

THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARY PENWORTHAM

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SEPTEMBER 2011

From the Editors

Welcome back after the Summer break and we hope that your break was restful and refreshing. This month we have a lovely letter from Angela, some news about Christian meditation and the church website.

Lord of the Winds

Lord of the winds, I cry to thee,
I that am dust,
And blown about by every gust
I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters, unto thee I call,
I that am weed upon the waters borne,
And by the waters torn,
Tossed by the waters, at thy feet I fall.

By Mary Coleridge (1861 – 1907)



**St Mary's News
Church**

It is now over 2 months since we returned to church and much work has been done in that time. The rooms in the 1950s extension needed clearing in time for their use by Junior Church in September. The sacristy also needed re-arranging as did the back corridor. A small kitchen area is being fitted in the back corridor which will have a water heater to enable us to prepare refreshments more effectively. The Rawstorne room (formerly the choir vestry) is having a sink unit fitted to allow Junior Church to have hand washing facilities.

Open Church starts again on the 1st September. The church will remain open after the Thursday morning service until 3.00 pm to allow visitors to come and look around and learn about the heritage of the church and Penwortham. Jacqui Nelson has been hard at work arranging a rota and digging into our history so that we can have information in written form for any visitors to read. If you would like to help to keep our church open on these days and act as a steward please contact Jacqui on 743143. She would be delighted to have you on the team.

A lot of work has been done on Castle Hill, at the request of English Heritage, to remove trees and vegetation to restore the mound to its original appearance. We would recommend anyone to have a walk to the top of the mound and take in the views. The mound is the highest place in Penwortham and there are some very nice views of the churchyard with views over Preston. Do have a look.

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From the Editors

Now we are back in church it is important that we keep the churchyard attractive and in good condition. Quite a bit of work is needed to maintain it and as always we need volunteers. If you would like to join our team we would be delighted to see you. The work is not taxing or heavy and only lasts for about 2 hours on Thursday mornings and on the occasional Saturday mornings from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon with refreshments included. Just come along or telephone Iain Jenkins (743218) for more details. The dates are in the magazine and on the website.

An unusual gift

We were very pleased to receive two icons of Mary and Jesus painted in the Greek Orthodox style as a gift from Andreas Evangelou (Andreas' Fish and Chip Shop) This was a very generous gift from someone who, although worshipping in another Christian tradition, nevertheless recognizes the important part St. Mary's plays in Penwortham. They are worthy objects for reflection and contemplation on Mary the mother of Jesus and the infant Son of God. Our thanks to Andreas for this very thoughtful gift. Please do view them – they are currently in the chancel.

Church Hall

Since returning to church we have been able to tidy up the church hall, especially the office which had become very cluttered over the past 20 months. The office is now spick and span and has room to swing quite a few cats.. The hall and rooms are being thoroughly cleaned and the whole place is much better.

Garden Party

On Saturday 23rd July, Jenny and Tony Williams hosted a Garden Party at their home on Kingsway. The event was very successful and a pleasant day was had by all. Our thanks go to Jenny and Tony for making it all possible and opening their home and garden to us. Thanks also to of you who helped plan and organize the day, especially Julie Harrison. Well done to you all! We made £900 which will go towards improving the refreshment facilities at Church.

Christian Aid

The final total collected this year for Christian Aid Week was £1700.88. This includes the value of some foreign currency that was included in some of our envelopes, which shows that it is possible to use donations in whatever form they are received. It has only been possible to collect this amount thanks to the hard work of all the collectors, so a big thank you to them. We will of course be collecting again next year and if anyone who was not involved this year is willing to become involved next year, so that we can continue to cover as many roads as possible, please contact Rachel Tuke on 460142.

St. Mary's website

Our website has been updated recently and contains information about our church, our services and the history of Penwortham. Please visit it at www.penwortham-stmary.co.uk

From the Editors

Angela

We said goodbye to Angela at the beginning of July as she took up the position of Associate Priest at Christ Church, Charnock Richard and St. Georges, Chorley. She has sent us a lovely letter which is given below:

“Dear Friends,

You can't believe, can you, how time flies? When I came to St Mary's as a deacon, the four years stretched ahead and seemed almost endless. I knew they would pass, of course but in the meantime there would be four Christmases and four Easters, and the accompanying church seasons and festivals in between. It promised to be a reassuring cycle of worship and a place to call home for four years.

