

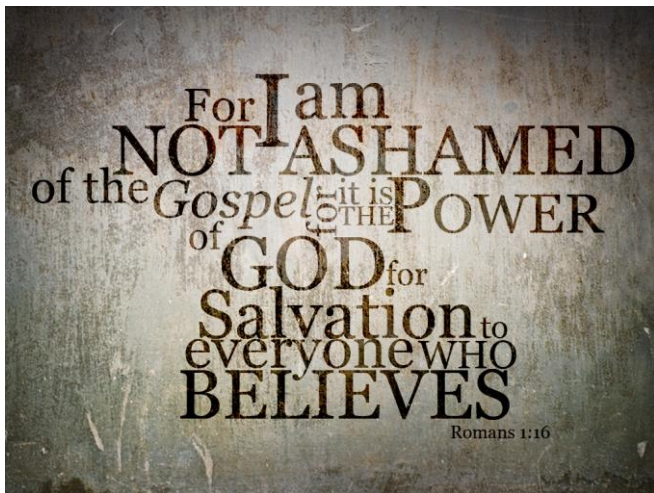
Saint Mary's Newsletter: June

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 3rd:

NO SERVICE - QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

Sunday 10th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Melanie Holdsworth

Sunday 17th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Muriel Riddell

Sunday 27th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Trish Smithson



Calf Fundraising Scheme: Donate a calf (if you are a farmer), or townies can donate \$220 which will cover the costs of purchasing a 4 day old bull old calf and rearing costs. Or you could wait until the calves are sold and donate the average cash price of what all the calves sold for. It is an easy and low maintenance fundraiser that has the potential to raise \$450 per calf sold. The better the calf, the higher the price we get for it. Last year we had a huge number of Friesian bull calves made available for you to purchase from the Riddell's and were reared for us and sold as weaned 100kg calves at the sales in late October. We are hoping to buy surplus calves again this year and do the same. Forms and info on the Welcome table, or see Sally-Ann & Richard



Salt & Light Bible Study Group.

Meets after church every fortnight. This month, meets 10th and 17th

Children/Youth: Kids activity packs with a choccy treat, and youth: Friday's 7pm @ Oaks church, Gordonton, & Weds 7pm "Ignite" @ - Horsham Downs Church.

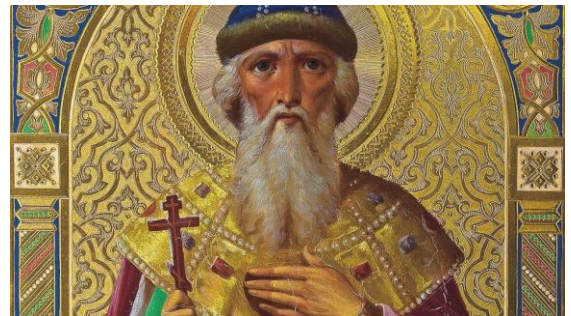
What does the Bible say about tattoos / body piercings?"

The Old Testament law commanded the Israelites, "Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:28). So, even though believers today are not under the Old Testament law (Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:23–25; Ephesians 2:15), the fact that there was a command against tattoos should raise some questions. The New Testament does not say anything about whether or not a believer should get a tattoo. We do have this command in 1 Peter 3:3–4: "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." Granted, this passage is directed at Christian women, but there is a principle here that may be apropos: namely, a person's external appearance should not be the focus of our attention. Much effort goes into "elaborate hairstyles" and "fine clothes" and jewellery, but that's not where a woman's true beauty lies. In the same way, tattoos and body piercings are "outward adornment," and we should be careful to give more effort to the development of the "inner self," regardless of our gender. In relation to tattoos and body piercings, a good test is to determine whether we can honestly, in good conscience, ask God to bless and use that particular activity for His own good purposes. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). The New Testament does not specifically command against tattoos or body piercings, but it also does not give us any reason to believe God would have us get tattoos or body piercings. An important scriptural principle on issues the Bible does not specifically address is if there is room for doubt whether it pleases God, then it is best not to engage in that activity. Romans 14:23 reminds us that anything that does not come from faith is sin. We need to remember that our bodies, as well as our souls, have been redeemed and belong to God. Although 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 does not directly apply to tattoos or body piercings, it does give us a principle: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body." This great truth should have a real bearing on what we do and where we go with our bodies. If our bodies belong to God, we should make sure we have His clear "permission" before we "mark them up" with tattoos or body piercings.



This Month in Christian History:

5th June 988: Kiev's Grand prince Vladimir formally embraces the gospel, ordering his people to be baptized into the Orthodox Christian faith. Considered "the apostle to the Russians", Vladimir became the first Christian ruler of that nation, and afterward erected numerous churches, promoted education, and aided the poor.



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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