



 highfield.church

**Rev Canon Erica Roberts**

City Chaplain for Older People  
Southampton  
olderpeople@highfield.church  
07535 164014

**Revd Margaret Hague**

Anna Chaplain for Older People  
Southampton West  
margaret.hague@caraway.uk.com  
07564 026471



**Marion Hitchins**

Anna Chaplain  
for Older People  
Southampton East  
marionhitchins@yahoo.co.uk  
07766 745503

**Kathy Hyde**

Anna Chaplain  
for Older People  
Southampton East  
kathy.hyde@caraway.uk.com  
07471 536733

[www.caraway.uk.com](http://www.caraway.uk.com)

VINTAGE ADVENTURE

④ HOME

GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR US

**Image credits in this pack**

Shutterstock | Pixabay | Freeimages

*With our best wishes*

**Messy Vintage**

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 

Dear Vintage Friends

As the days lengthen and we move towards spring, we are pondering on the theme of GOD's great love for us.

February is the month typically associated with Valentine's Day and you can read about its history in the pack. If you have been able to get out into the shops, you will have noticed that they are full of greetings cards with red roses and hearts all over them. The confectionary aisles are bursting with large boxes of chocolates, suitably decorated with red and pink ribbons!

However, roses fade, chocolates get eaten, and cards eventually go into the recycling bin. They don't last and sadly, sometimes the love we profess to have for others doesn't either. We can be let down by those, who say that they love us. You may be grieving about a friendship or relationship which didn't work out.

Someone who has promised to always remain faithful in His love for us is the LORD Jesus. In the book of Jeremiah in the Bible, GOD says, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love.' He will not, like us, break His word, nor give up on us. You can read about some of the things He loves about us in extracts from the book *100 Things God loves about you!* Perhaps this surprises you. A reflection by Jenny and poem by Catherine Aldis may help you to understand more of what this means.

We hope that you will have fun with some of the activities – spot the difference, word search, colouring, and that Valentine's Day jokes will bring a smile to your face. There is a red rose to create as a craft activity if you are so inclined and a recipe for some tasty cookies.

We on the Vintage Adventure team assure each of you of our love for you, whether you receive this pack in Southampton or live much further afield. Our prayer is that you will enjoy this month's contributions, and most of all that you will come to know God's great love for you, yourself. Happy reading!

With our love and prayers

*Cynthia and the Caraway Vintage Adventure team*



## **WORSHIP**

### **GOD OF LOVE**

*"See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands"*  
Isaiah 49: 16

*As we begin this time of worship, meditate on this opening verse, reminded that God loves you so much, that he has inscribed your name on the palm of his hands.*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God

We come to you as we are, warts and all.  
We bring our concerns and fears and all that weighs us down.  
We acknowledge our regrets and past hurts

And, so we come to you  
seeking to be made whole.  
**For you, God, put your love within us;  
you wrote it on our hearts,  
that we may be your people.**

## READING

1 John 4:9-11

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

*This reminds us of God's great love for us and the sacrifice that Jesus made for you and me on the Cross. Let's respond by praising God with the words of the following hymn – perhaps read them out aloud or sing them if you know the tune.*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love  
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!  
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!  
'Tis an ocean full of blessing, 'tis a haven giving rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

S. Trevor Francis, 1875

## PRAYER

On this day we pray for those who are lonely  
and those who are grieving.

We pray for those who feel unloved,  
and rejected by our society, perhaps by us.

And, so we come to you seeking to be made whole.

**For you, God, put your love within us;  
you wrote it on our hearts,  
that we may be your people.**

## READING

Isaiah 54:10

"Though the mountains be shaken, and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

*Our God of compassion promises us that nothing will shake his love for us. In Romans 8, St Paul, also tells us that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love in Jesus, not even death. This is an amazing promise that gives us confidence to live with hope for the future.*

*Finally, as we give thanks for the love God has for us, let's seek to love others as God loves us.*

## FINAL PRAYER

Loving God, we offer ourselves  
and come to you seeking to be made whole.

**For you, God, put your love within us;  
you wrote it on our hearts,  
that we may be your people.**

Draw us to you, into you.  
Anoint us with your peace.

