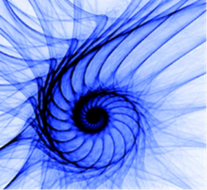
**Blessing Every Day**

A project from the Mission Theology Advisory Group



The Mission Theology Advisory Group is an ecumenical group formed in partnership between Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Church of England We provide resources in the areas of Spirituality, Theology, Reconciliation, Evangelism and Mission.

This resource belongs to our Spirituality series. Please print and share.

More information from

[www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology)

<https://ctbi.org.uk/mission-theology-advisory-group-resources/>

**A Blessing for Valentine’s Day**



*Ran Allen/flickr*

14th February hits the shops with a blast of red hearts. In many shop windows and in advertisements coming in by email and social media, there are invitations to show devotion to the one you love by buying cards and presents.

While Valentine’s Day is obviously a consumerist bonanza, many people enjoy browsing the shops as a chance really to think about the person they love (or would like to) and find a way to put something of what they feel into words.

So how do we show love? What sort of words should we use? Cards can be soppy, humorous, schmaltzy, jokey or downright rude. What should we buy? Something romantic? Sexy? Soppy? Practical?

Some people think that Christian faith has nothing to say about the power of desire and romantic love. But Scripture has an amazing love poem in the Song of Songs.

But of course, there are many for whom Valentine’s Day is no fun. People who have lost loved ones or whose relationship has broken down. People whose relationships are abusive or difficult, but who are ‘expected’ to honour Valentine’s Day. There are people who are disappointed in love or still hoping for ‘the One’, for whom the glitzy displays in the shops are all too painful.

The whole day is a long way from a saint who may (or may not) have been the original Saint Valentine (or St Dwynwen in Wales on 25th January) but we still seem to want a patron saint of lovers and a ‘day’ for celebrating love.

And what of God’s love? Perhaps on 14th February, we could spend a few minutes offering the love of God for all those we love, and learn how to share that *every* day?

# A Blessing for Valentine’s Day

May the God of love,

bless us and keep us,

as the apple of God’s eye,

under the shadow of holy wings.

May love grow around and within us

like a sprouting vine

like an everlasting fire

holding us together.

May we have joy and blessing

in knowing each other,

weathering all life’s storms

because of our love

*Amen*