

Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - February 2025



Dear All

February is often one of those non-descript months, falling as it does between the holidays of Christmas and Easter, between the depths of winter and the hopes of spring. Thankfully, then, there is St Valentine's Day. A day to celebrate love and relationships; a day to say, "I love you."

It's also the date by which our Team Wedding Preparation Day has occurred. We invite all the couples who have booked weddings across the Team for the year; updating them on details; reminding them of things still to be sorted; and, most importantly, helping them to prepare as a couple and spiritually, for this great occasion. Weddings are one of the parts of my role I enjoy the most. They're times of excitement and hope, when a huge commitment is made, with the determination that it will be made to work. Of course, I'm not naïve, and I have been a priest long enough to know of couples I have helped marry who are now divorced. A Bible reading often chosen by couples for their wedding is from the First letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13. This reading speaks of the nature of love; its cost, its reward, its constancy in times good and bad. It recognises that love is not easy, nor automatic, but that it is nevertheless life enhancing and ultimately fulfilling for those who will nurture its growth.

Weddings are fun, but they're only a step along a journey which may see love grow to its full maturity. The love a couple have on their wedding day is very rarely a mature love. It is full of naïve expectations. There's nothing wrong with that, so long as the couple do not confuse the growth and maturing of their love over the coming years with merely a loss of that first joy, for joy and love are two quite different things. Joy, as with sadness, comes for a moment, and then is gone. Love is long term and must be nurtured if it is to grow.

So, if you are going to celebrate in some way on St. Valentine's Day; whether it is with your spouse, your partner, or if you are at the beginnings of a relationship which may lead... who knows where... enjoy your celebration; enjoy the joy; and also pledge yourselves afresh in whatever commitment you have made to the labour of love which is the nurturing of love.

The Church also offers support, including a service to renew marriage vows, which some couples find helpful in growing their relationship further or in helping restore something that has been lost. Give me a call if you would like to know more. Love, like faith, is a journey. As Christians, we journey with the one who is perfect love.

Best wishes

Jeremy

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[Aug-Sept 2024](#)

[July 2024](#)

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