

Sunday Worship

8.00am.	Holy Communion	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
10.30am.	All Age Worship	1st Sunday
	Mattins	2nd Sunday
	Parish Communion	3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
4.00pm	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong Arley Chapel	3rd Sunday

Week-day and other activities

Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday in month at 10.30am

Celtic Evening prayer 1st Thursday in month 7.00pm in the Lady chapel

Play & Praise 1.30pm 2nd and 4th Thursdays (apart from School holidays)

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February 2026



St Mary & All Saints Great Budworth

Serving Arley, Aston-by-Budworth, Comberbach, Crowley, Great Budworth,
Lower Wincham, Marbury, Marston, and Pickmere.

Diary for February

Sunday 1 st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	All Age Worship for Candlemas
Wed 4 th	10.30am	Holy Communion <i>Common Worship</i> with coffee afterwards
Thurs 5 th	7.00pm	Celtic Evening Prayer
Sunday 8 th	10.30am	Matins BCP
	4.00pm	Holy Communion <i>Common Worship</i>
Wed 11 th	10.30am	Craft and Natter in the Old School
Thurs 12 th	1.30pm	Play and Praise in church
Sunday 15 th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion <i>Common Worship</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer at Arley Chapel BCP
Wed 18 th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am	Parish Communion <i>Common Worship</i>
	2.30pm	Forest Church – venue to be confirmed.
Wed 25 th	10.30am	Craft & Natter in the Old School
Thurs 26 th	1.30pm	Play & Praise TBC
	7.00pm	Compline for Lent (7.30pm possible Lent discussion group tbc)
Sat 28 th	10.00am – 11.45am	coffee morning in church to set rota for Church Teas 2026

MARCH

Sunday 1 st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	All Age Worship – St. David
Wed 4 th	10.30am	Holy Communion <i>Common Worship</i> with coffee afterwards
Thurs 5 th	7.00pm	Compline for Lent
Sunday 8 th	4.00pm	Choral Evensong with the Choir and organist of Chester Cathedral – all welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

This month brings us Candlemas, Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent, February also brings us the fourth anniversary of the war in Ukraine

Look out also for our article on Sarah Mullally, the new Archbishop of Canterbury. We provide 20 facts about her life which may be of interest to your readers.

May we continue to live our lives for Him, in the grace which He alone can provide.

Sidespersons Rota – February 2026

1st Sunday	1st February	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Robert Steele
		Marian Steel
10.30am	All Age Worship	Anne O'May
		Rebecca Brierley

2nd Sunday	8th February	– 2 before Lent
10.30am	Matins BCP	Geoff Taylor
		Hazel Taylor
4.00pm	Holy Communion CW	Shirley Humphreys

3rd Sunday	15th February	– Next before Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Pat Hart
10.30am	Parish Communion CW	Robert Cross
		Anne O'May
6.30pm	Evening Prayer at Arley	xxxxxxxxxx

ASH WEDNESDAY	18th February	
7.30pm	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	Pauline Ridgway
		Margaret Cross

4th Sunday	22nd February	– Lent 1
10.30am	Parish Communion CW	Maggie Earl
		Robert Cross

March

1st Sunday	1st March	- Lent 2
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Robert Steele
		Marian Steele
10.30am	All Age Worship	Anne O'May
		Rebecca Brierley

Pauline 01565 733494

Rota for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers & Intercessors
February 2026 Year A

1st Sun	1st February Candlemas (White) 8am HC BCP Malachi 3. 1-5 LL60 SL54 Hebrews 2. 14-end LL63 SL56 Luke 2. 22-40 SL57 10.30am All Age Service	No evening service
2nd Sun	8th February 2nd Sunday before Lent (Green) 10.30am Matins Exodus 17. 1-7 K. Arlitt Romans 5. 1-11 L. Entwistle John 4. 5-42	4pm. H.C. C.W. Psalms 100 Job 38. 1-21 Colossians 1.15-20
3rd Sun	15th February Sunday next before Lent (Green) 8am HC BCP 10.30am HC CW Exodus 24.12-end LL82 SL79 S. Grey 2 Peter 1. 16-end LL87 SL81 S. Evans Matthew 17. 1-9 SL 81 INT M. Cross EM S. Grey	6.30pm Arley Chapel EP BCP Psalm 84 Eccl 48.1-10 Matt 17. 9-23
	18th February Ash Wednesday (Purple)	7.30pm HC CW Isa 58. 1-12 2 Cor.5. 20b-6.10 John 8. 1-11
4th Sun	22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent (Purple) 10.30am HC CW Genesis 2. 15-17, 3.1-7 LL105 SL94 L. Entwistle Romans 5. 12-19 LL107 SL 95 S. Evans Matt 4. 1-11 SL96 INT Officiant EM S. Evans	No evening service

Dear friends,

February is a month of gentle turning. The days are still short, and winter has not yet released its grip, but there is a change in the air. Snowdrops push through cold soil, birds begin to rehearse their songs, and light lingers a little longer in the evening. Creation itself seems to whisper that something new is on the way.

