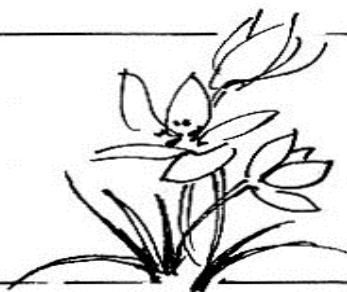
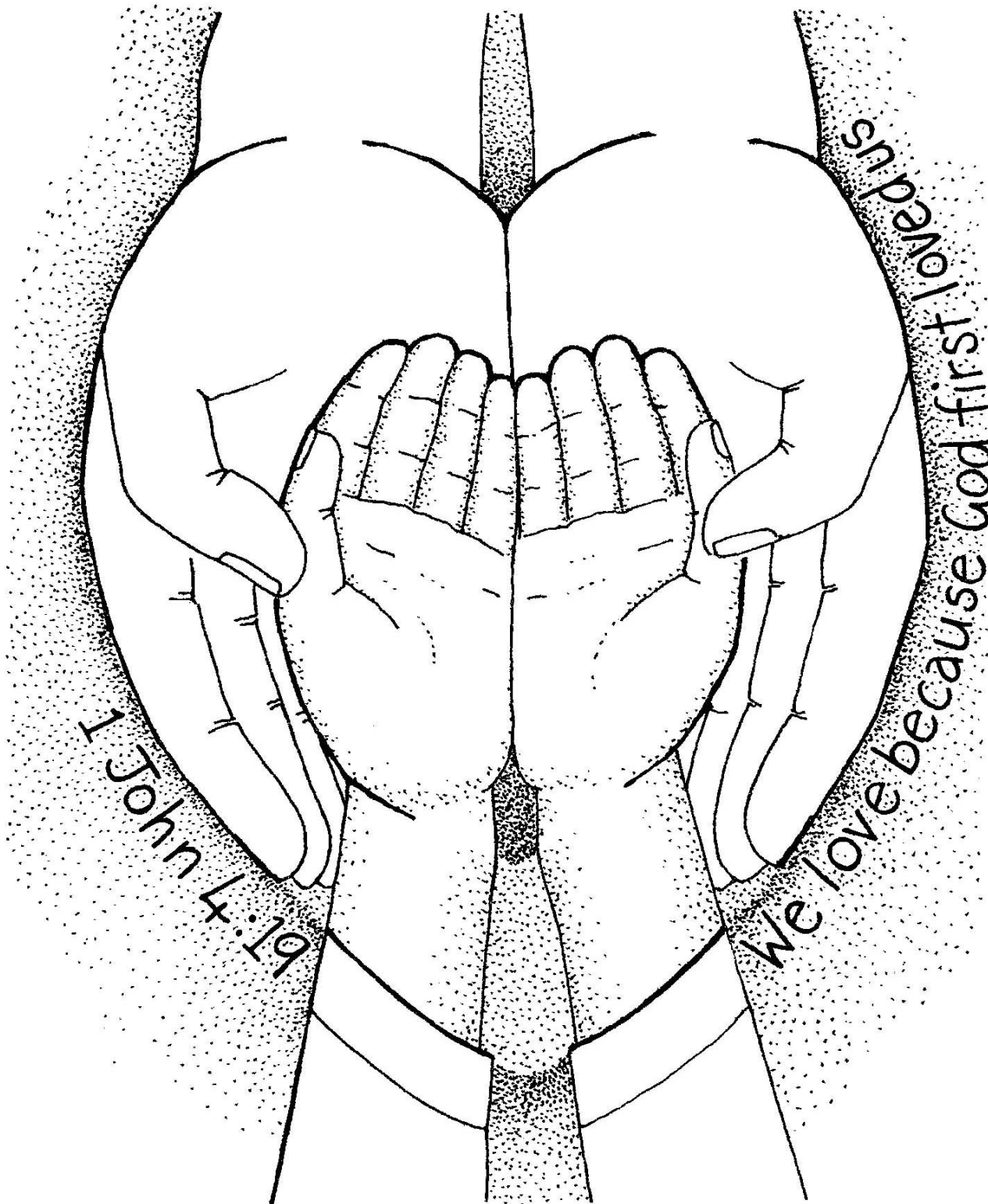


February



2014

# Hanham Methodist Church



Minister: Rev Andrew Prout BA – Tel (0117) 9326692  
Church Office (0117) 9353308

# Hanham Methodist Church Magazine

The Hanham Methodist Church Magazine is the monthly Magazine of Hanham Methodist Church, in the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit of the Methodist Church. Opinions expressed in some articles are those of the author of the article and do not necessarily reflect Church Policy. All enquiries need to be directed to the minister.

