

Jumble Sales

**Next Jumble is on February 8th
8.30 am - 11.00 am**

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helps out at our Jumble Sales, whether you collect items for sale, set up, come and buy, sell or even come and clear away afterwards it is very much appreciated. Last year together we raised in excess \$2258 towards the mission of Holy Cross Church, a fantastic effort. Well done and keep up the good work!

I'm always pleased to hear that the Holy Cross Jumbles are appreciated far and wide by people not only from our Church, but from our local Community and beyond. Some visitors come to support the church and to find a bargain, others come for the great coffee and scones on offer, others just come for the company and a chat, it's always lovely to see you all and be able to offer a welcome.

We are always looking for good quality clean items to sell, so if you have something that you would be willing to donate please bring items along if possible to the church the week just prior to the jumble. The Church is open most Wednesdays between 9.00am-11.30am and Thursdays between 3.30pm-5.30pm as well as every Sunday between 8.30am-11.00am. If you are unable to get to the church it may be possible for us to collect smaller items so do let us know on 0417178688. Sorry but we are unable to accept electrical items for sale.

A Man after God's Heart Continued.....

No doubt, Samuel expected choosing a king from among Jesse's eight sons would be easy! However, it was only when the youngest was brought in from the fields that he recognised the one: 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.' (12). God uses unexpected people as part of his plan, including David and ourselves, when our heart is committed to him! Even if we feel we have nothing to offer, he can use us in the workplace or with family and friends to make a difference for him.

Finally, we should note that David immediately returned to his flock of sheep, although the Spirit came powerfully upon him. So often God takes us back to ordinary circumstances of life to learn the skills we need to serve him, as well as proving ourselves faithful in the smaller things before he trusts us with bigger opportunities. Whenever we're feeling frustrated about God's timetable don't forget this!!

God is still looking for people to accomplish his purposes. When God looks at our heart, what does he see? Does God see a heart which is on fire for him, or are we largely indifferent to him or simply lukewarm? Let's make it our prayer to be 'a man or woman after God's own heart'.

KidsPlus+

is back on February 6th 4.00pm

mainly music

is back on February 5th 10.30am

Anglicare Christmas Appeal

A total of \$295.00 has been sent to Anglicare on your behalf towards the Christmas appeal.



In Loving Memory

John Smith-Gander
Florence Leslie
Les Atkinson

February 2014

Monthly Newsletter of The Church Of The Holy Cross Melville.

Mark Your Calendar

2nd 10.30am
Church Council

5th, 12th & 19th
10.30am
Mainly Music

6th, 13th & 20th
4.00pm
KidsPlus+

6th 7.30pm
Order of St. Luke's

8th 8.30am
Jumble Sale

A Man after God's Heart

Doctor Who's Tardis is more than just an old fashioned police box! It has the unique quality of being bigger on the inside than the outside! As we look at the life of King David over the next months, we see somebody who wanted to grow his inner life: 'a man after God's own heart' (Acts 13:22). When Samuel anoints David as king (1 Samuel 16) he learns a vital lesson: 'People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart' (7). What lessons can we learn from this, as we seek to be used by God?



At a difficult point in Israel's history, when Saul's kingship had failed, God spoke to Samuel: 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.' (1). God always has a plan to achieve his purposes, and he wants us to be part of them! He is always trying to communicate them to us; like Samuel, are we alert to what he telling us?

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February Services/Readings

Sunday 2nd 9.00am Holy Communion

Malachi 3:1-5, Hebrews 2:14-18,
Luke 2:22-40

Sunday 9th 9.00am Holy Communion

Isaiah 58:1-9a, 1Corinthians 2:1-12,
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday 16th 9.00am Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, 1Corinthians 3:1-9,
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday 23rd 9.00am Holy Communion

Genesis 1:1-2:3, Romans 8:18-25,
Matthew 6:25-34

Sunday 1st March 9.00am Holy Communion

Exodus 24:12-18, 2Peter 1:16-21,
Matthew 17:1-9

Volunteers have a longer, happier life

Volunteering may be as helpful to you as it is to the people you help: a recent study has found that it may well improve your health and make you happier.