**Write your compassion in our hearts  
that we may love as you love.**

**Amen.**

*Nothing can separate us  
from the love of God*

## ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE



How many of us remember the '60s Beatles song "All You Need Is Love"? Probably most of us who are reading this! Love means something to every one of us and is the theme of many great books, films and songs, as well as our own personal experiences of loving and being loved. 'Love makes the world go round' so we hear.

The Bible contains many references to God's unfailing love and the vastness of His love. Yet is His love something we all know and embrace? If you haven't yet experienced that love be assured that Jesus wants to be part of your life and to share His love with you. There's a wonderful Bible verse which describes Jesus standing at the door of our hearts, just waiting for us to invite Him in (Revelation 3:20). He is seeking us, loving us already and longing for us to see that He has such love to give us if we reach out and let Him in. His love can change our lives completely, as we admit we've shut Him out, ask His forgiveness and for His loving help in our lives in the future.



Perhaps Jesus has been part of your life for many years, but sometimes you just need that reassurance that God's love never fails. We may face difficult situations or challenges, yet we have the assurance that "*because of the Lord's great love*" we aren't consumed by such trials; God is compassionate and faithful. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

And then there are times when we just sit in awe and thankfulness before Paul's words: "I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:18-19 CEB)

**THANK  
YOU**



The Beatles song rings true: "All you need is love" - but we need an unfailing and enduring love. Our love for others pales in comparison with the love God has for us. Why? Because God is love. He showed us what love really is when Jesus stepped into our world to take our place, so we might receive God's forgiveness and love and be restored into relationship with Him. "There is no greater love. We love because He first loved us" writes John. (1 John 4:19)

"Love is all you need" is the refrain echoed throughout The Beatles song of love. Dare we suggest that adding the word "God's" into the title and refrain could make a world of difference and a difference to the world?



Whether you have the assurance of God's love, or are wondering about opening the door of your heart to receive that love, do consider this: without God we would not know what love is, because God is the very source of love and His love never fails and endures forever.

All you need is love – God's love.



## Extracts from '100 Things God Loves About You'

by Tama Fortner

### 1 God loves your story

*All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16*

You have an amazing story. How can you be sure? Because it was written by Yahweh, the Lord God Himself, before you were even born. He knew every twist of the plot and every unexpected turn. Every joy, every sorrow. Wherever you go, He has already been. He will walk before you and with you as Lord and Guide and Friend. And when you entrust your story to Him, He promises you the best of endings – a happily, heavenly, forever after.

### 2 God loves the treasure of you

*Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession. Deuteronomy 14:2*

Gold and silver? They're just heavenly pavement to Him. Rubies and sapphires? Simple stones for His gates. Diamonds? They're as common as coal. But you? You are His child. You are precious. Worth searching for, worth saving, worth every sacrifice. And when God counts up His heavenly treasures, He counts ... you.

### 5 God loves to call you His own

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1*

God loves you. More than just a little. More than a lot. He loves you ... lavishly. His love is not the stingy, strings-attached love of this world. It is a love that stretches beyond the stars and reaches far into eternity. Just call His Name, reach out to Him – and His love will sweep into your life, scoop you up, and whisper softly over and over, "You are Mine," ... for you are His very own.

## 9 God loves all the little things about you

*“The very hairs of your head are all numbered.” Luke 12:7*

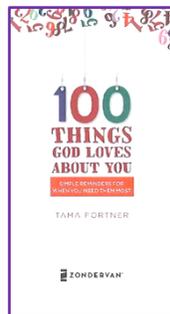
God knows every little thing about you, even the number of hairs on your head. Because He created you. Because He loves you. Yes, every last one of them. That freckle on your cheek? He put it there – in just the right spot. That quirky little giggle? God pitched it and placed it there in your heart. You may look at yourself and see only the flaws, but God doesn't. He loves every little thing about you ... yes, even that freckle on your cheek.