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Articles for the next magazine should be submitted by:- **16 February**

**Copies of this magazine are placed on the Church Web-site and therefore the details in all articles will be subject to on line search-engines. Submissions of all articles should therefore highlight any information you do not wish to be accessible to the World Wide Web. Such information will then appear in the paper copies only.**

We welcome all people to our church; you don't need to be a member to attend our worship.

## **Worship at Hanham Methodist Church**

Worship at Hanham is traditional Methodist, in an informal and welcoming style. Hymn singing is led by our traditional pipe organ and we have a loop system for those who are hard of hearing. Notices, Service Sheets and the Church Magazine are all available in larger print and Services on CD are available for the housebound.

Everyone will be most welcome at any of our services.

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## **Word from the Minister**

Rev. Andrew Prout is on sabbatical between the beginning of January 2014 to the end of March 2014. Rev. Angie Hoare will be covering for Andrew during this period but please contact Senior Steward Claire Angell tel: 0117 9675132 if you have any concerns or queries in the first instance.

### **The Methodist Church - A Discipleship Movement Shaped for Mission**

I wonder how you would describe your church? I guess the phrase above is not one that trips off the tongue easily, but it does say include a lot of things we might want to say in a small number of words!

Firstly it says we are disciples – we are not the finished article, we are learning. We come together to learn about God and how to worship and serve him. We are like those first disciples, who set off on a journey following Jesus and on that journey watched, listened and shared in his life. Jesus was their teacher and Jesus is still our teacher as we read and reflect on the gospel accounts and on our lives.

Secondly, there's that word movement. We are not a museum commemorating the past, and neither are we an interest group or support group. We are a pilgrim people. We expect to change, to be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit among us. We want to make a difference in world and make it a more just and loving place.

Finally, the purpose of it all is so we can be shaped for mission. Being shaped can be a painful, difficult process, but the joy of becoming the people God created us to be and to be able to make the kingdom of God visible in our time and place, is surely worth the sacrifice.

So you see how in a few words, you can actually say quite a lot – even if it is a mouthful! I wonder if you can improve on it.

This phrase is was first used by Rev Canon Dr Martyn Atkins, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in his address to conference in 2011. Since then it has been adopted by many circuits and church groups as a

phrase that both describes who they seek to be and inspires and guides the decisions that are made. It is used in this way by our circuit and you'll find it as part of a logo on many of the documents that have been produced.

## A Discipleship Movement Shaped for Mission

When you see this written, don't just skim over it: pause, pray and reflect how that is being worked out in your life and in the life of your church. I pray that those words may be an inspiration for you too.

## **Rev Angie Hoare**

### **Sunday Services**

2 February	10.45am	Rev. Barry Bishop	Communion
	4.00pm	Messy Church	
9 February	10.45am	Mr David Jones	
	6.00pm	Rev Henry Lewis	
16 February	10.45am	Mr Gary Best	
	6.00pm	Rev Angie Hoare	Communion
23 February	10.45am	Mr David King	Parade
	6.00pm	Mr Tim Lansdown	

### **Advance Notice re Lenten House Groups**

We look forward to our Lenten house groups when again we will be using material supplied by York Courses which have a proven track record for excellence.

The dates are as follows 12 March, 20 March, 26 March, 3 April and 8 April. The venues have not yet been fixed and will be advised in the March Magazine and in the weekly notices.

