

The Greatest Thing

February 2022 (30th January - 26 February)



Today we begin a new series. We have chosen the title 'The Greatest Thing', taken from "The Greatest Thing In The World" which is of course the title of **Henry Drummond's** wonderful little book written in the late 19th century.

We are inviting our writers this month to concentrate on the 13th Chapter of Corinthians which in fact is the subject of Drummond's book. And to use the additional readings to supplement their thoughts. Drummond at the end of his book sets a challenge. He asks his readers to consider reading this passage at least once every day for an extended period of time. In doing so he believed lives would be transformed and relationships renewed and Christian mission would become much more effective.

For Drummond love is an effect. Before there can be love there requires to be a cause. He sites 1 John 4:19 as the reason for love being in our hearts. "We love him because, he first loved us." God is love, he created us and redeemed us out of love. Drummond argues if we reflect the love of Christ we will be changed. We do this through practice, through living close to Jesus. As metal takes on magnetic properties when kept close to a magnet so we begin to take on the properties of Christ's love as we walk close to him. Remember this was a letter written to a community. The greatest thing that could ever happen to the world would be if those of us who profess to be followers of Jesus recognised the love that has embraced us.

February for many is the month of romantic love for us at Sanctuary First let it become the month when our lives were changed because we have fallen in love with Jesus of Nazareth all over again.

And what is love?

It's the greatest thing.

Each week of the four week theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and prompts for thought.

Love Contrasted (30 Jan)

Our Daily Worship writer is invited to write seven prayers and reflections around 1 Corinthians 13: 1-4 using the risen Christ's letter in Revelation to the church at Ephesus as a call to the church today to return to her first love. There is much to reflect upon as Love is contrasted with many virtues.

1. Revelation 2:
4-6 &
Luke 4: 14-30

2. 1 Corinthians
13: 1 &
2 Cor 2: 6-16

3. 1 Cor 13: 2 &
2 Kings 5:
1-14

4. 1 Cor 13: 3 &
Luke 19: 41-44

5. 1 Cor 13: 4 &
Malachi 3: 7

6. 1 Cor 13: 4 &
Psalm 138

7. 1 Cor 13: 4 &
Acts 9: 26-31

1. **A lost love.** Have we lost our passion? Where has love gone? Rediscovering love is wonderful. Jesus was rooted in his father's love.
2. **Love contrasted with eloquence.** It's how you live not how you look. It's substance before style.
3. **Understanding and faith not enough.** Love trumps reason every time. Naaman's servants display a love that changes his heart. Naaman healed by an act of trust. Love is never showy.
4. **Tears without compassion is nothing.** Generous giving without love has no fruit.
5. **Love is patient — never in a hurry.** How would patience change our relationships and our world?
6. **Love is kind.** How would kindness change our relationships and world?
7. **Love never envies.** Remove envy from leadership — what would be the result?

The Analysis of Love (6 February)

Our Daily Worship writer is invited to write seven prayers and reflections analysing God's love and our reaction to his love.

1. 1 Corinthians
13: 4 &
Luke 5: 1-11

1. **Love is never boastful.** Why is boasting destructive to relationships?

2. 1 Cor 13: 4 &
Proverbs 16:
18

2. **Love is not proud.** Love never needs to prove itself.

3. **Love is not rude.** How different life would be if we could consider another's feelings.

4. **Love is never self seeking.** How different the world would be if it wasn't "Me first."

3. 1 Cor 13: 5 &
Proverbs 18:
13

5. **Love is not easily angered.** How wonderful if more people could keep a cool head.

4. 1 Cor 13: 5 &
Philippians 2:
3-4

6. **Love doesn't keep a record of wrongs.** How wonderful if we could forgive and let the hurt go. No longer keeping a score of wrongs.

7. **Love takes no pleasure seeing others fail or overcome with temptation.** Never shout another's sins from the rooftops.

5. 1 Cor 13: 5 &
Proverbs 14:
29, 15: 1

6. 1 Cor 13: 5 &
Matthew 6:
14-15

7. 1 Cor 13: 6 &
Proverbs 24:
17

The Practice of Love (13 February)

Our Daily Worship writer is invited to write seven prayers and reflections inviting us to the place of self examination. This is an opportunity to analyse the intentions behind our actions of love.

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| 1. 1 Corinthians
13: 6 &
John 8: 31-32 | 1. Love rejoices in the truth. The truth shall set you free. |
| 2. 1 Cor 13: 7 &
Psalm 91: 1-16 | 2. Love always protects. Love always protects love. |
| 3. 1 Cor 13: 7 &
Proverbs 3: 5-6 | 3. Love always trusts. God always wants the best for us even when we can't see it. |
| 4. 1 Cor 13: 7 &
Hebrews 11: 1 | 4. Love always hopes. God's love shed in our hearts gives us the right to hope. |
| 5. 1 Cor 13: 7 &
Galatians 6: 9 | 5. Love always perseveres. Love drives us on never to give up on kindness. |
| 6. 1 Cor 13: 8 &
2 Cor 4: 16 | 6. Love never fails. What an amazing affirmation. |
| 7. 1 Cor 13: 8 &
Psalm 103: 14 | 7. But where there are humans. Love is rooted in God. His love understands us more than we understand ourselves. |

The Defence of Love (20 February)

Our Daily Worship writer is invited to write seven prayers and reflections on love's supreme gift. Love invites us to surrender all in defence of Love.

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| 1. 1 Corinthians
13: 9 &
Luke 6: 27-38 | 1. We only know in part... We've to love our enemies because we only know in part. |
| 2. 1 Cor 13: 10 &
1 Cor 2: 9 | 2. But when complete... What an amazing text. The best has still to come. |
| 3. 1 Cor 13: 11 &
Ephesians 4:
11-16 | 3. The mind of a child... Be careful we don't stay as infants. |
| 4. 1 Cor 13: 11 &
Philippians 2:
5-11 | 4. The mind of an adult... Called to grow up into Christ to become the servant of all. |
| | 5. Now, but then? God's thoughts far outreach our knowledge. |
| | 6. One day we will know... as we are known. To be loved by God. |
| | 7. ... but the greatest of these is LOVE! |
| 5. 1 Cor 13: 12 &
Isaiah 55: 8-11 | |
| 6. 1 Cor 13: 13 &
1 John 3: 1-3 | |
| 7. 1 Cor 13: 13 &
1 John 4: 13-21 | |