



Monthly Newsletter
markyate
baptist church
February 2024

February 14th. A date and occasion that we will all have some form of association with. It's also a date that some of us forget and have to be reminded about...! I've never been a big fan of Valentine's Day myself as I consider it far too commercialised ("Poor Hannah", I hear you say!).

However, this year I'm interested in February 14th for another reason: it's the first day of Lent!

Lent is a tradition that has run for many hundreds of years, around 1000 years longer than Valentine's Day has been associated as a romantic occasion. Yet, Lent is not nearly as observed as Valentine's Day, both outside and inside the Church. Why is that?

Perhaps it's because Valentine's Day is more easily centred around one day – get the person you love a card/gift, perhaps a meal out, and it's job done. All done in a short period of time! In contrast, Lent spans six whole weeks, and to properly observe it requires a lot of intentionality over a long period of time.

Also, Valentine's Day is an overt outward expression of love – you can say what you want in a card and a few words, and you can be thanked and acknowledged for your actions and gifts. Conversely, Lent is a much quieter affair, that entails working on someone's interior, being reflective, letting go of some things, challenging ourselves, and being more intentional in

our relationship with God. That's not nearly as easy as buying someone a card or booking a restaurant!

However, the whole purpose of Lent is for it not to be an easy period of time for us to observe. Lent is supposed to be a challenge, whether we choose to 'do Lent' by giving up something that tempts us; chocolate, alcohol, tv, social media, or, to take something up; intentional daily quiet time with God, a reflective walk every day, a new hobby etc.

The aim of this season of Lent is to be more intentional with our time, to be preparing ourselves for Easter. For that weekend where we experience both the devastating moment of Jesus' death on the Cross, and in turn the ecstatic celebration of Jesus' resurrection. That is what we prepare ourselves for during Lent. This period of time can be deeply rewarding for those who participate.

So...as we draw closer to February 14th, whether or not you mark Valentine's Day with someone special to you, I encourage each of us to consider the more challenging path of how we might observe Lent, individually and collectively. If it's your first time, perhaps take up something or let go of something manageable, or come along to our MBC Lent series on Sunday evenings at church (7pm, starting Feb 18th!). Whatever you do with this period of time in the run up to Easter, my hope and prayer is that you will be blessed through any intentional actions of observing this special, unique, God-ordained period in the Christian calendar.

Grace and Peace,

Nick Drury

Minister MBC

Usual days off Mondays & Saturdays

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community

What's On—February 2024

Friday 2nd

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Saturday 3rd

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

Sunday 4th

10.30am Communion Service
With Nick Drury

Monday 5th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 9th

J&J's baby & toddler group
10am—11.30am

Saturday 10th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting
Ask for login details

Sunday 11th

10.30am Morning Service
With Nick Drury

Monday 12th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 16th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Saturday 17th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting
Ask for login details

Sunday 18th

10.30am Morning Service
With Hannah Drury

Monday 19th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 23rd

J&J's baby & toddler group
10am—11.30am

Saturday 24th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting
Ask for login details

Sunday 25th

10.30am Morning Service
With Nick Drury

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Deacons:
Jeremy Bottrill, Ruth Kieran
Jim & Rosemary Salmon
Chris & Heidi Trew