## **Tim Lansdown**

Chairman, Worship Committee

## **February Dates**

- 2 February at 4.00pm Messy Church
- 8 February at 10.00am Prayer meeting
- 18 February at 7.30pm Messy Church Planning Meeting
- 22 February at 10.00am Prayer Meeting
- 20 February Finance Meeting
- 23 February at 10.45am Guides Thinking Day parade
- 23 February Not So Simple Lunch
- 27 February Circuit Meeting

## **Stationing News**

Church members will have received a letter in January updating them on the results of the Stationing process 2013-2014. We were hopeful that a new minister would be appointed to succeed Rev. Andrew Prout when he takes up his new position in St.Albans in September 2014.

Unfortunately, despite an offer of appointment being made to a prospective minister following the second round of the matching process in December 2013, the offer was subsequently turned down and no further match was made for the Hanham/Unity Oldland appointment in the third round of matching.

Our appointment is one of three currently unfilled in the District and the problem derives from a significant lack of available presbyters compared to the number of Circuits seeking a new minister in the stationing process nationwide.

Rev. David Hart and the Circuit Stewards will be meeting together over the next few weeks to discuss a way forward. This is likely to include a re-

configuration of resources within the Circuit, however we do not yet have any information on how this will look or the implications for the pastoral oversight of Hanham/Unity Oldland churches. The likely consequence of this situation is that Hanham will not have a resident minister for this September.

We will of course advise you as any new information becomes available and in the meantime I would encourage you all to pray on the situation and that an appropriate resolution for everyone can be found.

As a Church body we have a strong foundation of spiritual and physical support both for each other and for our Church community. Whilst the coming months may provide us with challenges please be assured that I and the team of Church stewards will, with your continued support, endeavour to ensure that the needs of the Church membership continue to be met in the best way possible.

Please come and talk to any of the Church stewards if you have concerns over the coming months.

**Claire Angell**  
Senior Steward

**Methodist Church Consultation:**  
**Same sex marriage and civil partnership working party**

If you are interested in taking part in this crucial consultation the timescale is short!

The deadline for responses is 9.00am on 10 February 2014.

Full details can be found at [www.methodist.org.uk/ssmcpworkinggroup](http://www.methodist.org.uk/ssmcpworkinggroup) or ring the Helpdesk at Methodist Church House 0207 486 5502 to request a paper copy to be sent to you by post.

**John Ireland**

## **Christmas Decorations**

Once again, in all the hurry and scurry of Christmas, the Flower Committee achieved another masterpiece! This year the theme appeared to be red & gold with all the colours & variety of greenery brought together with the trappings of the festive season, in striking window arrangements and vestibule "eye stoppers". The "Classic" overall effect belies the amount of time and energy that was put into the display. We are privileged to have such talented people in our Church!

**Pam Blackmore**

## **Christmas Card Tree**

Thank you to all those who supported this effort, by sending Season's greetings to Church friends, whilst donating to charity. Over £60 was raised, which will go towards this year's charities.

Next year you might like to consider this method of greeting, which cuts down on the massive number of cards stacking up in pigeon holes but whichever way you prefer, thank you for your greetings and for your donations.

**Pam Blackmore**

## **New Year Vigil**

Outside the weather was atrocious, inside the church there was a warm glow of anticipation, as with readings, music and pictures we greeted the new year. The time passed quickly as readings and reflections, individually chosen, yet together making a whole, were shared and pondered upon. Throughout there was a welcome cup of tea or coffee and friendly chat available in the lounge.

Thank you to all who took part in any way, or just sat quietly. It was a pity that the weather prevented some people from attending.

**Pam Blackmore**



## Upcoming Mission Committee Events

The Mission Committee would like to invite you to 2 events in the near future.

"A Not So Simple Lunch" on Sunday 23 February. Come & enjoy a 3 course meal with all the trimmings and good company.

Cost £7, proceeds to our charities.

"Pancake Evening" on 4 March at 6.30 pm. Enjoy 2 superbly cooked and tossed pancakes for £2 or £6 for a family. (Extra pancakes at 50p)

Hopefully there will be some pancake fun as well!