## 100 God loves . . . you

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 138:14*

God loves you simply because you are . . . well . . . you. He loves your imperfections, your quirks, your creativity. He loves that you are courageous, confident, kind. He loves the way you laugh, the way you work, the way you give. And He loves that you trust Him enough to call Him *Lord, Abba, Father*, and even *Friend*. God loves you so much, so very much, that He sacrificed His own Son to save you. Because you are fearfully and wonderfully made ... because you are you ... because you are *His*.

(Taken from 100 Things God Loves About You by Tama Fortner. Copyright © 2014 by Zondervan Used by permission of Thomas Nelson. [www.thomasnelson.com](http://www.thomasnelson.com).)

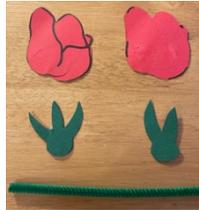


Utterly loved,  
that's what I am LORD  
utterly loved by You.  
Not that You condone my sins,  
but with undeserved mercy  
and infinite patience,  
You draw them to my attention,  
then assure me of Your full pardon.  
This is amazing, LORD ...  
Almost too wonderful to be  
yet I know it's true!  
So I stand in Your presence,  
cleansed, renewed,  
To face the coming day with You.  
Catherine Aldis

2002 Threads of Gold p8 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

## Make your own Rose

Cut out the red rose shape and the green leaves.



Attach one rose to the pipe cleaner with Sellotape.



Attach the 2<sup>nd</sup> rose to the other side of the pipe cleaner with the double sided sticky circle.



Then use another double sided sticky circle to attach each green leaf to the pipe cleaner on each side of the red rose.



Peel and stick the label around the 'stem' and be reminded that in the Bible verse from Jeremiah chapter 31, verse 3, God said "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

## LOVE WITHOUT LIMIT

The reason Paul writes this prayer is based on what he's said previously, that those who receive the gospel in faith, are members of the body of Christ.

Try fitting the right words into the blanks in these verses .... maybe think about each word as you write it in and what it means about God's limitless love for *you*.

### **Ephesians, Chapter 3, verses 14-19**

*(no peeking beforehand!)*

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I \_\_\_\_\_ before the \_\_\_\_\_, <sup>15</sup> from whom every \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven and on \_\_\_\_\_ derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I \_\_\_\_\_ that out of his glorious \_\_\_\_\_ he may strengthen you with \_\_\_\_\_ through his \_\_\_\_\_ in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that \_\_\_\_\_ may dwell in your \_\_\_\_\_ through faith. And I pray that you, being \_\_\_\_\_ and established in \_\_\_\_\_, <sup>18</sup> may have \_\_\_\_\_, together with all the Lord's holy \_\_\_\_\_, to grasp how \_\_\_\_\_ and long and \_\_\_\_\_ and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to \_\_\_\_\_ this love that surpasses \_\_\_\_\_ - that you may be \_\_\_\_\_ to the measure of all the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ  
people  
rooted  
Father  
hearts  
filled  
pray