At the start of the month we celebrate Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It marks the end of the Christmas season and brings us back to that quiet, holy moment when Mary and Joseph carry the infant Jesus into God’s house. There, Simeon takes the child in his arms and proclaims him to be “a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.”

Candlemas is a feast of light. We bless candles not simply as useful objects, but as signs of Christ, the Light of the world. In a season when darkness can still feel close at hand, this feast reminds us that God’s light is already among us—small enough to be held, yet powerful enough to change everything.

But Candlemas also carries a note of shadow. Simeon speaks of struggle as well as salvation. The light that has come into the world will be resisted. The child will grow into a man who walks the road of sacrifice. And so, almost without our noticing, the Church begins to turn its face towards Lent.

Later in the month, Ash Wednesday will mark the start of that holy season. Lent invites us to walk with Christ into the wilderness: to be honest about our frailty, to let go of what distracts us, and to make space for God to renew us. It is not a gloomy journey, but a truthful one. We remember that we are dust, yet also that we are dearly loved.

There is something deeply human about this movement from Candlemas to Lent—from light held in our hands to ashes traced on our

Continued over

foreheads. It mirrors our own lives. We carry hope and weakness together.

We know joy and struggle side by side. And in both, God is present.

As February unfolds, I invite you to hold these two themes together:

The light of Christ that has come into the world and will not be overcome.

And the honest, healing work of Lent that prepares our hearts to receive that light more fully.

Whether you are able to join us in church often, only occasionally, or never, know that you are part of this journey. You are held in our prayers, and in the love of God who walks with us through every season.

May Christ, the true light, shine in your homes and in your hearts. And may this coming Lent be for each of us a time not of burden, but of blessing.

With love, prayers and blessings

Christina

2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Your feedback and snippets you send are important, if there are any comments on the parish magazine or if you would like anything particular in the issue then please let me know.

The views of our contributors are, of course, entirely their own, and do not necessarily represent those of the P.C.C., the Editor, members of the congregation or parishioners in general.

*Articles for March 2026 edition send to Rob Cross:
robcross43@gmail.com by **20th February** please*

We are available by phone or email if you want to talk to us. We can offer a chat or prayer or both. If you have Facebook, have a look at the church page, @greatbudworthchurch where Christina posts prayers and reflections

We keep you all in our prayers. Stay well.

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All phone calls etc. will be treated with confidence, but may need to be shared with somebody else on the team.

If you don't wish this to happen, please let the person you speak to know at the time of first contact.

Creation Care

FEBRUARY

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/



Church Teas 2026



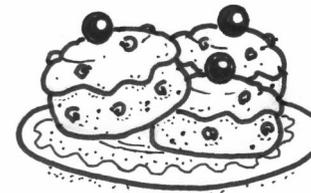
Margaret and Maggie invite you to join us at our annual coffee morning in church on Saturday 28th February, to set the rota for Church Teas 2026

10.00am to 11.45am

With your wonderful support, we managed to raise just over £5000 last year to help with the day to day running of St. Mary And All Saints. We hope you can support us again and look forward to catching up at the coffee morning. If you are unable to attend, but can help out with teas, or you just want to find out more about church teas, give Maggie or Margaret a ring and we can add your name to the rota, or give you information as to what it entails.

Thank you,

Margaret (07732324001) Maggie (01565 777262)



From the Registers

Funerals and burials – rest in peace Sue Furness whose funeral and burial took place on 13th January, and

Don Hammond, whose cremated remains were interred on 25th January, and Stella Sandbach whose funeral took place on 29th January.

Plough Service, Chester Cathedral

This important service in the life of the farming community, Cathedral and County was held on Sunday 11th January and a number of members of the farming community from Great Budworth Parish took part, including Dave Wilkinson who gave a short talk at the beginning of the service on the current state of farming/agriculture within the UK. Dave's talk is reproduced below.

A talk on the state of UK farming over the last 12 months.

Good afternoon everyone, just to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me, my name is David Wilkinson, a dairy and arable farmer and, along with my wife Rachel and my parents Bob and June, we farm in Great Budworth one of the most picturesque villages in Cheshire. Where for the last 33 years along with the core enterprises we have diversified into producing and selling our own ice cream from the farm's on-site tea-room, so it's literally from cow to cone.

I was asked by Reverend Alec Brown recently, while going to the local, if I could, or if I knew somebody who would, give a summary of what farming in the UK over the last 12 months has been like. As you can see, I had no volunteers!!