**Pam Blackmore**



"It may well attract more young folk to join the congregation but I still prefer the old church notice board"

## Crossword

### Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

### Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to

— your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

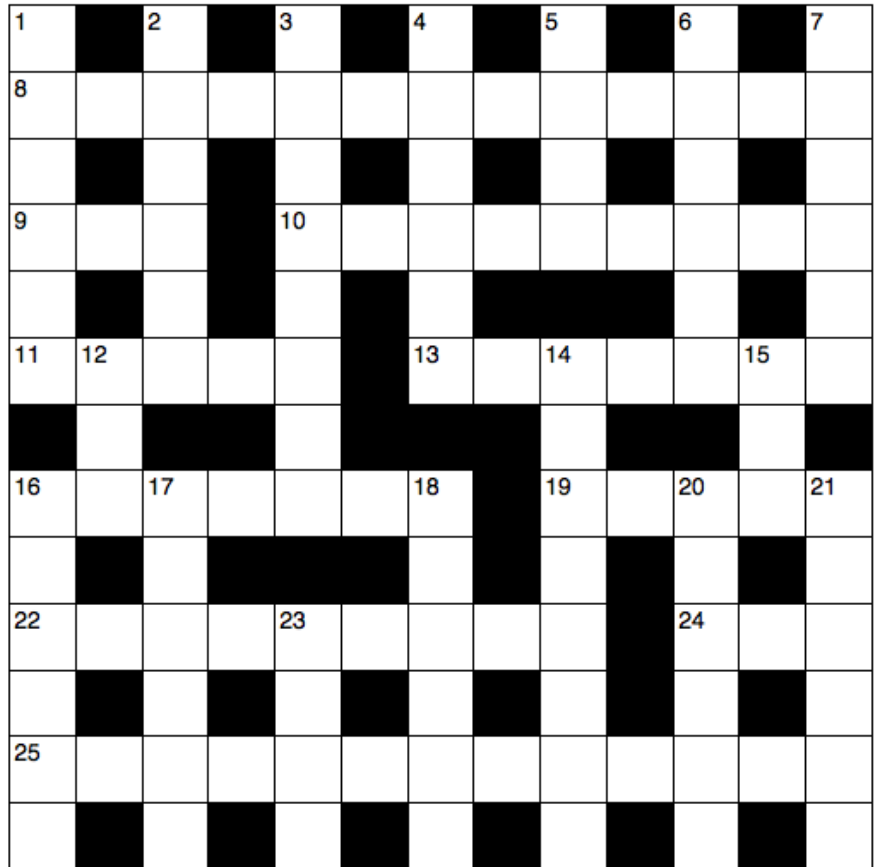
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



# Sudoku

Easy

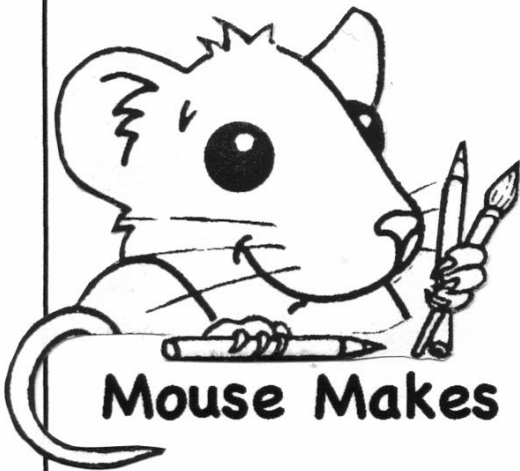
	5		9			7	2	3
2		4	3	8			1	
	3		5				6	
		6			9			
5		3	2		4	6		1
			6			5		
	4				8		3	
	2			6	3	8		9
3	8	9			5		4	

Intermediate

		1		6			8	
8			5				7	2
		9	2	4		3		
	5							
		3	7	1	5	2		
							5	
		8		7	9	5		
2	9				6			8
	3			2		7		

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**For the Children – Mouse Makes**



The Lord's **LOVE**  
never ends,  
his mercies  
never stop.  
They are new  
every morning.  
*Lamentations 3:22-23*




Nothing ...  
... will ever be  
able to separate  
us from the  
**LOVE** of God  
that is in  
Christ Jesus  
our Lord.  
*Romans 8:39*



God loved the world  
so much that he gave  
his only Son, so that  
everyone who  
believes in him would  
not be lost but  
have eternal life. .  
*John 3:16*



"See how much our  
heavenly Father  
**LOVES** us,  
for he has  
allowed us  
to be called  
his children"  
*1 John 3:1*



For the  
Lord is **GOOD**  
and his **LOVE**  
endures  
for ever  
*Psalms 100:5*

Cut out and keep these cards to  
remind you of God's love for us.

