

# Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February



## Welcome to our 10.00am Service

We will be looking at 'Love is the greatest' (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) and we will share The Lord's Supper.

**You are very welcome** – whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years or are looking for a church in Birmingham. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet, and if you would like us to contact you about our activities then complete a Welcome Card – both are available in the foyer.

There is a **Crèche** for under 3's in the Cranmer Room.

**Sunday Club** (age 3–Y6) will meet upstairs and will have holiday activities.



**Refreshments** are served in the Foyer after the service, please stay and join us.



**Toilets** are in the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet.

**OPENING PRAYER** *Chris Hobbs*

**SONG** Guide me O thou great Redeemer

**BIBLE READING** *read together*  
Psalm 86 (page 596)

**SONG** Everybody praise

*Children leave for their activities*

**NEWS**

**SONG** God the uncreated one

**PRAYERS** *Chris Stonehouse*  
ending with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BIBLE READING** *Amanda Martin*  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (page 1153)

**SERMON** *Andy Martin*  
Love is the greatest

**SONG** How deep the Father's love for us

**CONFESSION**

**COMMUNION**

**HYMN** Love divine  
*Please collect your child from crèche*

**BLESSING**

# Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February



## Welcome to our 4.00pm Service

We will be looking at 'Love is the greatest (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).

**You are very welcome** – whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years or are looking for a church in Birmingham. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet, and if you would like us to contact you about our activities then complete a Welcome Card – both are available in the foyer.

There is a **Crèche** for under 3's in the Cranmer Room.

**Sunday Club** (age 3–Y6) will meet upstairs and will have holiday activities.

**There will be no Club114 or Cross Section** this week.



**Refreshments** are served in the Foyer after the service, please stay and join us.



**Toilets** are in the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet.

**OPENING PRAYER** *Chris Hobbs*

**SONG** Guide me O thou great Redeemer

**BIBLE READING** *read together*  
Psalm 86 (page 596)

**SONG** Everybody praise

*Children leave for their activities*

**NEWS**

**SONG** God the uncreated one

**PRAYERS** *Sarah Allen*

ending with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BIBLE READING** *Andy Schofield*  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (page 1153)

**SERMON** *Andy Martin*  
Love is the greatest

**SONG** How deep the Father's love for us

**CONFESSION**

**COMMUNION**

**HYMN** Love divine  
*Please collect your child from crèche*

**BLESSING**

# Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February



## Welcome to our 6.30pm Service

We will be looking at 'Is there some way out of here?' (Genesis 40:1-23)

**You are very welcome** – whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years or are looking for a church in Birmingham. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet, and if you would like us to contact you about our activities then complete a Welcome Card – both are available in the foyer.



**Refreshments** are served in the Foyer after the service, please stay and join us.



**Toilets** are in the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet.

**OPENING PRAYER** *Mark Fox*

**HYMN** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

**SONG** Come praise and glorify

**CONFESSION**

**PRAYERS** *David Sydenham*

ending with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SONGS** My hope is built on nothing less

When I fear my faith will fail

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**NEWS**

**SONG** The perfect wisdom of our God

**BIBLE READING** *Rebekah Fox*

Genesis 39:20b – 40:23 (page 44)

**SERMON** *Chris Hobbs*

Is there some way out of here?

**SONG** How great the chasm

**CLOSING PRAYER**

1. Love is indispensable (13:1-3)

2. Love is ... (4-7)

3. Love is permanent (8-13)

**Missed a sermon recently?** Visit [www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk) (under Resources)

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What I have learned

- to praise God for

- to confess to God

- to ask God for

## **Joseph: intended for good**

Genesis 39:20b-40:23

Is there some way out of here?

