

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: September

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

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

**Vicars Warden:** Roger Jennings 07 8243712



## SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Adrienne Calderwood

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Trish Smithson

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Muriel Riddell

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>: NO SERVICE - (SYNOD)



### **Calf Fundraising Scheme: ROLL UP**

**ROLL UP!** 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. Forms and info on the Welcome table, or see Sally-Ann & Richard!



**Salt & Light Bible Study Group.** Is meeting after church this month:  
*16th September*

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

**Here I am! I stand  
at the door and  
knock. If anyone  
hears my voice  
and opens the  
door, I will  
come in.**

Revelation 3:20

### What does the Bible say about drinking alcohol?

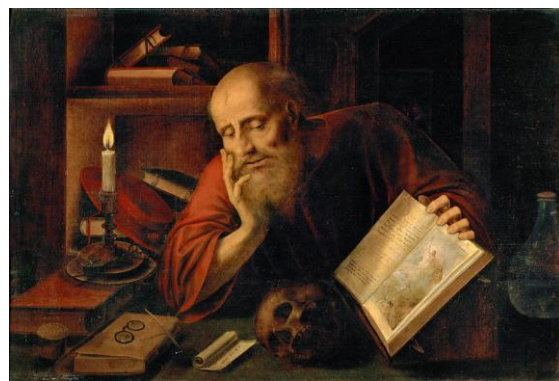
Scripture has much to say regarding the drinking of alcohol (Leviticus 10:9; Numbers 6:3; Deuteronomy 29:6; Judges 13:4, 7, 14; Proverbs 20:1; 31:4; Isaiah 5:11, 22; 24:9; 28:7; 29:9; 56:12). However, Scripture does not necessarily forbid a Christian from drinking beer, wine, or any other drink containing alcohol. In fact, some Scriptures discuss alcohol in positive terms. Ecclesiastes 9:7 instructs, "Drink your wine with a merry heart." Psalm 104:14-15 states that God gives wine "that makes glad the heart of men." Amos 9:14 discusses drinking wine from your own vineyard as a sign of God's blessing. Isaiah 55:1 encourages, "Yes, come buy wine and milk..." What God commands Christians regarding alcohol is to avoid drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18). The Bible condemns drunkenness and its effects (Proverbs 23:29-35). Christians are also commanded to not allow their bodies to be "mastered" by anything (1 Corinthians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:19). Drinking alcohol in excess is undeniably addictive. Scripture also forbids a Christian from doing anything that might offend other Christians or encourage them to sin against their conscience (1 Corinthians 8:9-13). In light of these principles, it would be extremely difficult for any Christian to say he is drinking alcohol in excess to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Jesus changed water into wine. It even seems that Jesus drank wine on occasion (John 2:1-11; Matthew 26:29). In New Testament times, the water was not very clean. Without modern sanitation, the water was often filled with bacteria, viruses, and all kinds of contaminants. The same is true in many third-world countries today. As a result, people often drank wine because it was far less likely to be contaminated. In 1 Timothy 5:23, Paul was instructing Timothy to stop drinking the water (which was probably causing his stomach problems) and instead drink wine. In that day, wine was fermented (containing alcohol), but not necessarily to the degree it is today. It is incorrect to say that it was grape juice, but it is also incorrect to say that it was the same thing as the wine commonly used today. Again, Scripture does not forbid Christians from drinking beer, wine, or any other drink containing alcohol. Alcohol is not, in and of itself, tainted by sin. It is drunkenness and addiction to alcohol that a Christian must absolutely refrain from (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:12). Alcohol, consumed in moderate quantities, is neither harmful nor addictive. In fact, some doctors advocate drinking small amounts of red wine for its health benefits, especially for the heart. Consumption of small quantities of alcohol is a matter of Christian freedom. Drunkenness and addiction are sin.



### This Month in Christian History:

*30<sup>th</sup> Sep 420:* Death of Jerome, Bible scholar, and one of the most learned of the Latin Fathers. Originally from Rome, Jerome moved to Bethlehem, entered a monastery, and devoted himself to translating the bible into Latin (bequeathing to the Western Church the Vulgate Bible). He also prepared numerous works of ecclesiastical history and biblical interpretation.



### 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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