## The Prophet

On Giving (2)

*You give but little when you give of your possessions.  
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give  
For what are possessions but things you keep and guard  
For fear you may need them tomorrow?  
There are those who give little of the much that they have  
And they give it for recognition and their hidden desire  
Makes their gift unwholesome.  
And there are those who have little and give it all.  
These are the believers in life and their coffer  
Is never empty.*

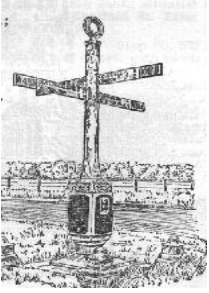
I remember, at the church where I grew up, there were a couple who, although attending Sunday service regularly would never attend social events. If there was a concert or when it was Harvest Supper they would buy tickets but wouldn't turn up. This was sad because the purpose of such events is to draw people together as much as raising funds.

The Prophet clearly states that giving is not only monetary contribution. I wonder, for example if we could count the number of hours of voluntary work that is expended on serving God through the auspices of our church what figure we would arrive at. Using the gifts of our time and talents to serve God is just as valuable as a donation of money.

But with all giving, whatever form it takes, to be acceptable to God it must be undertaken freely, generously and with a thankful heart. Jesus said 'Freely you have received, freely give' (Matthew 10 v8 A.V.)

**Tim Lansdown**

## Signposts



After the preparations for Christmas it soon came followed by Epiphany, the time when the Wise Men came from the east to worship the new born king. To many this year the celebrations were marred by loss of electricity and heating and the added problems across the country of violent storms and flooding. Indeed not at all what was expected.

When Jesus was born in the stable in Bethlehem it also was not what Mary had thought in her mind of the birth of her first child, the long journey beforehand which she had experienced, the coming of the shepherds followed by these strange visitors from the east who were advised to return a different way and not return to Herod.

Herod did not come to worship but set about the death of young baby boys so his own position would not be challenged. Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus forced to flee into Egypt until after the death of Herod when they returned to Nazareth.

Nothing seemed to go to plan, many must feel the same way, but what was certain was that God would guide Mary and Joseph so they would be able to bring up Jesus until He was able to follow the path which God had chosen. JN 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

So also God lives in the Power of the Holy Spirit to guide, help and strengthen us in times of difficulty such that we can share in love and look forward in hope.

**Arnold Wheeler**

## St Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni

martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

### **Another 'take' on Valentine's day....**

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784).

The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.

### **The very first Valentine card - a legend**

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

### **The Way I See It: Surfing the Web - 22 years after it first began**

I suppose all of us, even if reluctantly, are familiar with the strange code 'www' - the prelude to a domain name for the internet. Tap it in, and at once you are somewhere else - a shop, a charity, a government organisation, a vet or a dancing school. I don't suppose anyone knows how many of those strange 'www' names there are, but I think we'd be in the realms of Abraham's 'stars in the sky' or 'grains of sand on the sea-shore'.



The letters stand, of course, for 'world wide web', and this month is the 22nd anniversary of its birth, the brain-child of a British computer expert, Tim Berners-Lee. It may seem to have been around forever, but in fact it's a mere whippersnapper. The next time you fume at the endless advice on the phone to 'go to our web-site', think of Mr Berners-Lee and you'll know who to blame!

In fact, the world wide web is now an inescapable part of life for most people all over the world, and even those who aren't on the internet are aware how dependent so much of modern life is on its working. Via the keys on an ordinary computer, or even the buttons on a Smart-phone, people can have access to an unlimited source of information, advice and resources. Increasingly people choose to shop online (or to cheat a bit, see it in the shop, and then go online to buy it at a discount!). It is a source of facts and information, from train times to the names of medieval monarchs. In one sense we are drowning in a sea of information, all there at our fingertips (literally) but daunting in its volume. "No", we sometimes feel like screaming, "I don't want to 'go to our web-site', I just want to talk to a human being."