high  
kneel  
power  
riches  
knowledge  
fullness  
power

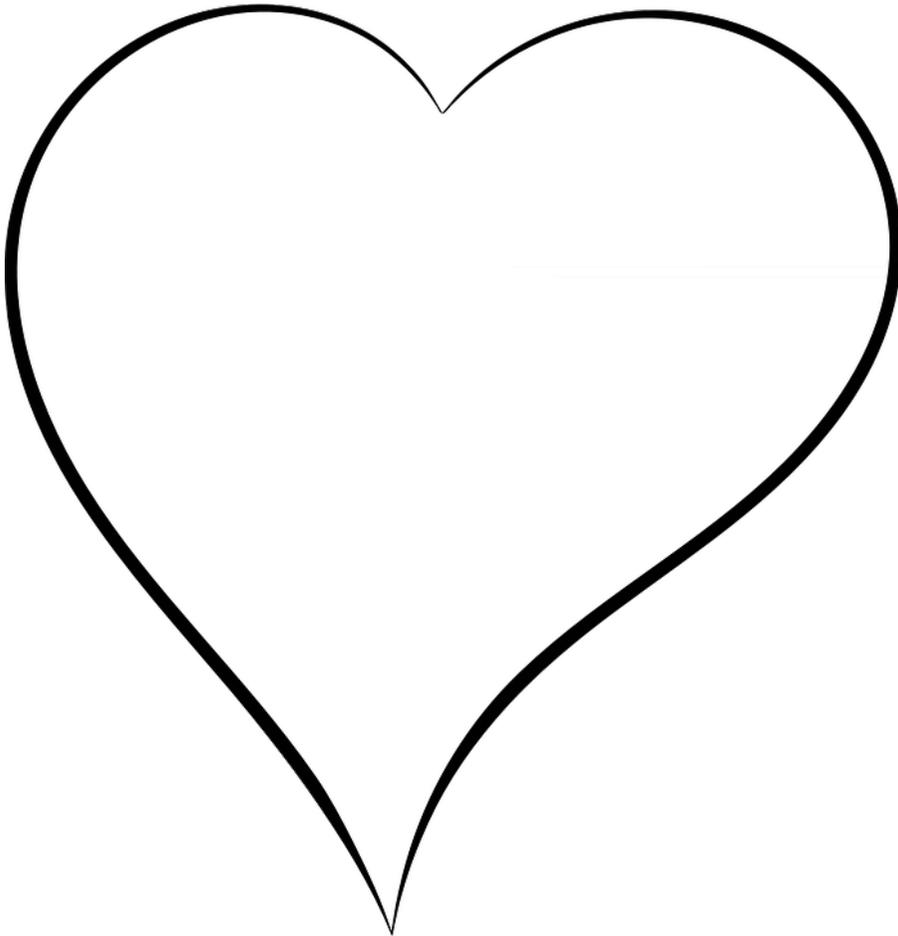
know  
Spirit  
wide  
earth  
family  
love  
God

Do look this passage up in your Bible and check you've got the right word in the right place. Then why not spend a few minutes thinking about just how much God loves you. What a prayer for us to pray for others too!

## St Valentine's Day

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have drawn you with loving kindness" Jeremiah 31:3*

God loves you whoever you are, however you feel. Draw yourself in his great big heart of love and know you are LOVED.



As a young person do you recall sending or receiving Valentine's cards on 14 February?

Valentine's Day, formerly known as the Feast of St Valentine, was established by Pope Gelasius in AD 496, to honour two early martyrs named Valentine. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the age of Courtly Love, 14 February became associated with romantic love and the love birds of spring. Modern day symbols are heart-shaped outlines, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid.



I expect you remember as I do, chanting the Valentine's ditty  
*Roses are red, violets are blue  
Honey's sweet and so are you!*

Apparently, this poem goes back to a 1784 collection of English nursery rhymes and ends:

*Thou art my love and I am thine;  
I drew thee to my Valentine:  
The lot was cast and then I drew,  
And Fortune said it should be you!*

In 1797, a British publisher issued *The Young Man's Valentine Writer*, containing sentimental verses for young men to copy, if they could not think of anything to say themselves! Couples began to send greetings cards and also flowers. Printers began to

produce a few cards with ready-made verses and sketches, called 'mechanical

valentines.' In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, paper Valentines became so popular in England that instead of writing their Valentine cards by hand, people bought cards assembled by girls and women in factories, called by Dickens 'Cupid's Manufactory.' Many cards were adorned with ribbons and real lace, which was later replaced by cheaper paper lace.