Over the past year, UK farming has faced one of its most challenging periods in recent memory. Farmers have been hit by a combination of rising input costs, volatile market prices, and major shifts in government policy.

Many in the industry describe it as a "perfect storm" that pushed thousands of family run businesses to the brink of wondering is it all worth it to continue for the next generation to carry on with the long and sometimes isolated hours of working alone. Mental health is still a big problem within the agricultural industry but over time, with more conversation about work life balance and the work of the many great organisations and helplines, it is becoming easier to reach out for the help.

One of the most striking developments has been the number of farm closures. More than six thousand agricultural businesses shut down — the highest figure recorded in recent years. Much of this was driven by financial pressure, but also by uncertainty surrounding changes to inheritance tax rules and the ongoing transition away from the old EU subsidy system. This has made many families have those difficult conversations around the kitchen table.

The main topic of conversation between any farmer is always "the Weather"! Which thankfully none of us have control of but which adds another layer of difficulty in planning the week. The year started with favourable weather conditions to get on the land early to plant those Cheshire potatoes and encourage fresh growth into our arable crops.

Unfortunately grass growth remained slow with farmers deciding to clear silage fields in the hope that it would soon rain and regrowth would replenish stocks.

On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.

She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.

The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.

Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.

She is Chair of Christian Aid.

She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.

In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally - the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.

She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London

She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.

She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

There was no significant rain, so we encountered a severe summer drought in many areas reducing yields across key crops. On a positive note it enabled the harvest to be gathered in perfect dry conditions with everybody getting the harvest completed early. Unfortunately, this hasn't helped with the grain price remaining static and barely above the cost of production.

Dairy farmers have had to supplement the lack of grass in front of their cows with opening winter feed stocks early, which has contributed to the current high volumes of milk being produced resulting in the severe drop in milk price for some farmers of 10 pence per litre or more. All livestock farmers continue to struggle with feed shortages and higher costs and cattle numbers continued their long term decline.

Despite all this, the sector has shown remarkable resilience. Farmers have adapted quickly — whether through diversification, new technology, or more efficient land use. And as the year closed, confidence began to stabilise. Some of the most controversial policy proposals were softened, and industry leaders say the sector is entering the new year on firmer ground.

So, what do we take from all this?

It has been a year defined by pressure, uncertainty, and change. But it has also been a year that showed the resilience, ingenuity, and determination of UK farmers. Farming remains at the heart of our food security, our rural communities, and our environmental future. And despite the difficulties of the past twelve months, the sector continues to adapt, evolve, and endure.

As farmers I think we would all agree that we are the caretakers of the land to help it produce the best British food we can for as long as we can.

Dave Wilkinson

Great Budworth Ice Cream Farm



Revs. Anne Lawson and Alec Brown

Remembering the work of L S Lowry

Fifty years ago, on 23rd February 1976, the artist L S Lowry died of pneumonia. He was known primarily for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men, but he also painted original and striking seascapes and impressive portraits.

Laurence Stephen Lowry was born on 1st November 1887 in Stretford. His father worked for an estate agent and his mother was an organist, playing at the local church. Laurence went to Sunday school, but as life later turned difficult, his faith became shadowy. After leaving school he became a rent collector for the Pall Mall Property Company and stayed there until his retirement in 1952. This led to some dismissing him as a “Sunday painter”.

Lowry’s life was restricted by his family debts and his mother, for whom he took responsibility after his father died. He tried hard to please her, but she showed no appreciation for the quality of his art, looking instead for a middle-class respectable life. He became a solitary figure and never married.

Lowry remains popular as an artist, with many imitators, but he never formally taught or gathered a group of followers around him. He holds the record for rejecting British honours—five, including a knighthood (1968). A collection of his work is on display in The Lowry, an impressive purpose-built art gallery on Salford Quays.

During his life he made about 1,000 paintings and over 8,000 drawings. His works often sell for millions of pounds. Buried in Manchester next to his parents, he left an estate valued at £298,459, plus artwork, to Carol Ann Lowry (no relation), whose family he befriended when she was 13, after she asked for help with her own development as an artist.

Hymns for Professionals

Dentist – Crown Him with many crowns
Contractors – The Church’s one foundation
Obstetricians – Come labour on
Golfers – There is a green hill far away
Politicians – Standing on the promises
Librarians – Let all mortal flesh keep silent

Events in Chronological order Answers

Rome founded	753BC
Great wall of china completed	214BC
Hadrians Wall Started	122
Haghia Sophia, Contantinople finished	537
Work starts on The Great Mosque of Cordoba	788
Westminster Abbey completed	1065
Abbeys of Rievaulx & Fountains established	1131
Leaning Tower of Pisa built	1174
University College Oxford founded	1249
Chaucers Cantebury tales	1387
Michaelangelo starts work on ceiling of Sistine Chapel	1508
Sir Walter Raleigh introduces potatoes	1565
Drakes first voyage round the world	1577-80
New Amsterdam established by the Dutch	1626
Taj Mahal started	1632
Tea arrives in Britain	1652
St Petersburg founded	1703
St Pauls Cathedral completed	1710
Suez Canal completed	1869
M1 opens	1959

We offer here another 'take' on Valentine's day...

