



Week beginning March 15th

Stretching in love

Opening Questions

- Love in its many forms is a popular theme for films. Do you have a favourite?
- How would you describe the love which we receive from God?

Getting into the text

Read 1 Samuel 1:20-28, Luke 2:33-35

- What prompted Hannah to take Samuel to the temple and give him to the Lord?
- What feelings and emotions might she have felt?
- What were the positives and negatives in Simeon's prophecy about Jesus?
- Why would a sword pierce Mary's soul?



Applying the Bible to your life

- What do the experiences of Hannah and Mary tell you about the nature of Christian love? Can you list some words to describe it?

- Are you able to share any examples of times when you have been called to give this kind of love? What gave you the courage to continue?

- How can St Philips express this kind of love as a church community?

Something to pray about

John wrote, '19 **We love because he first loved us.**' (1 John 4:19)

- Give thanks for the sacrificial love God has shown us in Jesus.
- Ask God to give you the courage and strength to face situations where you are finding the call to love costly or challenging.
- Pray for St Philips that it might be a place of welcome and love to all.