Well, I have not been disappointed. St Mary's really did become my home. You made both Peter and myself feel so at home and so welcome when we came that it was really easy to settle in. The Churchwardens, past and present, the sidespeople and the PCC have all been really good to work with.

Chris too, has been a tremendous source of support and encouragement and has guided me along with his wisdom and knowledge, especially in my many moments of angst and self-doubt! It's a bit of a leap of faith when you agree to accept a curate, (what if you don't get on?) but he has been really wonderful in how he has shared his priestly ministry with me never playing the heavy handed “I am your incumbent and I am right” card. He has given me the freedom to develop my own ministry with you.

As part of that ministry, it's been wonderful getting to know you and a privilege to be part of your lives. We've shared together in joys and sorrows, both yours and mine. I remember with thanks that you were all so kind and supportive when my mum died so suddenly. Your ministry to me has been just as important as any I've given you. I have really felt that I was part of a family at St Mary's.

I'm really pleased to have enabled you to achieve the Child Friendly Church Award. I know that you will continue seek ways of making worship and Jesus attractive to the younger members at St Mary's so that they become faithful disciples.

Also I must thank Euphoria for letting me join in with them at rehearsals and inviting me to sing with them at various events. After our Sunday evening rehearsals I used to go home with a song in my heart and felt really uplifted. Long may you flourish!

Of course a large chunk of my curacy was spent in the church hall; not quite half, but not far off! That in itself was a very positive experience and demonstrated that the church is indeed the people not the building. I think all of us felt the benefit of a closer proximity to each other in the services and also to the whole community because of the church hall's central location. It reminded me that the church must be at the heart of the community and we must find ways of making it so, even when it physically isn't, if that makes sense!

Having said that I am so pleased to have been part of the move back to church. It wouldn't have been the same if I'd left before it was finished! You are now blessed with a wonderful church for worshipping our God AND it will be warm!

From the Editors

Finally, thank you for your very generous gift(s) and the good wishes and cards and the wonderful farewell service and the buffet! I haven't decided what to spend the money on yet but I'll let you know when I do.

You're bound to see me from time to time at the Farmers' Market at least. I hope to keep in touch with what's happening and I'll see some of you at diocesan events. May God bless every one of you, your families and homes and all those you love. Thank you for four great years!

Love,
Angela"

Christian Meditation

We have recently started a Christian Meditation group at Church. Christian Meditation is a practice aimed at bringing us to stillness, to enable us to experience that "peace which passes all understanding" and to bring us closer to God.

The group meets on Thursday evenings at church from 6.30 pm and the session lasts for approximately 30 to 45 mins. All are welcome. Please see our website for dates or telephone Iain Jenkins (743218)

For more information about Christian Meditation please visit the World Community for Christian Meditation at <http://www.wccm.org>

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market: Don't forget our markets are on the 1st Saturday of every month from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Church Hall.

Auction and Table Top Sale. Saturday 15th October in St. Mary's Church Hall in aid of Rwanda and Bowling for the Blind

Church News

Songs of Praise turns 50

The very first ever BBC Songs Of Praise was recorded 50 years ago this month, and broadcast on 1 October 1961.

The first programme was recorded on 25 September at the Welsh Baptist Tabernacle Chapel in Cardiff city centre (Tabernacl, Capel y Bedyddwyr). This past summer all surviving members of the original congregation were invited to return for the recording of the anniversary edition, which was conducted by Tim Rhys-Evans, musical director of Only Men Aloud.

