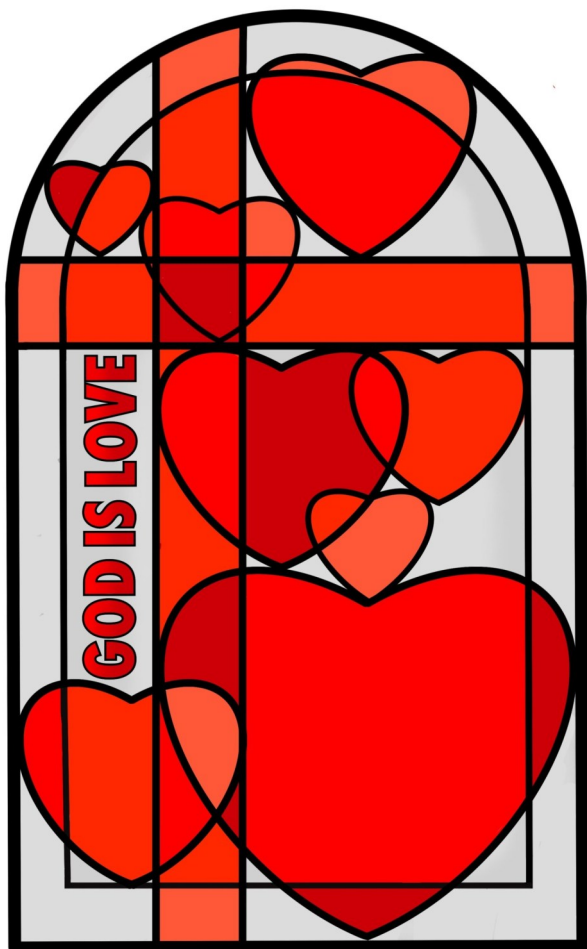


Salem Methodist Church
Watley's End BS36 1QL



SALEM NEWS

www.salemchurch.org.uk



February 2025

Let's go for a little walk, under the moon of love.

February, the month of love, when cupid shoots his little bow and arrow and everyone becomes romantic, or at least that's what Hallmark would want us all to think.

Valentine, from whom we get the name Valentine's Day, was a priest or a bishop of Terni who was martyred, killed because of his faith, in Rome around 269.

How he became linked to lovers isn't really clear. Perhaps it was the traditional day in mediaeval belief when birds mated, or perhaps it was linked to the pagan Lupercalia festival in Rome, we'll never be sure. But Valentine is now stuck with this connection of being the saint associated with love.

For Christians around the world Valentine's Day is a day to recall the all-loving God who blesses those who love one another.

Jesus was once asked in the Gospels what the greatest commandment was:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39 (NRSV)

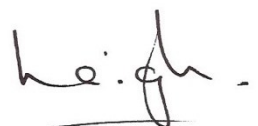
Love is at the very centre of the Christian faith; we're called to love God and to love each other all because

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:16 (NRSV)

When you watch the news, it might seem that love is the last thing that the Christian Church thinks about (across all denominations), but it is the thing that gives us a focus, the thing that guides our work and our outreach to the world.

This Valentine's Day, how might you extend your love to others, to those around you, to the world in which we live. In John's Gospel Jesus puts it another way

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35



**Coffee morning will be on
Wednesday February 5th from 10 a.m**

*This is an opportunity to meet with friends for conversation
and enjoy coffee or tea **Please join us***



Film afternoon on Tuesday February 11th at 2 p.m.

*Starring Sean Connery, a reclusive novelist befriends a
young, black, gifted basketball player with writing aspirations.
Both learn a lot from the experience*

ALL ARE WELCOME



**Bacon Butty morning will be on
Saturday February 15th from 10 a.m.**

*Please come and join us for a bacon butty
and /or toasted teacake with tea or coffee*



**Women's Fellowship will meet on
Tuesday February 18th at 2.30p.m.**

*All ladies are welcome to join us for an afternoon
of fellowship*

Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out:

“Is that you, Angel?”

The vicar hesitated, and then replied:

“No, but I’m from the same department.”

Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

Archbishop Desmond Tutu was respected around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

“Don’t raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”

“Forgiving is not forgetting; it’s actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. It’s a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don’t want to repeat what happened.”