Providence: not deism

not pantheism

not chance

not fatalism

1. All places are in God's hand (39:20-23)

2. All events are in God's hand (40:1-22)

3. All times are in God's hand (40:23)

**Missed a sermon recently?** Visit [www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk) (under Resources)

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What I have learned

- to praise God for

- to confess to God

- to ask God for

# It's all about love

Dear Friends,

In some ways the Christian life is really very simple: it's all about love. First of all, it's about God's love for us. Apparently it's not that easy for us to grasp that we really are loved by God, small, weak and sinful creatures that we are. So Paul feels the need to pray and ask God to "strengthen [us] with power" if we are to "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:16-18). It seems we have trouble getting hold of just how much we are loved by God. But then again, that would explain why we sometimes struggle to trust God and to obey his commands.

Next, and only then, comes our love for God, followed by our love for our neighbour. Notice that the two great commandments come in that order: first our love for God, then second our love for one another (Mark 12:29-31). If I don't love God first of all, then I won't love my neighbour properly; I will instead simply give in to their demands or perhaps 'love' them so as to meet my own felt needs.

This also helps us to explain, both to ourselves and to others, why it is that we obey God's commands, especially when they are difficult or counter-cultural (or both). And so we can reason: "Does God love me? Do I love him? Is this what he says? Then I'll do it!"

Yours warmly, in Christ,  
Chris Hobbs (Senior Minister/Vicar)



**Mar 3 at 6.30pm**  
**What's the point of church?**

**Senior Minister (Vicar)** Chris Hobbs  
**Assistant Minister** Andy Martin  
**Parish Office** St Stephen's Church,  
Serpentine Road, Selly Park,  
Birmingham B29 7HU, 0121 472 8253  
[jem.huggins@sssw.org.uk](mailto:jem.huggins@sssw.org.uk)



[www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk)



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# Sundays at St Stephens

**10am service**, family friendly with activities for children (crèche – Y6)

**4pm service**, family friendly with activities for children and young people (crèche – Y9)

**Cross Section** (Y10-13)

5.30-7.00pm, toasties included

**6.30pm service**, relaxed and informal

## This Week

Our regular weekly activities are paused for Half Term.

Sun  
24

**Cross Section** (Y10-13) 5.30-7.00pm, toasties included.

## Looking Ahead

Mar  
1

**World Day of Prayer.** 10.30am at Weoley Hill United Reformed Church, Green Meadow Road, B29 4DE. All Welcome

Mar  
6

**Day Centre** invite senior members of the church and their friends to join us for our monthly service at 11.15 for 11.30am and stay on for lunch. The cost is £3. For those who have not got fliers there are copies in the literature rack.

Mar  
9

**Men's Breakfast. 8.00-9.30am.** "Go and make disciples." Yes, but how?

Mar  
10

**Suffering Church Prayer Breakfast.** 8.30-9.30am in the Cranmer Room.

Apr  
9

**Parenting Evening.** More details to follow in the next few weeks.

Jun  
28-30

**Church Family Weekend Away 2019.** We will be going to Hothorpe Hall, please put the date in your diary and plan to join us.

# News and Requests

**Electoral Roll.** The roll has to be renewed from scratch this year, so this is for everyone! If you consider yourself a member of our church, please complete a form and place it in the red box.

**New: Prayer Guide.** Please collect your new Prayer Guide from the foyer, designed to help us pray for our fellow church members, mission partners and ministries (available to those on Church Suite).

**Parish Office.** Gina Davies has taken over from Jem as Administrator for the time being. Her normal working hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-5.30pm.

**Church Manager.** We are seeking to appoint a full-time Church Manager. Full details can be found at [www.sssw.org.uk/church-manager](http://www.sssw.org.uk/church-manager). Please feel free to contact Chris Hobbs informally. The closing date for applications is **Monday 4th March 2019.**

**Wanted: Chocolatey cereal.** Could you donate a box for Cross Section Bible study? The more chocolatey, the better! Speak to Tom Bryant.

**Accommodation available:** in male house in Selly Oak (B29 6NP), £275pm rent + £100 bills. Social house with large lounge for hosting. Close to Selly Oak railway station and local bus routes. Available immediately. For more info contact Rob Spurling.