Songs of Praise has long been the most popular and beloved of all BBC worship programmes. During its 50 years it has visited more than 1,800 churches, cathedrals and chapels, singing over 12,500 hymns. Guest presenters over the years have included Sir Cliff Richard, Alan Titchmarsh and Toyah Willcox. At its peak, 12m viewers watched the programme, with audiences still 2.5m. Songs of Praise has featured in episodes of comedies Vicar of Dibley and The Brittas Empire

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium was the location for Songs of Praise's largest ever episode. The special edition saw 60,000 worshippers, a 6,000 piece choir, an orchestra of 100 harps, the band of the Welsh Guards and an anthem specially written by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber marking the first Sunday of the new millennium.

'Awareness Sunday' marks the 10th anniversary of 9/11 terrorist attacks

It is now nearly ten years since the deadly attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City. The 10th anniversary falls on a Sunday, and as it approaches, churches across the country are joining in a special campaign to mark the day: Awareness Sunday: A Path to Peace. They will mark the day with special services and prayers, as a day of remembrance and reconciliation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, who is patron of the Awareness Foundation, and who was in New York at the time of the attacks said: "Awareness Sunday is acknowledging through education, the urgent need to dispel ignorance and the urgent need to help each one of us to build a path for peace in our diverse, ever-changing world,

"The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu said: "I welcome Awareness Sunday as it seeks to reach out and build better relationships based on mutual respect and understanding."

The campaign is also supported by The Most Revd Dr Desmond Tutu Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town: "This is a wonderful initiative. We need to make each other more aware of our God-given humanity. We need to celebrate our rainbow diversity."

The Revd Nadim Nassar, President of the campaign and curate at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square in London, said it was important that the anniversary was used as a milestone in the continuing path for peace. Listen to the Podcast with Nadim at <http://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/follow-us-online/podcasts.aspx>

A special public service of remembrance and reconciliation for Awareness Sunday will take place at Westminster Abbey at 6.30pm on Sunday 11th September 2011. Other events and services will be held around the country.

The East Africa Crisis Appeal

Leading UK humanitarian agencies have launched a joint appeal to help more than 10 million people in the grip of East Africa's worst drought in over half a century.

Caught up in the crisis are thousands of families trekking for days across parched scrubland from Somalia to Kenya – including barefoot children with no food or water. These people have seen their lives fall apart – crops, livestock and now their homes have been taken by the drought.

Large areas of Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia are affected and the DEC appeal will also include South Sudan –the world's newest country.

Church News

More than 1,300 people a day, the majority of them children, are arriving in the Dadaab refugee camp in eastern Kenya near the border with Somalia. The Dadaab camp was already the world's largest refugee camp with a population of 350,000 – larger than the city of Leicester.

Agencies are working through local partners to access remote and difficult to reach areas across East Africa. Despite the enormous challenges, DEC agencies and their partners have already been helping hundreds of thousands of people - but their work is being severely hampered by a lack of funding.

The UK has taken a lead among the world's governments with a pledge of £38m to the World Food Programme of the UN, which will provide the food aid that many of the DEC's members will be distributing. The UN's own appeal is only 40% funded.

The DEC does not set fundraising targets for its appeals and its member agencies are continuing to pursue funding from a range of potential sources to bridge the shortfall in East Africa. Donations can be made at www.dec.org.uk by phone 0370 60 60 900 or by texting 'CRISIS' to 70000 to donate £5 or by post at PO Box 999 London EC3A 3AA.

Organisations

Dramatic Society

As I take over the writing of this missive from Philip McLaughlin (many thanks to him for his sterling notes for the past few years) I am minded of the passage of time. It is a while since I wrote in the Parish Magazine and much water flown under many bridges.

The first play of the season, the 57th, is "Party Piece" by Richard Harris, directed by Katy Bradley. This is a fast-paced and very funny play. Performances take place from 13 – 17 September except Wednesday. Box office opens Saturday 20 August – telephone 0370 770 5945. Tickets are still £5 and £4.50 for concessions. Hopefully it won't be too late to get your tickets when you read this!