People who volunteer report having lower levels of depression and higher levels of well-being than average, while some research even suggests that it promotes a longer and healthier life.

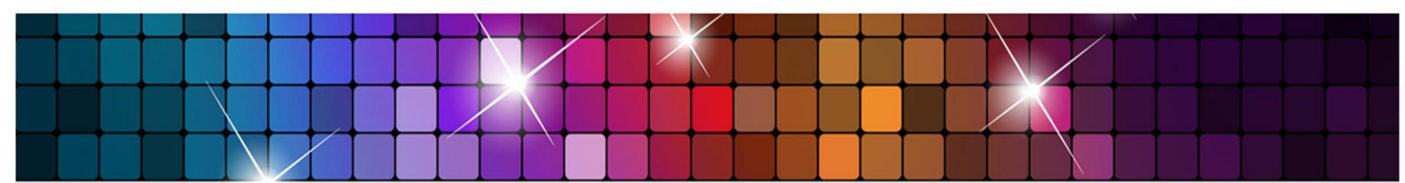
As St Paul wrote to the Galatians, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10)

Seeing the doctor - for loneliness

Up to 10 patients a day visit each GP surgery because they are simply lonely. And nearly half of doctors say they are not confident that they can help their condition.

Those are the findings of a recent survey carried out for the Campaign to End Loneliness. "Far too many people are feeling so lonely - and are at a loss about what to do about it - that they end up going to see their doctor," says director Kate Jopling. She is calling for a more co-ordinated public health response that targets resources to help support lonely people. Figures suggest that almost three million people over 65 are lonely.

The Bible makes clear that people were never meant to live isolated lives on their own: we are supposed to be members of God's family, of Christ's body - all interconnected and supporting each other. Psalm 133:1 observes: 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!' Paul adds: 'You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...' (Eph 2:19)



Adjusting to change

'As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him....' 2 Corinthians 3.18

We all warm to the idea of perfecting our characters; what we hate is the process. In the meantime, we form habits, and then our habits form us, and it is hard to change. Yet without change, there is no growth. But if you have the right attitude, every change (whether positive or negative), will be a growing experience. It's up to you!

Consider this: trees need more than one season to produce fruit. Rainy seasons are growing seasons too, and they always come before harvest. You don't have to like the rain, you just have to understand its purpose.

The Bible says that Christians are being changed into Christ's likeness. (2 Corinthians 3.18) But to be like Jesus, you have to follow wherever he leads. That means following him through the wilderness of temptation, the complete surrender of your will to God and, finally, to the place of crucifixion. There's no other way! To walk with him means you'll be in a different place tomorrow than you are today. The question is: are you willing to follow him all the way? Take a moment and consider your answer, for it will determine your destiny.

Adapted from UCB The Word for Today daily notes



Have you done something which haunts you?

Do you ever worry that your past failings mean that God will not accept you now? Some of us have done many things which we regret - things that have caused us, or others, great pain. We've given our children short shrift, we've betrayed our marriage partners, we've been dishonest at work, we've been ruthlessly greedy and ambitious - no matter what the cost to anyone else. And now the memory of the wrong we've done lingers, and makes us ashamed. Our past failings make us very reluctant to turn to God. Why should he forgive the damage we have done?

If you think this way, then you have a big surprise waiting for you: God isn't like that. You haven't yet encountered his GRACE. God knows all about you, and most of all he knows you need his help. Jesus said that he came into the world to reach sinners - to help anyone who turns to him in true repentance to find forgiveness, and a new start.

You can't do anything to turn yourself into a good person. But you don't have to. All that God asks of you is that you turn to Jesus in prayer, and say you are sorry, and ask him to forgive you, and to put his Spirit within you. Then you find his GRACE - which means his loving-kindness, beginning in YOUR life. Just try it. Today let God begin to set you free from the past!