

Saint Mary's Newsletter: November

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8525008



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 4th:

10am All Souls/Saints Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Muriel Riddell

Sunday 11th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Trish Smithson

Sunday 18th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton

Sunday 25th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton



All Souls/Saints Sunday 4th Nov. Please bring along a photo of your loved ones who have passed away for this special commemorative service

Salt & Light Bible Study Group. Is meeting after church this month: 11 & 25th November

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.

Hall Building Fund / Seismic

Strengthening In the light of St Mary's church now labelled a considerable risk during a seismic event, Vestry has decided that funds raised for the Hall shall now instead be set aside for strengthening of our existing church building. Please consider giving to this, & now mark any Hall donations as "Seismic Strengthening Fund".



Should a Christian consider alternative medicine?

There are many different forms of alternative medicine available today. This sometimes leads to confusion among Christians as to whether to consider using alternative forms of medicine in place of or in addition to traditional forms. Many kinds of alternative medicine have their origins in non-Christian religions or anti-Christian philosophies. This leads some Christians to shun alternative medicine altogether. But does the Bible prohibit the use of alternative medicine?

There are two primary issues with this "alternative medicine is always wrong" mind-set. First, much of modern traditional medicine also has its roots in non-Christian religions and philosophies. While alternative medicines like acupuncture may have originated in connection with Taoism, many traditional medicines originated in the ancient Greek and Roman cultures, which were just as non-Christian as ancient Taoism. The idea that unless something was invented by a Christian, it is inherently wrong is not biblically supportable. Many inventions and technologies that Christians have no qualms about using were invented by non-Christians. The belief system of the inventor does not necessarily determine whether the invention itself has moral value. The origin of an alternative form of medicine should not be the deciding factor in whether a Christian can consider using it.

Second, there is no standard for determining whether a medicine or treatment is considered "alternative." Is chiropractic treatment considered alternative? Is taking herbal supplements considered alternative? Is a gluten-free diet or eating Brazilian acai berries considered alternative? People are quick to point to some alternative medicines as being wrong, while failing to recognize that they themselves are using alternatives. If anything other than having surgery or swallowing a prescribed pill is considered alternative, then hundreds of millions of people are already knowingly, or unknowingly, using alternative medicine.

Ultimately, the deciding factor in this discussion is whether or not an alternative medicine can be separated from the philosophy associated with the medicine or treatment. If inserting acupuncture needles into a person's body at strategic points results in physical healing or relief from pain, does it matter if the practitioner is wrong about why it works? While a Christian should wholeheartedly reject the Taoist yin-yang philosophy, there is nothing inherently unbiblical about the acupuncture procedure itself.

With the freedom that we have in Christ, decisions like whether or not to use alternative medicine are to be based on our own biblically informed convictions and preferences (1 Corinthians 6:12; 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1). As with everything, Christians are to be wise and discerning. We are free to follow our convictions as long as they are biblically sound and bathed in prayer. What we are not free to do is to force our own convictions on others, especially in debatable areas such as alternative medicine.



This Month in Christian History:

25th Nov 2348: According to the reckoning of Irish Archbishop James Ussher, the "Great Deluge" (Noah's Flood) began on this date. Ussher's *Chronology of the Old and New Testaments* is the source of the dates inserted in the margins of many editions of the King James Version of the Bible.



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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