

SPRING LANE BAPTIST

Making God's Love and Salvation known

SUNDAY WORSHIP 4.00PM

February 2018

Date	Speaker	Musician	Topic
4th	Ken Hawkings	Recorded	Communion
11th	John Lawrence	Wendy Lawrence	
18th	Ken Hawkings	Recorded	Sunday Lite
25th	Phil Bradley		

If you are visiting us on a Sunday afternoon we extend a very special welcome to you. Please stay and join us for a cup of coffee/tea, and biscuits and a chat

For those who remember Moira and Bob Cooke please pray for Bob who is seriously ill.

Weekdays at the Centre

Monday	Bumps and Babies	10.00am 12.00pm	Except holidays
Monday	Messy Church	3.30pm - 5.30pm	2nd Monday
Monday	Little Fishes	9.00am for 9.30am	4th Monday
Tuesday	Residents Association	7.00pm	LAST of MONTH
Wednesday	Lunch Club (CCS)	12.30pm	3rd Wednesday
Wednesday	Shirley Band	8.00pm- 10.00pm	07778467129
Thursday	Art Group	9.00am	01217049054
Thursday	WL	7.00pm	FIRST of MONTH
Café in the Park	2nd Sunday each month	2pm — 4pm	Family Time
Saturday	Art Group	10.00am	01564782349

Umberslade Church is open on the last Sunday of the Month from 2.00 - 4.00pm

Email: hockley-heath-baptist@talktalk.net

web: hockleyheathbaptist.co.uk

Minister:
Secretary:-

Rev. Ken Hawkings
Derrick Hancock:

 **0121 351 2086**
 **07981911605**

FAITH MATTERS

February, the month of St Valentine's Day. Hardly anything is known about Valentine himself. It is believed that he was a Christian martyr who was buried on 14 February 269 A.D. Evidently, the romantic celebration that we recognise came about in the 14th century and is linked to Geoffrey Chaucer. Anyway, whoever St. Valentine was, I personally should be grateful. It was a particular Valentine's Day, some years ago, that my now-wife sent me two Valentine cards. The first was signed cryptically PFD269M. In the second, she used her Christian name, which is just as well because the cryptic one was lost on me! It was actually her car registration... I took the hint and we started going out. As they say, the rest is history.

The Bible frequently uses the concept of declared love, consummated marriage and faithfulness when speaking of God's love for people. In the Old Testament, God likens himself to a husband having to deal with a wayward wife, that is, his chosen people Israel. In the role of husband, God is seen to be justly jealous and angry when his wife goes after other lovers - foreign gods or idols. When his people are faithless however, God remains faithful.

In the New Testament, God develops and broadens this theme. He is seen as a father choosing a bride for his much loved and only son. The bridegroom is, of course, Jesus, but who is the bride-to-be?

She is not just one individual but many. Bride, in this context, is a corporate name given to include all men and women who declare their love for Jesus and, by God's grace, intend to worship and obey him, forsaking all other gods. ('The Bride' as defined here is what is meant by the term 'The Church'.)

It took two Valentine cards to alert me to my wife's love towards me. For many of us, God's declaration in the Old Testament can, at first sight, appear cryptic. In the New Testament however, it is as though he has signed his declaration of love with his name - Jesus. Next month will include Easter Week, where we see demonstrated the lengths that Jesus was prepared to go to in order to secure his bride.

Whether or not you receive a Valentine card this year, here is a declaration of love paraphrased from the New Testament and may it be a blessing for you:

'We see real love, not in the fact that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to make personal atonement for our wrongdoings.' Do you feel able to insert your own name where it says 'us' and the word 'my' where it says 'ours'? If you can, then these words are indeed a personal declaration of God's love for you.

Stephen Richards
www.solidrocknews.co.uk

Our Centre is available for hire subject to terms and conditions.

Allocation Manager: Mrs. Joan Hohmann 0121 439 7650