

Saint Mary's Newsletter: October

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8525008



SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 7th:

10am Pet Blessing Service

Refreshments - Muriel Riddell

Sunday 14th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

Sunday 21st:

NO SERVICE - LABOUR WEEKEND

Sunday 28th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Melanie Holdsworth



Working Bee! Saturday 27th Oct 1pm

Bring ladder, cleaning products, dusters, cloths, outdoor brooms.



Salt & Light Bible Study Group. Is meeting after church this month:
14th October

Pet Blessing Service In honour of St Francis (whose day is on the 3rd Oct) we are having our Annual Pet Blessing Service Sun 7th Oct. Bring along your cat, dog, fish, bird...!

AP Givers: For those who give to the church via Automatic Payment therefore have nothing to put into the offering bag on Sundays, please pick up an AP card on your way into church from the welcome table. You can put this into the offering bag as a symbolic giving during the Offering

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

What the Bible says about astrology and the zodiac. Is astrology something a Christian should study?

The Bible has much to say about the stars. Most basic to our understanding of the stars is that God created them. They show His power and majesty. The heavens are God's "handiwork" (Psalm 8:3; 19:1). He has all the stars numbered and named (Psalm 147:4). The Bible also teaches that God arranged the stars into recognizable groups that we call constellations. The Bible mentions three of these: Orion, the Bear (Ursa Major), and "the crooked serpent" (most likely Draco) in Job 9:9; 26:13; 38:31-32; and Amos 5:8. The same passages also reference the star group Pleiades (the Seven Stars). God is the One Who "fastens the bands" of these constellations; He is the One who brings them forth, "each in its season." In Job 38:32, God also points to the "Mazzaroth," usually translated "constellations." This is thought by many to be a reference to the twelve constellations of the zodiac.

The constellations have been tracked and studied for millennia. The Egyptians and Greeks knew of the zodiac and used it to measure the beginning of spring centuries before Christ. Much has been written of the meaning of the zodiacal constellations, including theories that they comprise an ancient display of God's redemptive plan. For example, the constellation Leo can be seen as a celestial depiction of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5), and Virgo could be a reminder of the virgin who bore Christ. However, the Bible does not indicate any "hidden meaning" for these or other constellations. The Bible says that stars, along with the sun and moon, were given for "signs" and "seasons" (Genesis 1:14); that is, they were meant to mark time for us. They are also "signs" in the sense of navigational "indicators," and all through history people have used the stars to chart their courses around the earth.

God used the stars as an illustration of His promise to give Abraham an innumerable seed (Genesis 15:5). Thus, every time Abraham looked up at the night sky, he had a reminder of God's faithfulness and goodness. The final judgment of the earth will be accompanied by astronomical events relating to the stars (Isaiah 13:9-10; Joel 3:15; Matthew 24:29).

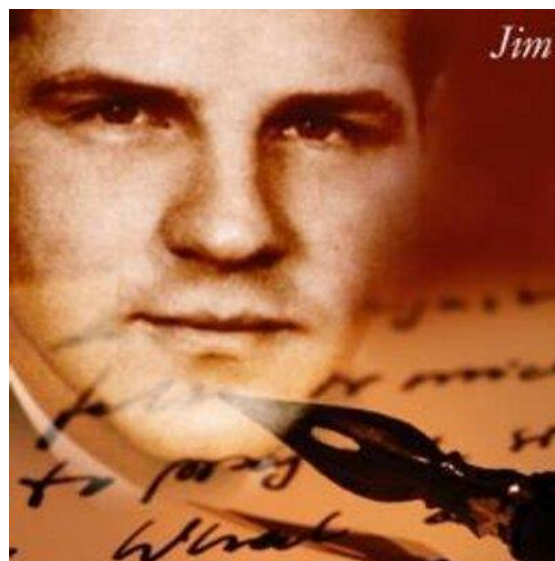
Astrology is the "interpretation" of an assumed influence the stars exert on human destiny. This is a false belief. The royal astrologers of the Babylonian court were put to shame by God's prophet Daniel (Daniel 1:20) and were powerless to interpret the king's dream (Daniel 2:27). God specifies astrologers as among those who will be burned as stubble in God's judgment (Isaiah 47:13-14). Astrology as a form of divination is expressly forbidden in Scripture (Deuteronomy 18:10-14). God forbade the children of Israel to worship or serve the "host of heaven" (Deuteronomy 4:19). Several times in their history, however, Israel fell into that very sin (2 Kings 17:16 is one example). Their worship of the stars brought God's judgment each time.

The stars should awaken wonder at God's power, wisdom, and infinitude. We should use the stars to keep track of time and place and to remind us of God's faithful, covenant-keeping nature. All the while, we acknowledge the Creator of the heavens. Our wisdom comes from God, not the stars (James 1:5). The Word of God, the Bible, is our guide through life (Psalm 119:105).



This Month in Christian History:

8th Oct 1927: Birth of Jim Elliot. American Plymouth Brethren missionary to Ecuador. In 1956, during an attempt to make contact with a hostile tribe, Jim and four fellow missionaries were killed by the very people they were attempting to evangelize. The story was published the following year by Elliot's widow, Elizabeth, in *Through the Gates of Splendour*.



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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