

# Vicar's Blog

February 2017

My favourite things

As the Christmas decorations come down and New Year resolutions are made, hints of what lies ahead are already appearing in the shops. Chocolate bunnies and chocolate eggs replace the equally chocolatey reindeer and snowmen;

cards proclaiming love are found next to boxes of chocolate hearts.

The retail opportunities of Christmas become retail opportunities for St Valentine's Day on 14th February, Mothering Sunday on 26th March and Easter Day on 16th April.

It is lovely to celebrate sharing gifts and time with those we love and care for, yet we can slip into retail-driven sentimentalism that blinds and deafens us to the wonder of caring and loving relationships.

St Valentine was a martyr who sacrificed his life because he would not betray his faith in Jesus Christ. Mothering Sunday is a time for honouring caring relationship between parent and child.

Originally this day, the 4th Sunday of Lent was a time for the loving parent to mother the child. Easter is a time of celebration of a love that is strong and unbreakable. Love that brings hope in the darkest of times. I will always be appreciative of a special box of chocolates. Yes, chocolate is one of my favourite things. Yet the chocolate box is soon empty. In contrast, the love shared through self-giving that defies all cost, is a love of value beyond measure and available for us all to reach for and receive – and the box is never empty.

I give thanks for the gift of chocolate and sing songs of praise for the boundless grace and love of God which is re-vealed so clearly to us through Jesus Christ.

*Gwyneth*