

Saint Mary's Newsletter: August

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 07 8243996



SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday 4th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments: Judy Cole

Readings: Judy Cole

Intercessions: Gael Levin

Sunday 11th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments: Majella Heaton

Readings:

Intercessions: Majella Heaton

Sunday 18th:

10am Family Communion & St Mary
Patronal Service



Refreshments: Katy Cockerton

Readings: Katy Cockerton

Intercessions: Katy Cockerton

Sunday 25th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments: Trish Smithson

Readings: Trish Smithson

Intercessions: 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.

Forms and info on the table in the church porch, or see Sally-Ann & Richard



Salt & Light Bible Study Group.

Meets after church twice per month.

This month, meets 4th and 18th

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 peace?

Peace is something everyone wants, yet few seem to find. What is peace? It can be defined as “tranquillity, harmony, or security.” Depending on the situation, it could mean “prosperity” or “well-being.” Various forms of the word *peace* are found 429 times in the King James Version of the Bible. There are different types of peace, including false peace, inner peace, peace with God, and peace with man.

In the Old Testament, the primary Hebrew word for “peace” is *shalom*, and it refers to relationships between people (Genesis 34:21), nations (1 Kings 5:12), and God with men (Psalms 85:8). Peace is a desired status in each of these arenas, and *shalom* is often tied to a covenant or a promise kept. A familiar friend (literally, “friend of my peace” in Psalms 41:9) is one with whom you would be at ease, a trusted companion. “Peace” was the standard greeting (1 Samuel 25:6), still used in many cultures today.

Peace is directly related to the actions and attitudes of individuals; but it is ultimately a gift from God (Isaiah 45:7; Leviticus 26:6; John 14:27). The presence of peace indicates God's blessing on man's obedience (Isaiah 32:17; Malachi 2:5) and faith (Isaiah 26:3). There is no peace for the wicked (Isaiah 48:22).

As valuable as peace is, it is not surprising to find that it is sometimes counterfeited. Empty promises of peace can be used to manipulate others. Deceitful men speak words of peace while secretly planning evil (Obadiah 1:7). The Antichrist will confirm a treaty, producing a temporary peace which he will then abruptly shatter as he reveals his true colours (Daniel 9:27). False teachers proclaim peace when God is actually proclaiming judgment (Ezekiel 13:10-16). In Jeremiah's day, the religious leaders dealt only with the symptoms of the national problems, without addressing the sinful root of the crisis. These false prophets declared everything was well between God and Israel: “Peace, peace,” they said, when there was no real peace (Jeremiah 6:14).

In the New Testament, the primary Greek word for “peace” is *eirene*, and it refers to rest and tranquillity. A key focus of peace in the New Testament is the advent of Jesus Christ, as announced by the angels in Luke 2:14 (“Peace on earth . . .”). Isaiah had predicted the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and He is called the Lord of peace in 2 Thessalonians 3:16. It is through Christ's work of justification that we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1), and that peace will keep our hearts and minds secure (Philippians 4:7).

God commands us to seek peace (Psalms 34:14; Matthew 5:9). We should “make every effort to do what leads to peace” (Romans 14:19). Of course, there will be some people who do not desire peace, but we are still to do our utmost to be at peace with them (Romans 12:18).

Believers have an obligation to “let the peace of God rule” in their hearts (Colossians 3:15). This means we have the choice either to trust God's promises (letting His peace rule) or to rely on ourselves and reject the peace He offers. Jesus gave His disciples peace based on the truth that He has overcome the world (John 14:27; 16:33). Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, so, if we are allowing the Spirit of God to rule in our lives, we will experience His peace. To be spiritually minded brings life and peace, according to Romans 8:6.

The world will continue to have wars and interpersonal conflicts until Jesus comes to establish true, lasting peace (see Isaiah 11:1-10), but God will give His peace to those who trust Him. Jesus took the chastisement of our peace (Isaiah 53:5) and has made it possible for us to have peace with God. Once His peace rules in our hearts, we are able to share that peace with others; we become publishers of peace (Isaiah 52:7) and ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).



This Month in Christian History:

1744: English religious leader Ann Lee and a small band of her followers arrive in America at New York City. Her sect, the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, is commonly known as the Shakers.



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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