

Letter from the Vicar - February 2010
View from the Vicarage

Being Human

I hope that by the time this comes out we will have started to move out of the exceedingly cold snap which seems to have carried on for a very long time! It has been a salutary reminder as to how vulnerable we still are to the vagaries of the weather and that even our technological age is subject to grinding to a halt in certain conditions.

Despite our advances, our technology, our reliance on cars and communications and on things we managed without for thousands of years which have become essentials we are all still human beings, and have the same issues of being made of the same flesh and bone, having the same heart and soul as generation upon generation stretching back to the first people.

And this February is a very human month! In the middle we have the ancient traditions around Valentines Day, which has more to do with card companies than the Church! St Valentine is no longer officially celebrated as a saint and in fact some would say is a mix of different saints called 'Valens' meaning 'worthy'. But the celebration of human love is still important and something which we believe is a gift from God, not just romantic or sexual love, but the love that exists between families, between brothers and sisters in faith, and the love inspired by God which shows itself in lives of service and sacrifice.

Then we begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday observances on the 17th at Dalwood and Shute (details [here](#)). I always think that Lent is a very human observance, a time when we acknowledge our frailty and need to be put right with God and with one another. Lent is a good time to consider the great love and forgiveness of God and our response to that forgiveness, the need for a change of heart and to allow God's forgiveness to transform us into the people God longs for us to be.

So may this February be a time when in considering the joys and the struggles of being human you may also know the great love that God has lavished on us, and his promise of love and life given to us mere mortals!

Alastair