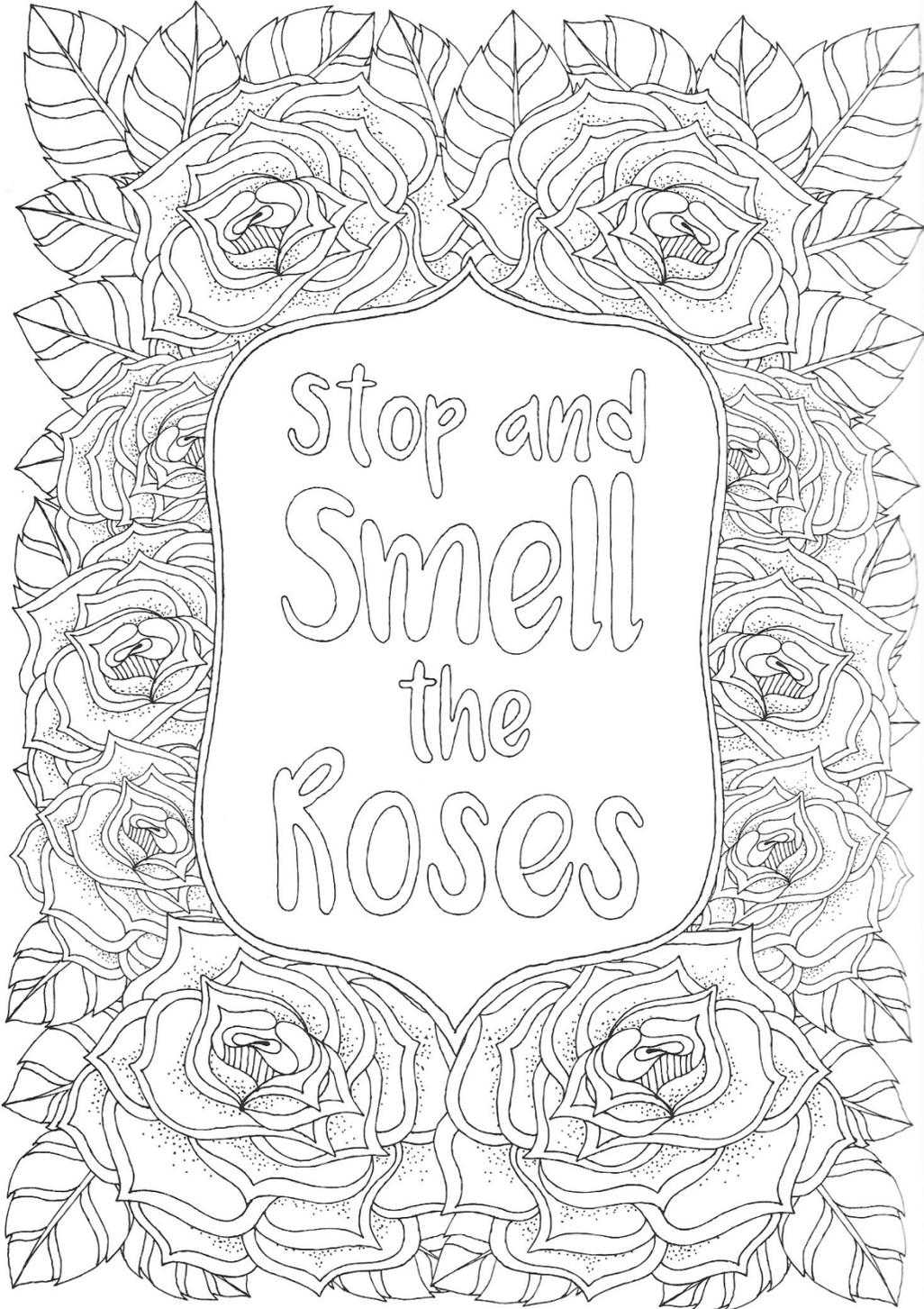
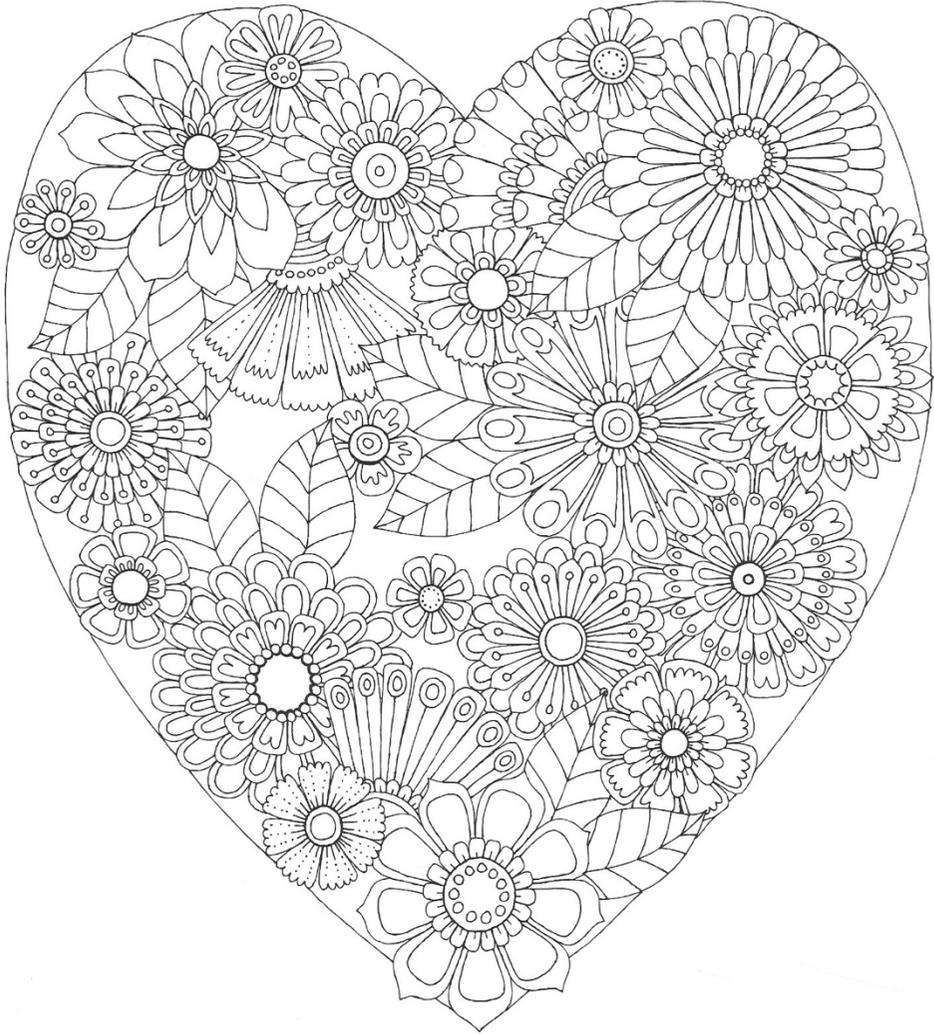