I used to wonder, as a child, how God could possibly cope with everybody's prayers - millions of us, presumably, all trying to get through to him at once. How could I think of my little request making its way through this vast traffic jam to the Eternal Ear? Well, 'www' offers hope! If Mr Berners-Lee could work out a way to do it, surely it's not beyond the Creator of the universe?

### Crossword Answers

#### **ACROSS:**

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

#### **DOWN:**

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

## **Pause for Thought**

Magazines and media are full of articles about how to love, especially which celebrity is in love or out of love with someone else. Love, or the absence of it, is usually the under-lying theme to most records – we use the word “love” when we're referring to a whole host of other aspects of life. As Andrew Lloyd-Webber wrote and Michael Ball sang, “Love changes everything; nothing in the world will ever be the same; love changes everyone.”

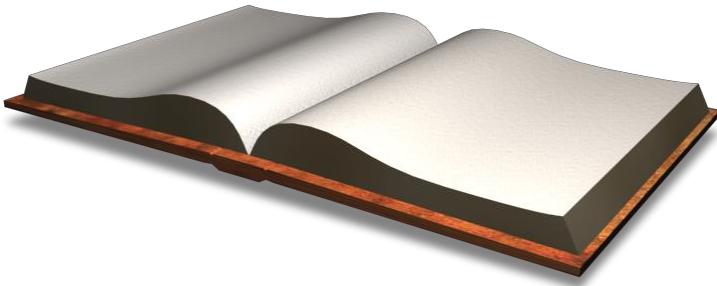
Yet we know that love is much deeper than mere words or emotions. Love has to be translated into actions. The Bible says love is patient and kind. It keeps no record of wrongs and it celebrates honesty and truthfulness. Love also protects, trusts, hopes and never gives up.

On the negative side we read that love isn't envious, boastful or proud. It's not rude, selfish, easily angered or happy about injustice. Love never ends, it's eternal.

The Bible also tells us that God is love. It's his character and nature and was epitomised by Jesus who gave His life as a sacrificial, tangible example of true love.

This month may God give you the willingness and the ability to love sincerely, generously and unconditionally. The world could be a different place for us all. Love should be demonstrated through personal sacrifice in and for the relationships we treasure and value.

## Rotas (Doors & Books and Flowers)



### Doors and Books

<b>Feb</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>AM</b>	M Stone M Golding	P Webber J Tippett	M Frost W Frost	M Howe N Howe
<b>PM</b>	Messy Church	A Angell T Lansdown	A Houlden M Houlden	M Kenway M Kenway

### Rotas – Flowers



<b>Feb</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Church</b>	Martin & Angela Sagar	Phil Bond	Joan Braben- Hibbs	Joyce Godwin
<b>War Memorial</b>	Ann Houlden	Pat Webber	John Brown	Carol Haycock

## Weekly Activities

You are invited to share in our services and activities as listed below.

If you would like an introduction to any of the groups / activities please contact the Minister or a Church Steward.

Details of further events inside.

### **Sunday**

10.45am Morning Worship, Youth Church & Creche  
4.00pm Messy Church (First Sunday of each month)  
6.00pm Evening Worship

### **Monday**

10.00am – 3.00pm Friendly Table  
2.30pm Bright Hour  
Evening Brownies, Guides & Rangers  
Table Tennis

### **Tuesday**

7.30pm Girl's Night In  
(First Tuesday of the month, ask about venue)

### **Wednesday**

1.30pm Mums & Toddlers  
Evening Rainbows  
7.30pm Wives Group (Alternate weeks)  
Men's Curry Club (As announced)

### **Thursday**

2.15pm Shawl Ministry (Last Thursday of the month)  
Evening Boy's Brigade (Anchors, Juniors, Company & Seniors)  
Brownies

### **Friday**

7.30pm Y's Men (Third Friday of the month)  
Men's Curry Club (As announced)

### **Saturday**

9.30am Prayer Meeting (Second & Fourth Saturday of the month)  
Coffee Morning