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day

All in the morning betime

And I a maid at your window

To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue

The honey's sweet, and so are you.

Thou are my love and I am thine

I drew thee to my Valentine.

The Font

Open the door of the church or any church and the first thing to greet our eyes is the font. It marks the beginning of Christian life in the church. Many fonts have fine carvings of the seven sacraments that nourish the Christian. Others are octagonal in shape: a reminder of Noah and his seven family members saved in the ark from the Flood.



The famous mermen font at St George's Church, Anstey, by Michael Garlick, via Wikimedia Commons'

This font is a symbol of the ship sailing the seas of life. It is in St George's Church, Anstey, in Hertfordshire. Around the font are carved mermen - mythical, pagan creatures that belong to a pre-Christian age which the newly baptised is called on to renounce. When it was carved in the 11th-12th centuries, baptism occurred within eight days of birth. Babies would be immersed three times into the waters of the font: dying to the old life symbolised by the mermen, and rising to new life, to be clothed in a white robe and given a lighted candle as a guide through life. They would then grow up in the church, moving from that west end through the up-turned boat of the nave to the altar at the east end.

That movement is a sign of the pilgrimage we are all called to make. Like a journey on the seas of this world, we may sail through tranquil waters and peaceful days. There may be times when the skies are cloudy and the waters stormy. Martin Luther, when he was faced by struggles like that in his life, would say the words 'I am baptised' to strengthen and reassure himself. 'I am baptised' we can say as we travel in faith, knowing that there is always a light to guide and a goal that is sure and eternal.

Leaders of the Ukrainian church appeal for peace

As the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine approaches, Ukrainian church leaders have appealed for just measures to be put in place so that the invasion will end.

The country's Greek Catholic Primate, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, said: "Let the modern creators of history protect human life from modern-day Herods - and let us pray that those who make fateful decisions will be inspired by the Holy Spirit not to start wars, but to stop them."

The Primate of the Ukrainian independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko), also compared Russia's rulers to King Herod, who had used "ostentatious, external religiosity" to conceal a "rejection of God's truth".

Can you put these events in Chronological order answers page 13

Work starts on The Great Mosque of Cordoba
Westminster Abbey completed
University College Oxford founded
Tea arrives in Britain
Taj Mahal started
Suez Canal completed
St Petersburg founded
St Pauls Cathedral completed
Sir Walter Raleigh introduces potatoes
Rome founded
New Amsterdam established by the Dutch
Michaelangelo starts work on ceiling of Sistine Chapel
M1 opens
Leaning Tower of Pisa built
Hagia Sophia, Constantinople finished
Hadrian's Wall Started
Great wall of China completed
Drake's first voyage round the world
Chaucer's Canterbury tales
Abbeys of Rievaulx & Fountains established

14th February - The Two Valentines

If you dig into the history of Valentine's Day, you discover it has a complicated past. There seems to have been two Valentines: Valentine of Terni and Valentine of Rome. But there was only one road involved: the Via Flaminia, or Flaminian Way.

According to some sources, Valentine of Terni was a third century bishop found "guilty" of having encouraged some young men to convert to Christianity. When the prefect of Rome heard of this, he was furious, and had Valentine of Terni arrested.

Valentine of Terni was then taken to Rome on the Flaminian Way, which was the road linking Rome and Terni. In Rome, Valentine of Terni was beheaded in 273. His remains were then taken back to Terni for burial. An 8th century basilica named after him is found on the Flaminian Way.

Valentine of Rome was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century, this time under the authority of Claudius II. But Valentine of Rome's death may have occurred on the Flaminian Way, where another basilica, bearing his name, has also been found. This one was completed by Pope Theodosius about three centuries later.

The two stories have understandably become confused. Two Valentines, both martyred, in a time of persecution of Christians, and one Flaminian Way. Even Common Worship's choice of c.269 as the date of death is at best a guess.

One thing seems sure: our present-day custom of sending cards and flowers to declare our love has nothing to do with either Valentine. Instead, these may come from the poet John Donne in about 1632. He wrote a marriage song which includes religious commemoration of Valentine along with fertility symbolism. Even the pagan Lupercalia festival may have gone into the mix which flavours our current celebrations of the day.

For a different spin on the last paragraph see [over](#)>