The November play will be "The Day After the Fair", an adaptation of Thomas Hardy's short story "On The Western Circuit". A chance meeting between Anna Dunsford, a servant girl, and Charles Bradford, a young, aspiring barrister, at the town fair leads to serious consequences for them and others. A second meeting the next day results in the inevitable, unwanted expectation! Charles returns to London. Anna, who thinks herself genuinely in love, can barely read and write, so asks Edith Harnham, her mistress, to carry on a correspondence with the young man on her behalf. In writing the girl's love letters and reading out his replies, Edith finds herself also falling in love vicariously. Charles, unaware of the deception, proposes marriage to Anna when he hears that she is pregnant. Only when it is too late does he discover the true identity of the writer of the letters that have so bewitched him - the person with whom he is really in love.

If you've seen any of our plays, or even if you haven't, and you want to get involved – on-stage, backstage or welcoming the audience, there's no time like the present, contact our new Secretary, Philip McLaughlin on 01772 749841.

Organisations

And if you wish to become a patron, particularly for those good seats on Tuesdays, contact our Patrons Secretary, Ann Taylor on 01772 743699.

Until next month, may time pass gently for you all.

Graham Blackhurst

Mothers' Union

Summer is almost over. I hope you have all enjoyed the long break. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th September at 2.00 pm when Mr Paul Needham will talk about 'Lancashire Tea'.

Please note we will meet in the Club Room not the Main Hall.

Muriel Brown

Guild of St. Mary

Our first meeting this Autumn is on September 26th at 7.30 pm in the Guild Room. All ladies from the parish are most welcome.

Mr. Gordon Fletcher will be telling us all about 'The History of Fisherman's Friend'. These are the lovely, medicated lozenges still made today in Fleetwood and sold all

Charities

Children's Society

It is now time for the September half-yearly Children's Society collection. It would be helpful if contributors could bring their boxes round to 6, Blundell Lane.

All contributions are welcome from a box or as a donation.

Adrienne Nelson

Teddy Update

A very sincere thank-you to everyone who knits Teddies and sews bags for them. The total now stands at 4,731. These little bears are very much appreciated at International Aid Trust from where they begin their long journey to poor children in deprived areas of the world—so please keep knitting. Thank you.

Annual Shoe Box Appeal

Now is the time to consider if you can help with this annual appeal by collecting suitable items to put in a shoe box—pens, pencils, felt-tips, crayons, rubbers, notebooks, flannel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, small toys, boiled sweets (not chocolate) and perhaps a knitted teddy. Please cover the lid and base separately in Christmas paper, enclose a card if you wish, and label the box with age of child it is suitable for please. All boxes to be returned to me at 1 The Grove or Church, by November 13th please—they will then go to International Aid Trust who will distribute them abroad where the need is greatest. Let us try and do 100 boxes this year.

Very Many Thanks -

Jenifer Pattinson

Calendar

1 st	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance (Church)
	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation Group (Church)
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance (Church)
3 rd	9.00 am	Farmers' Market
4 th	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) with Junior Church
6 th	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union
7 th	12.00 noon	Ecumenical Prayer Group—St Mary Magdelene's
8 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation Group (Church)
11 th	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) Parade
15 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance (Church)
	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation Group (Church)
17 th	19.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance (Church Hall)
	13 th —17 th (excluding Wednesday) Dramatic Society Play	
18 th	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) with Junior Church
22 nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation Group (Church)
25 th	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
26 th	7.30 pm	Guild of St Mary
29 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation Group (Church)



It Happened in September

It was....

- 350 years ago:- on 1st Sept 1661 that the first known yacht race took place. King Charles II of England won a race against his brother James on the Thames, from Greenwich to Gravesend and back.
- 150 years ago: on 23rd Sept 1861 that Robert Bosch, German engineer and founder of the Bosch company, was born.
- 125 years ago: on 1st Sept 1886 that the Severn Railway Tunnel between England and Wales opened.
- 100 years ago: on 19th Sept 1911 that Sir William Golding, British novelist, was born. He is best known for his novel 'Lord of the Flies'.
- 80 years ago: on 17th Sept 1931 that RCA-Victor demonstrated the first 33.3 rpm long-playing record in New York.
- Also 80 years ago: on 21st Sept 1931 that Britain abandoned the gold standard.
- 75 years ago: on 6th Sept 1936 that British aviation pioneer Beryl Markham became the first person to fly non-stop from Britain to North America, and the first woman to fly solo from east to west across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 70 years ago: on 1st Sept 1941 that Nazi Germany issued a decree ordering all Jews in Germany and occupied territories to wear a yellow Star of David badge.
- 65 years ago: on 5th Sept 1946 that Freddie Mercury, Zanzibar-born British rock singer and songwriter (Queen) was born.
- Also 65 years ago: on 19 Sept 1946 that Winston Churchill gave a speech in Zurich calling for a United States of Europe, and the creation of a Council of Europe. (It was founded in May 1949)
- 60 years ago: on 23rd Sept 1951 that King George VI of the UK underwent surgery for lung cancer. He died four months later.
- 50 years ago: on 11th Sept 1961 that the World Wildlife Fund was founded in Switzerland.
- Also 50 years ago: on 17th Sept 1961 that the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) held a sit-down demonstration in Trafalgar Square, London, to protest against the building of the Berlin Wall. More than 1,300 people were arrested.
- 40 years ago: on 15th Sept 1971 that Greenpeace, the international environmental group, was founded in Vancouver, Canada.
- 25 years ago: on 7th Sept 1986 that Desmond Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town; the first black person to lead the Anglican Church in South Africa.
- 15 years ago: on 27th Sept 1996 that the Taliban seized control of Kabul, Afghanistan.
- 10 years ago: on 11th Sept 2001 that the Twin Towers in New York were brought down in a terrorist attack. 2,973 people were killed.

The Parish Thanks

ALTAR FLOWERS

4 th Sept ember	Vacant
11 th September	The Wilding family, in memory of Ian Stuart Wilding
18 th September	Christine Adams, in memory of Loved Ones
25 th September	Mrs Greaves in memory of Frank & Grace Markland



CLEANING ROTA

1 st September	Group 2
8 th September	Group 3
15 th September	Group 1
22 nd September	Group 2
29 th September	Group 3

ALTAR LINEN
September
Mrs Hazel Henebury



CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Thursday 1 st September	10.00 to 12.00 noon at Church
Saturday 3 rd September	10.00 to 12.00 noon at Church
Thursday 15 th September	10.00 to 12.00 noon at Church
Saturday 17 th September	10.00 to 12.00 noon at Church Hall

Matters of Faith

HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS

1st September - Giles of Provence d.c. 710

St Giles was an immensely popular saint in the Middle Ages, and no wonder: he was the patron saint of cripples. In those days, there must have been many people who, once injured, were never really whole again. Even today, a serious injury – either physical or mental or emotional, can leave us damaged for months, years or even longer. At such times, we, too, find inspiration in others who, though also damaged by life, have not been overwhelmed.

St Giles was probably born in Provence, southern France early in the 7th century. The 10th century *Legenda Aurea* (Golden Legend) tells us he lived as a holy hermit deep in the forest of Nimes, near the mouth of the Rhone. A hind, or Red Deer, was his only companion. Then one day, while out hunting, King Wamba spotted the deer, and pursued it. The hind fled back to St Giles for protection. King Wamba shot an arrow which missed the deer, but pierced the saint who was protecting it. Thus the king encountered the saint. The saint's acceptance of his injury, and his holiness greatly impressed the king, who conceived a great admiration for St Giles.

In the end, much good came out of the original harm of the encounter, for the king built St Giles a monastery in his valley, Saint-Gilles-du-Gard. The little monastery was put under the Benedictine rule, and became a source of blessing for the area roundabout. In later years, St Giles' shrine would become an important pilgrimage centre on the route for both Compostela and the Holy Land, as well as in its own right.

Matters of Faith

There is a further story connected with St Giles. Another legend tells how an emperor sought forgiveness from him for a sin so terrible he dared not even confess it. While St Giles said Mass, he saw written for him by an angel the nature of the sin in question. But his prayers for the emperor were so efficacious that the letters naming the sin faded away. As Christians we know that the Bible urges us to pray for others, no matter how hopelessly bad they seem, because Christ's mercy and forgiveness are extended to everyone who truly turns to him and repents.