In 1835, 60,000 Valentine cards were sent by post in the United Kingdom, despite postage being expensive. In 1840 the Penny Black stamp was invented, and just one year later 400,000 Valentines were posted! This less personal but easier practice

of mailing Valentines made it possible to exchange cards anonymously, some of which contained very 'racy' verse! In 1868, the British chocolate company Cadbury created Fancy Boxes – a decorated box of chocolates – in the shape of a heart for Valentine's Day. A century later, exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts, such as giving jewellery and red roses.



Spot 10 Differences





## Loving yourself

### A Challenge!

Jesus told us in Mark chapter 12 verses 30/31 the greatest commandment is to:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*

*This indicates that first we need to love ourselves in order to love others!*

*List some things you love about yourself!*

## What Is Love Word Search

L N U M Z C S T P A P R Z H Q U F H S O  
 N N H I A O E O I L F E C P A O T E P L  
 L I I N Y R V K H M R F N R N L R V L D  
 N O I T O V E D S T T O E D S E E I U B  
 P U O A M D I X D I D R N C V T W Q N R  
 P J D O G N L F N O O E U E T D W S F Q  
 S E N D U R E S E S S N S S O I T U A U  
 Z S M W E A B Y I S X R Z O T C O M I I  
 Z T E Z Q P J T R K E J G L J S J N L G  
 I F U N I B C B F P A Q O Q V S Y Z I I  
 T Y I Y D P X H P Z Z V V B R R L M N Z  
 S R Z F C N N G N Y E U H G R J N S G Q  
 K O A F R W I S J M Y K Y H D E V Z G P  
 K B Y E V X I K H V H K O P G V P X L D  
 Z Y C L H V M O A O G O H D L I C L O F  
 H C W M H T K E V P T U M E J B O T T X  
 O F K F T H E P U R P N P U A M E T J W  
 P D X V V I G E N Y T V G L I L U A H N  
 E X A K E G M Z W S X U L H Q L Z P H Z  
 S L H B G T D S D S U N P R O V O K E D



