



Dear all,

This Sunday is Valentine's Day – what will this day hold for you? Perhaps it may be a time of celebrating the love of those who are part of your life (socially distanced in many cases!) as well as remembering those no longer with you? What about using this day to also reflect on God's amazing love for you?

In 1 John 4:7, we read *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.* This tells us that love is 'a God invention' because it comes from Him. Not only that, but later on in verse 16, we are told that *God is love* – in other words, His whole being is love.

This means there is no limit to His love – we cannot 'out love' God and what is more, He has shown the world just how much He loves everyone by *sending His Son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins* (verse 10).

In response we are called not just to love God with all of our being too, but we are also called to love each other as we love ourselves – we are called to love both vertically and horizontally! He, who has spared nothing in making His love known to us, calls us to love as He loves.

So do you want to live life to the full today? Do you want to make a difference in the world? The answer is to love as God loves. What will your response be?

Church News:

- **Weekly Challenge**

As it's Valentine's Day on Sunday, your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to send us a picture or photo of what love looks like to you - this can include what or who you love! Please send to: jenny@barrett.cc by Saturday 13 Feb 12noon.

- **St Mary's Bible Project**
Thank-you everyone! Your generosity means this project is now fully funded! Watch out for our next project coming later this year...
- **Lent & Easter 2021**
- **Live Lent 2021**
Visit the [CofE site](#) to discover more about this year's #Live Lent: God's Story, Our Story Campaign starting next week!

- **Ash Wednesday Service**
[Click here](#) to read a Service prepared by the Diocese for Ash Wednesday

- Next week, there will be a Lent & Easter Page added to the Website (Online Church . Lent & Easter 2021) – do look out for this.
- **Mission Partner Update from the McClymonts (OMF)**
Do visit the church's website ([click here](#)) to read the latest update from the McClymont Family.
- **Call to Prayer**
The Archbishop of Canterbury has called for four weeks of prayer for the nation (from 1 Feb). Resources are available on the Church of England by [clicking here](#). These can be prayed anytime, however the Archbishop encourages everyone to join together in prayer at 6pm daily.
- **Big Garden Birdwatch**
[Click here](#) to discover what birds were seen in St Mary's Eaton Socon Churchyard!
- **House needed May-August**
Missionaries that work in an Anglican Seminary training pastors in Uganda, are planning to come home May to August of this year. Does anyone know of a three bedroom furnished house available in the area? Do let Tim know.
- **APCM**
This year's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday 7th March @ 11.15am. [Click here](#) to view the various Notices and the Annual Report. The Accounts, Agenda and how people can attend will be available closer to the time.
- **Sunday 14th February Service**
Sunday's service includes Communion – do get ready for this. After the service, please join us on Zoom for 'Zoffee and Zea' for a time of catching up with each other at **11:45am**. Please contact me for details of how to join.

Under Aslan's paw, Tim - Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon