Marking Moments



Your newsletter from the M&S Archive

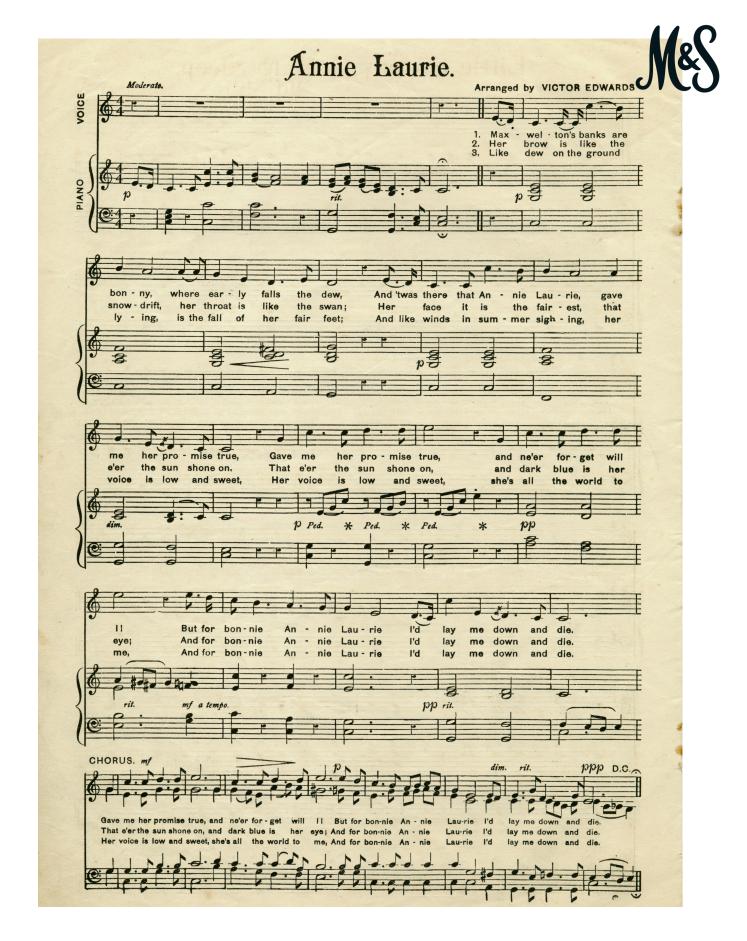
February 2020

Spring is round the corner, but there's still a chill in the air. February sees snowdrops and aconites blooming, as well as the most romantic day of the year!

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	Day-inspired images from the last 100 years
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Sheet music was a bestseller at M&S in the 1910s. This sheet shows the score for 'Annie Laurie', a song based on a poem by William Douglas. The song describes William's love for Annie. The pair wanted to marry but Annie's father opposed the match.



This couple at the 1955 Mile End warehouse party almost have the dancefloor to themselves. Can you see the mistletoe hanging from the ceiling? The couple might have been dancing the foxtrot, a waltz or a quickstep.

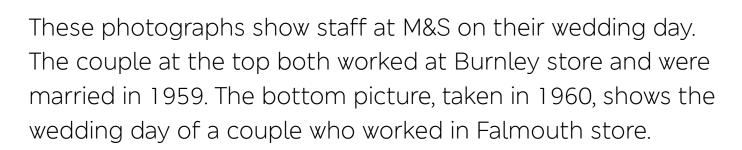




This advert for M&S clothing was published in 1958. The couple are shown out for a romantic walk wearing St Michael clothes from M&S. The man's trousers are made from Terylene, the lady's dress is made from cotton and would have cost 50 shillings. Customers could choose from turquoise, navy or red with white spots.

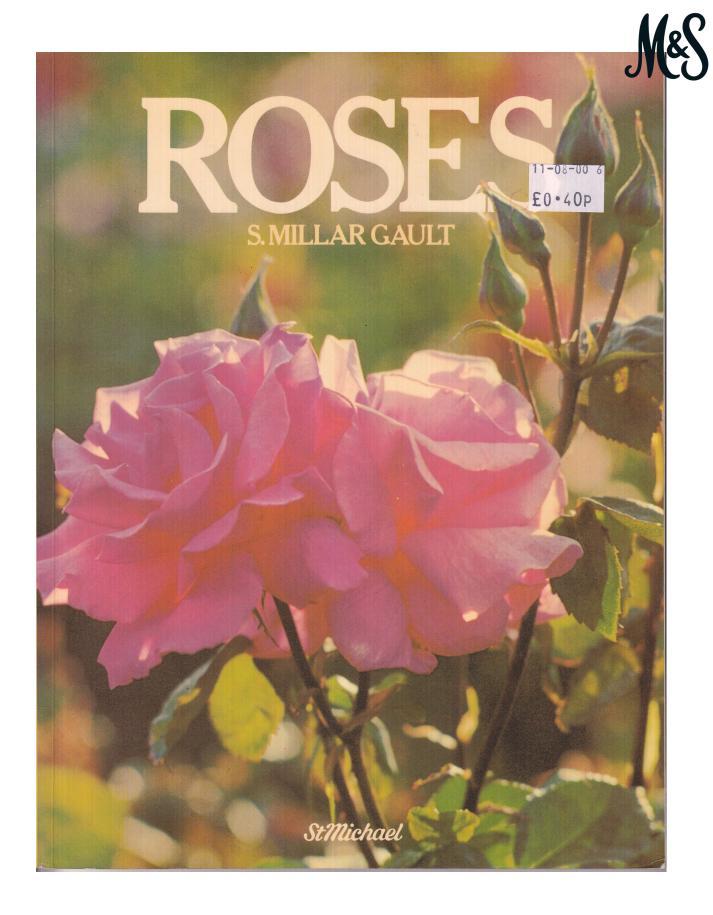








This couple exchange gifts - it could be for Christmas, Valentine's Day or a special birthday. The photo is taken for an advert published in 1961. The man's Winceyette pyjamas cost 27s 6d, the lady's dressing gown cost 99s 6d.



Roses are traditionally the flower of love, and are often given on Valentine's Day. This book was sold at M&S in 1979 and gives the reader all the information they need to successfully grow their own roses.







These wedding cakes were sold at M&S in 2007. Wedding cakes are traditionally made with fruit cake. Today many people have chocolate cake, Victoria sponge or carrot cake. Some people even stack wheels of cheese instead of cake!

This Month in... 1953





In 1953 M&S customers saw welly shortages as all supplies of wellington boots were diverted to France. All the major rivers in France including the Seine, the Rhone and the Loire were swollen and caused an enormous amount of damage.

The same storm contributed to the North Sea Flood when nearly 1000 miles of British coastline were damaged and 30,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes.

This Month in... 1956



SPORTSMEN CHOSE QUALITY



★Tom Finney the footballer at work in Preston store.

★Wally Thom on road work in his windcheater.

IF they get a kick out of plumbing in Preston, they can thank the stores' plumber/electrician who is Tom Finney of Preston North End, and England.

Tom is also a regular customer at the store, often coming in with his wife and son Brian, because, he says, he finds the assistants most able and courteous.



St. Michael News Reporter

A REGULAR customer at Birkenhead is British welter-weight champion Wally Thom.

For road work during bad weather he finds his Birkenhead-bought windcheater invaluable.

His wife, Sheila, and children Eunice and Walter, are also regular customers there.

