

Saint Mary's Newsletter: March

Vicar: David Smithson 021 985530 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 2nd:

10am Holy communion Service

Refreshments: Majella

Readings/prayers: Majella

Sunday 9th:

10am Lent 1 Holy communion Service

Refreshments: Rosalie

Readings/prayers: Rosalie

Sunday 16th:

10am Lent 2 Holy communion Service

Refreshments: Karen

Readings/prayers: Karen

Sunday 23rd:

10am Lent 3 Holy communion Service

Refreshments: Helen

Readings/prayers: Helen

Sunday 30th:

10am Lent 4 1662 Holy communion Service

Refreshments: PARISH LUNCH @ CAFE

Readings/prayers:



AGM: Immediately after the service 23rd March. It is always brief, and held along with a cuppa.

Parish Giving: Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. 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: 02 0410 0103053 00

Study/Prayer Group: Pete Grieg Every Weds 7pm @ the church. *Weds 5 March will have a brief informal Ash Weds imposition of ashes before the study group commences.*





Praise is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us. It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving as we offer back to God appreciation for His mighty works on our behalf. Praise can be a feature of other relationships as well. We can praise our family, friends, boss, or paperboy. Praise does not require anything of us. It is merely the truthful acknowledgment of the righteous acts of another. Since God has done many wonderful deeds, He is worthy of praise (Psalm 18:3).

Worship comes from a different place within our spirits. Worship should be reserved for God alone (Luke 4:8). Worship is the art of losing self in the adoration of another. Praise can be a part of worship, but worship goes beyond praise. Praise is easy; worship is not. Worship gets to the heart of who we are. To truly worship God, we must let go of our self-worship. We must be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is, not just what He has done. Worship is a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity. Jesus said the Father is seeking those who will worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23).

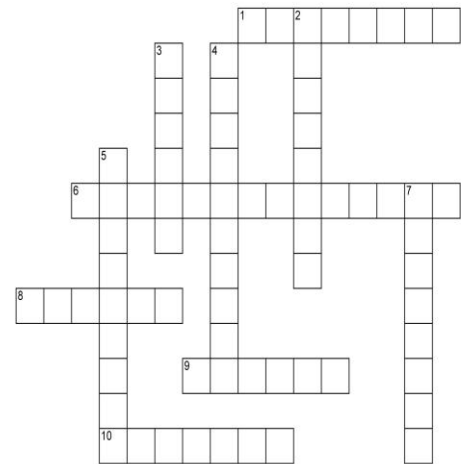
In Scripture, praise is usually presented as boisterous, joyful, and uninhibited. God invites praise of all kinds from His creation. Jesus said that if people don't praise God, even the "stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40). When the Bible mentions worship, however, the tone changes. We read verses like, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 96:9). And, "Come let us worship and bow down" (Psalm 95:6). Often, worship is coupled with the act of bowing or kneeling, which shows humility and contrition (2 Chronicles 29:28; Hebrews 11:21; Revelation 19:10). It is through true worship that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, and comfort us. Through worship, we realign our priorities with God's and acknowledge Him once more as the rightful Lord of our lives.

Just as praise is intertwined with thanksgiving, worship is intertwined with surrender. It is impossible to worship God and anything else at the same time (Luke 4:8). The physical acts often associated with worship—bowing, kneeling, lifting hands—help to create the necessary attitude of humility required for real worship. Wise worship leaders know how to structure a worship service to allow participants to both praise and worship the Lord. Often, services begin with joyous praise songs and transition to a quieter, more introspective opportunity for worship.

Worship is an attitude of the heart. A person can go through the outward motions and not be worshiping (Psalm 51:16-17; Matthew 6:5-6). God sees the heart, and He desires and deserves sincere, heartfelt praise *and* worship.

People in the Bible

Daniel



ACROSS

- 1 1st of three Hebrew boys thrown into the fiery furnace
- 6 Made a golden image to worship that was over ninety feet tall
- 8 Was thrown into the lion's den
- 9 Took Daniel to interpret the king of Babylon's dream
- 10 2nd of three Hebrew boys thrown into the fiery furnace

DOWN

- 2 Master of the king's eunuchs
- 3 Put Daniel in charge of all of his princes and presidents.
- 4 A hand appeared and wrote on his wall
- 5 The people of his kingdom were attacked and taken captive to Babylon
- 7 3rd of three Hebrew boys thrown into the fiery furnace

Lenten Prayer for Strength and Protection

Lord God, heavenly Father, you know that we are set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection, to support us in all danger, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

