "anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." The apostle James uses the strong words "hatred" and "enemy" to drive home the point that we can be in the world or in the kingdom, but not both because they are at opposite ends of the spectrum. Those who choose worldliness choose to live in the enemy's camp because all that is of the world is under the control of Satan (1 John 5:19). He is the ruler of this world, and when we choose the world, we enlist in his evil army and become enemies of God.

For the Christian, the choice is clear. To avoid worldliness, we must mature in the faith, growing up in all things in Christ so that we are no longer spiritual infants, tossed about by the lies of the world (Ephesians 4:14-15). We must come to know the difference between the wisdom of God and the foolishness of worldly wisdom, and that is only achieved by careful and diligent study of the Word, seeking God's wisdom in prayer (James 1:5), and enjoying the fellowship of other mature believers who can encourage us to reject worldliness and embrace godliness

### This Month in Christian History:

*26<sup>th</sup> May 735:* Death of Anglo-Saxon theologian the Venerable Bede. Bede was a monk at a monastery in Jarrow, Northumberland. He was known as "the father of English history". Bede was the first English scholar, and he invented the BC/AD dating system and his writing *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (731) was crucial to England's conversion to Christianity.



### CHEQUES TO ST MARY'S :

If you are writing a cheque towards 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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