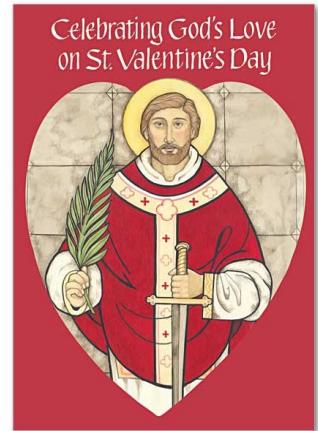




# St. Mary's Dalton Holme Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 4

February 2019



## Church Wardens

The Lord Hotham 01430-810771  
Mr. Giles W. Peacock 01430-810254  
Mrs. J. Creaser 01430-810662

## Services for February

3rd	4th Sunday after Epiphany	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Said)
10th	5th Sunday after Epiphany	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Sung)
17th	6th Sunday after Epiphany	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Said)
24th	7th Sunday after Epiphany	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Rev M Craggs)

## The Challenge - Say it with Flowers

Willing volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the church, and no flower-arranging skills are required! It may be for as little as one Sunday per year in memory of a baptism, wedding or funeral or simply to beautify the church. Many comments have been written in the visitors' book about the peacefulness of the church with frequent references being made to the flowers .

**Please contact Maureen Barnett on 01430- 810127**



## March Issue

The closing date will be **Tuesday 19th February**. Articles should be sent to me in **word format only** at [rac.pfl@btinternet.com](mailto:rac.pfl@btinternet.com)

Robert Coates 01430-810504

## South Dalton Ladies Club

If it is not too late- Happy New Year!

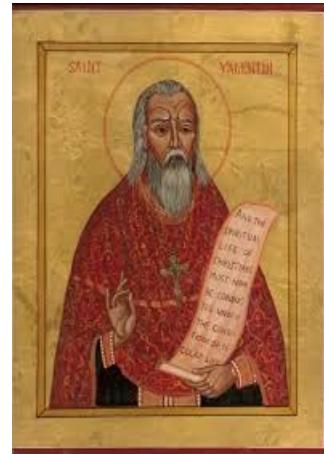
South Dalton Ladies are ready for an interesting year of meetings and events, starting with another excuse to eat lots of very good food!

**On Thursday 17th January**, we are meeting at the Robin Hood Inn in Middleton on the Wolds for our customary post- Xmas meal.

**Thursday 7th February** 7.30pm is games night in the village hall- fun guaranteed!

**Thursday 7th March** 7.30 pm - AGM of the S.D Ladies Club in the village hall. Tea, coffee and cake provided. all welcome.

Jan Nettleton



## St. Valentines Day

The history of the St. Valentine's Day celebrations appears to have its roots in a pagan fertility festival known as Lupercalia. Celebrated in ancient Rome between 13 – 15 February, the festival is said to have involved lots of naked folk running through the streets spanking the backsides of young women with leather whips, supposedly to improve their fertility.

Like many of the old pagan festivals, the early Christian Church appears to have highjacked the celebrations, sanitised and then reissued them with a certain amount of shall we say 'spin'. In the two centuries that followed the death of Christ, at least two separate accounts record how early Christian martyrs, all apparently called Valentine (or, in latin *Valentinus*), met with their ends on 14th February. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius appears to have come clean by formally declaring the 14th February to be St. Valentine's Day, now rebranded as a Christian feast day!

The first real association of St. Valentine's Day with romantic love, or 'love birds', derives from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Parlement of Foules* (or, 'Parliament of Fowls'). Dating from 1382, Chaucer celebrated the engagement of the 15 year-old King Richard II to Anne of Bohemia via a poem, in which he wrote: *For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird (fowl) cometh to choose his mate.*

True to form though, it was a Frenchman who is recorded as sending the earliest surviving Valentine's note to his sweetheart. Charles, the Duke of Orléans, was writing to her from his prison cell in the

Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. In the poem the duke talks of his love for his wife and refers to her as "my very sweet Valentine".

By 1601 St. Valentine's Day appears to be an established part of English tradition, as William Shakespeare makes mention of it in Ophelia's lament in Hamlet: *To-morrow is Saint Valentine's day, All in the morning betime, And I a maid at your window, To be your Valentine.*

The passing of love-notes between sweethearts appears to have become standard practice, as in 1797, *The Young Man's Valentine Writer* was first published. This contained gems of sentimental rhymes and ditties for those young gentlemen who were obviously so much in love as to not be able to think clearly enough to compose their own verse.

Although the Royal Mail Service had been made available to the English public since 1635, it was not until the introduction of the Penny Post in 1840 that the postal service became affordable to most ordinary folk, thus making the sending of the anonymous St. Valentine's Day cards possible. All over the country printers started to mass-produce the *mechanical valentines* that we recognise today, complete with pre-prepared verses and pretty pictures. That said, the anonymity aspect of being able to send your Valentine Day cards was also responsible for introducing daring and racy verse to the otherwise prudish Victorians.

In 1847, Esther Howland of Worcester, Massachusetts, first introduced this quaint English tradition to the American public and the rest, as they say, is history...In the US alone, approximately 190 million valentine cards are now sent each year; worldwide the figure is estimated to be closer to 1 billion.



## **Illuminating Experience - end of**

The picture below were taken by Mike Loughlin to show the splendour of the church illuminations from different perspectives. As reported in the January issue such is the popularity that the lighting period will extend from mid November 2019 to mid February 2020. The lights will be switched off in two weeks time with donations in excess of £520 having been made to the Village Hall funds.

Many thanks to all who have contributed.

