

Saint Mary's Newsletter: November

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 07 8243996



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd:

10am All Souls/Saints Family Communion

Refreshments: Trish Smithson
Readings: Trish Smithson
Intercessions: Trish Smithson

Sunday 10th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments: Karen Boyer
Readings: Karen Boyer
Intercessions:

Sunday 17th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments: Majella Heaton
Readings: Katy Cockerton
Intercessions: Majella Heaton

Sunday 24th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments: Katy Cockerton
Readings: Katy Cockerton
Intercessions: Katy Cockerton

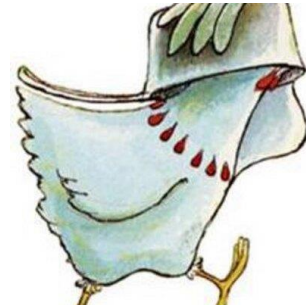
This is my
commandment, that
you love one another
as I have loved you.

John 15:12



All Souls/Saints Sunday 3rd Nov. For this special commemorative service please bring along a photo of your loved ones who have passed away.

Climate Change? Documentary Weds 6th Nov 7pm at church



Working Bee! Saturday 9th Nov 1pm
Bring ladder, cleaning products, dusters, cloths, outdoor brooms etc.



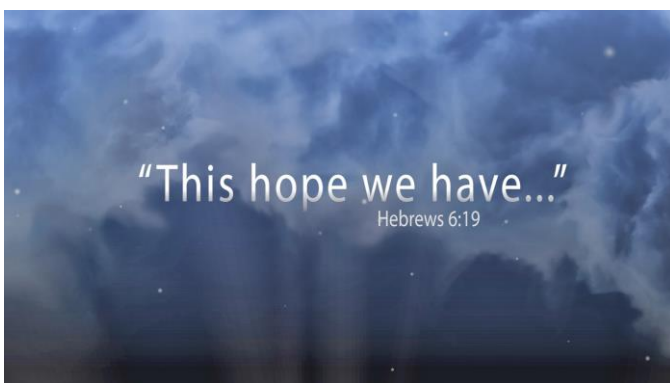
"What does the Bible say about hope?"

The Bible has quite a lot to say about hope. Biblical hope has as its foundation faith in God. The word *hope* in English often conveys doubt. For instance, "I hope it will not rain tomorrow." In addition, the word *hope* is often followed by the word *so*. This is the answer that some may give when asked if they think that they will go to heaven when they die. They say, "I hope so." However, that is not the meaning of the words usually translated "hope" in the Bible.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word *batah* and its cognates has the meaning of confidence, security, and being without care; therefore, the concept of doubt is not part of this word. We find that meaning in Job 6:20; Psalm 16:9; Psalm 22:9; and Ecclesiastes 9:4. In most instances in the New Testament, the word *hope* is the Greek *elpis/elpizo*. Again, there is no doubt attached to this word. Therefore, biblical hope is a confident expectation or assurance based upon a sure foundation for which we wait with joy and full confidence. In other words, "There is no doubt about it!"

One of the verses in which we find the word *hope* is Hebrews 11:1. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This verse at the beginning of the faith chapter (Hebrews 11) carries with it all of the confidence that comes with knowing for sure, with no question, what we have been promised by God in His Word. Our faith is confident assurance, for it is founded upon the Rock of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ. All of the actions of the heroes of the faith recorded in Hebrews 11 were made possible because they had this faith based in their confident assurance or hope in God. As believers, we are also called to give an answer for the hope that is within us to any who would ask (1 Peter 3:15).

Therefore, biblical hope is a reality and not a feeling. Biblical hope carries no doubt. Biblical hope is a sure foundation upon which we base our lives, believing that God always keeps His promises. Hope or confident assurance can be ours when we trust the words, "He who believes on Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47). Accepting that gift of eternal life means our hope is no longer filled with doubt but, rather, has at its sure foundation the whole of God's Word, the entirety of God's character, and the finished work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



This Month in Christian History:

29th Nov 1970: In Nagpur, India, six church entities – the Anglicans, the United Church of Northern India, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Church of the Brethren, and the Disciples of Christ – came together to form the Church of India.



Also on the 29th Nov but in 2009 - David was ordained, so celebrates his 10th anniversary as priest in the Anglican Church ☺

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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