Never be weary of doing good

You are never tired, O Lord, of doing us good; let us never be weary of doing Your service. But as You have pleasure in the well-being of Your servants, let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord, and abound in Your work and in Your love and praise evermore.

The Rev Tony Horsfall, a former missionary in East Malaysia and then retreat leader based in West Yorkshire, considers the slow and steady type of Christian.

In praise of plodders

I've been pondering the words of the apostle Paul where he says, 'I press on towards the goal' (Philippians 3:14). It suggests to me taking one step at a time, and simply keeping moving in the right direction with discipline determination.

This reminds me of the great Bible translator William Carey who said of himself, "If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

Christian discipleship is not always exciting, glamorous, or even enjoyable. Sometimes it is a matter of quietly getting on with it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

10 WAYS TO LOVE

1. **Listen without interrupting.** (Proverbs 18)
2. **Speak without accusing.** (James 1:19)
3. **Give without sparing.** (Proverbs 21:26)
4. **Pray without ceasing.** (Colossians 1:9)
5. **Answer without arguing.** (Proverbs 17:1)
6. **Share without pretending.** (Ephesians 4:15)
7. **Enjoy without complaint.** (Philippians 2:14)
8. **Trust without wavering.** (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. **Forgive without punishing.** (Colossians 3:13)
10. **Promise without forgetting.** (Proverbs 13:12)

Look back, and remember
He was with you.

Stand still, and realise
He is with you.

Walk forward, and trust:
He will be with you
always. –

You are loved by God

One of the most beautiful passages in Scripture is found in Isaiah 43: ‘..you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned... For I am the Lord, your God.. You are precious and honoured in my sight, and... I love you (Isaiah 43: 1-4)

‘You are precious and honoured in my sight... and I love you’

It is tremendous - and astonishing.

YOU are loved by GOD

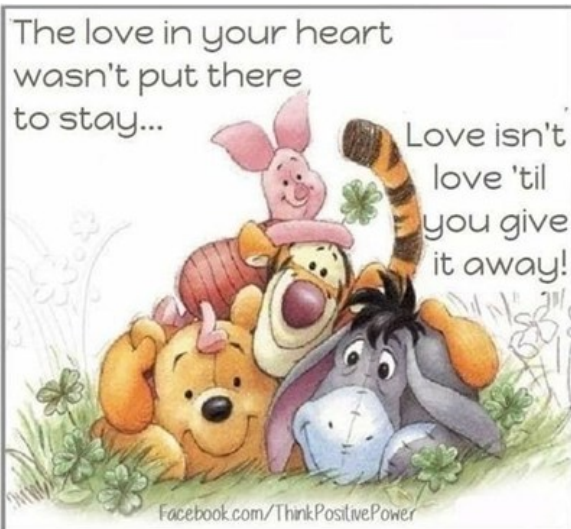
Who else do you need to impress?

What other ladder do you need to climb?

What are you going to add to your CV to top that?

When you are tempted to despair, when you are afraid,
anxious, alone, remember

God loves you. He said so himself



PRAYER DIARY

February 2025

3rd

Church
Offices of the church
Church membership

Organ - organists/pianists & those who control
the hymnal
Outreach group
F

Church connections
World wide Church from

Leigh's other churches: Yate & Badminton Road

Open Doors 'Top 50 Countries'

Yemen (#5)

10th

Church
Offices of the church
Church membership
Church connections
World wide Church from

Pews - the congregation
Pastoral visitors
G
MHA

Open Doors 'Top 50 Countries'

Nigeria (#6)

17th

Church
Offices of the church
Church membership
Church connections
World wide Church

Pulpit - preachers & ministers
Preachers
H & I
North East cluster

from

Open Doors 'Top 50 Countries'

Pakistan (#7)

24th

Church
Offices of the church
Church membership

Vestry - stewards
Property & cleaning
J & K

Church connections
World wide Church
from

People who use the facilities for various groups

Open Doors 'Top 50 Countries'

Sudan (#8)

Preachers for February 2025

2nd Rev T Kalonga (HC)

9th Christine Stones

16th Naomi Sharp

23rd Brenda Isherwood

Flowers

Angela Routley

Brian Gibbs

Alison Green

Prayer for February 2025

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

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