Affection

Believes

Devotion

Endures

Fondness

Friendship

Goodwill



Hopes

Kindness

Love

Perseveres

Sweetheart

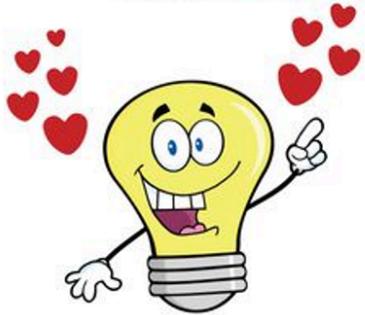
Trusts

Unfailing



## Some Valentine Jokes

What did one light bulb say to the other?



I love you a whole watt!

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?



Sure! They are very scent-imental.

What do you call two birds in love?



Tweethearts!

What do you call a very small valentine?



A valenty!

What did the paper clip say to the magnet? *I find you attractive!*

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?  
*I'm stuck on you!*

Why didn't the skeleton want to send a Valentine's card?  
*Because his heart wasn't in it!*

How can you tell when a squirrel is in love? *It goes nuts!*

What did the calculator say to the pencil? *You can count on me.*

How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend? *He gave her a ring!*

What did one bee say to the other? *I love bee-ing with you, honey!*

What did one volcano say to the other? *I lava you.*

What did one cat say to the other cat on Valentine's Day?  
*You're purr-fect for me.*

Where do all the burgers take their girlfriends on Valentine's day?  
*To a meat ball!*

What did the rabbit say to his girlfriend? *Somebunny loves you!*

Knock, knock."  
*Who's there?" "*

Bea.

*Bea who?*

Bea my Valentine

# Easy Shortbread heart-shaped cookies

Samantha Skaggs

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup icing sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon pure almond extract
- 2  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups plain flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sprinkles



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add butter, icing sugar, salt, vanilla extract, and almond extract to the bowl of a large food processor. Process until smooth. Add flour and mix until mixture looks crumbly and chunky. Add sprinkles and quickly pulse several more times, until the sprinkles are just evenly incorporated.
2. Turn the dough out onto a large piece of wax paper and form the crumbles into a log that's about 14 inches long. Shape the log so that it has three flat sides, giving the ends a triangular shape (the log should look like a long triangular prism).
3. Wrap the triangular log with the wax paper. Take a wooden ruler (or another long, thin object) and press an indentation into one flat side of the log. Round the edges of that side to form a heart-shaped log. Place the wrapped cookie dough on a baking sheet and freeze for 15 minutes. Fine-tune the shape of the heart (if necessary) and freeze for 2 to 3 more hours or until solid.
4. Place rack in centre position of oven. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Remove log of dough



from the freezer. Allow the cookie dough to come to room temperature for 5 minutes or until just soft enough that it doesn't crack or crumble when sliced. Using a sharp knife, cut the log into slices that are approximately  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch thick. Arrange cookies an inch apart on the prepared baking sheets. Bake until cookies just barely turn a light golden colour around the edges, between 12 and 15 minutes. Allow to cool on the baking sheets.

## Notes

- If your dough is too frozen, the cookies will crumble when you slice them. So allow your dough to sit at room temperature for 5 to 10 minutes before cutting. It should slice cleanly without crumbling but still maintain its heart cookie shape.
- You may use any long, thin, hard object to make your indentation, but a ruler works great.

# VINTAGE ADVENTURE @ HOME

For those who have received our Packs for a while, you will know that now and again we ask for feedback. So it would help us if you could let give us your thoughts on the following either by writing on the back and posting it to us or email or phone your thoughts. Contact details are below.

1. Do you want to still receive a Pack each month?

If No, please let us know your name and address so we can remove you from our mailing list.

2. What is your favourite bit in the Pack?

3. What is your least favourite?

By post: Caraway, 59 Brookvale Road, Highfield,  
Southampton, SO17 1QS

By email: [Caraway@caraway.uk.com](mailto:Caraway@caraway.uk.com)

By phone: 07535 164014