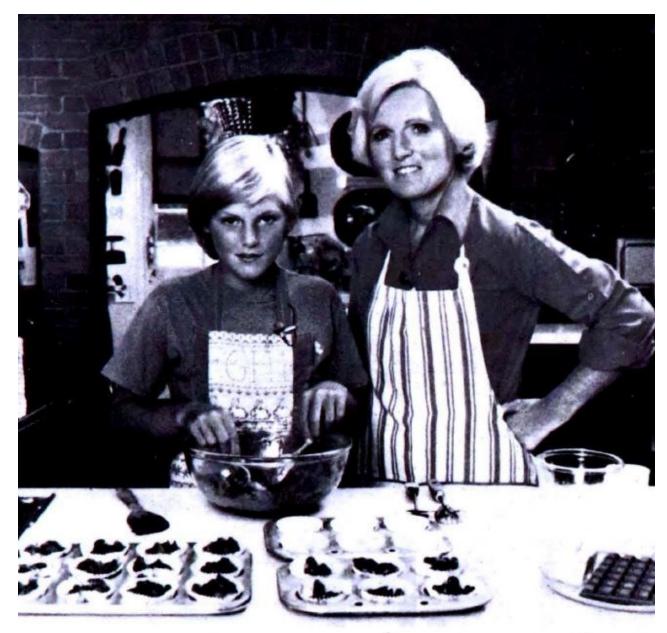
In 1956 Marks & Spencer in Preston had a rather famous plumber - the England footballer Tom Finney! Whilst playing for his club team, Preston North End, Finney was given the nickname 'The Preston Plumber' and the team were sometimes unfairly called 'The Plumber and his 10 drips'.

Boxer Wally Thom was a welterweight champion. In 1956 he often shopped in M&S in Birkenhead.

This Month in... 1984



In



1984 the chef, writer and TV presenter Mary Berry demonstrated M&S food at cookery shows across the UK. The shows, billed as 'Entertaining at Home with Mary Berry and St Michael', raised money for local charities.

This photograph shows Mary at home with her daughter Annabel.

Have a Co...





You'll need: Jam jars, tissue paper, PVA glue, scissors, coloured string or wool, battery powered tealights (optional)

- Hand out a jam jar, pot of glue, scissors and tissue paper to each participant.
- The group can choose which colour tissue paper they prefer, then tear or cut small pieces.
- Put a thin layer of glue onto the jam jar, stick a piece of tissue paper on, then paint another layer of glue over the top.
- Participants can cover the jar with as much or as little paper as they like. They can be layered on top of each other to create different colours.
- Make the surface shiny with a final layer of glue.
- Tie a piece of string, wool or ribbon around the top of the jar to finish it off.
- Use to hold either a battery powered tealight, put spare pens in it, or just keep as an ornament!

WARNING: Do not use jar with a naked flame.

Have a Co



Find the romantic words in this grid - don't forget some go diagonally, and some run backwards!

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AMOUR
CHOCOLATES
CINEMA
COURTING
DANCING
FLOWERS
FONDNESS
HEART

LOVE
MARRIED
PROPOSAL
RELATIONSHIP
ROMANTIC
TOGETHER
VALENTINES
WEDDING



Have a Go - Quiz

Take some time out and enjoy this romance themed quiz - you could try it on your own, or why not give it a go as a group? Answers are on the next page.

- 1. On what date do we celebrate Valentine's Day?
- 2. When did England first officially celebrate St Valentine's Day on that date, was it 1537, 1737 or 1937?
- 3. Which monarch declared it as a celebration?
- 4. Who produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day, was it Cadbury's, Rowntree's or Fry's?
- 5. Every year, roughly how many cards are exchanged for Valentine's Day across the world?
- 6. Who wrote: 'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.'?
- 7. Can you name the Roman goddess of love?
- 8. The play 'Romeo and Juliet' is set in which Italian city?
- 9. According to an old English tradition, what is supposed to happen to the first man a woman sees on Valentine's Day?
- 10. Who wrote 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate'?



Have a Go - Quiz Answers

- 1. 14th February
- 2.1537
- 3. Henry VIII
- 4. Cadbury's
- 5. Over one billion Valentine's card are sent every year
- 6. Alfred Lord Tennyson
- 7. Venus
- 8. Verona
- 9. They marry
- 10. William Shakespeare Sonnet 18