St Giles, the crippled saint who helped others find wholeness with God, became patron saint of cripples, lepers and nursing mothers. In England 162 ancient churches are dedicated to him, as well as at least 24 hospitals. The most famous of these are St Giles in Edinburgh and St Giles in Cripplegate, London. In art St Giles is represented as either a simple abbot with staff, or protecting the hind, or saying the Mass, and thus interceding for the emperor.

3rd September - Gregory the Great c 540 – 604

Pope Gregory never called himself 'the Great', but instead 'the Servant of the Servants of God'. Nevertheless, Gregory was one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. The son of a very rich Roman senator, he left the service of the State upon his conversion as a young man. Gregory then sold off his tremendous estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome, and gave generously to the poor. He became a monk and adopted an austere lifestyle. But he was destined to be a frustrated monk, because successive popes kept appointing him to jobs with major public responsibilities.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, 'They are Angles.' Moved with compassion for these humiliated and despised men, he replied, 'They are not Angles, but angels!' He wanted to lead a band of missionaries to England to evangelise the Angles, but then plague broke out in Italy, and during this time he was elected Pope.

Reluctantly he accepted, and then sent to work to deal with the crises facing Christendom: plague, floods, famine, and a Lombard invasion. But busy though Gregory was, he did not forget the Angles. He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

8th September - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In both eastern and western churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour. Thomas Aquinas believed she was due *hyperdulia*, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or *latria*, due to God alone.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or *Magnificat* appears in Luke 1:46-55.

Matters of Faith

The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching.

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called *Theotokos*, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2 February), the Annunciation (25 March), the Assumption (15 August) and her Nativity (8 September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her.

During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed. The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church.

Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico).

28th September - Lioba (d. 782)

What really gets a woman remembered? Loved? Respected? Lioba the abbess of Bischofsheim is the patron saint for any woman who wants to make the most of her life.

Lioba was born in Wessex early in the 8th century. Her family was noble, her mother was a relative of the monk Boniface (the Billy Graham of the day, in that he was the apostle and then archbishop of Germany).

Lioba was educated first at the nunnery of Minster-in-Thamet and then at Wimborne, Dorset. She became a nun. After some years correspondence with Boniface, he invited her to Germany to help him evangelise the people by establishing convents. Convents were sort of the 'Fresh Expressions' of church in those days.

And so Lioba left Dorset with 30 nuns and went to Tauberbischofsheim, where she established a convent. She was a wonderful 'ambassador' of Christianity, for people found her both beautiful and accessible, intelligent and patiently kind. She became so highly esteemed that soon her advice was sought by magnates of both Church and State.

Lioba's convents followed the Rule of St Benedict: all her nuns learned Latin as well as manual work in scriptorium, kitchen, bakery, brewery, and garden. Above all, the regular public prayer of the Church was upheld.

Learning, hard work, and love of God: those were the factors that made Lioba who she was. Her walk with God was evident in her inner strength and dignity, her goodness and kindness. No wonder that even 50 years after her death, the local people were still talking of her with great affection.

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED

For those recently baptised

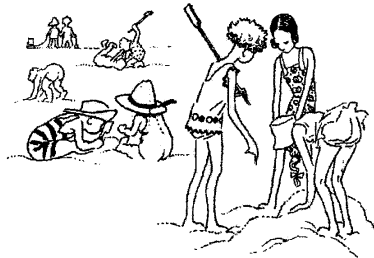
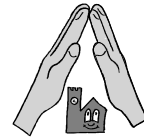
- 26th June Penny Rose Walmsley, the daughter of David Joseph Walmsley and Mikayla Anne Morgan
Thomas Barrie Case, the son of Christopher Paul Case and Sarah Elizabeth Case
- 17th July Thomas James Tompson, the son of Paul Howard Tompson and Sarah Jane Tompson
- 31st July Ellie-May Drake, the daughter of David Anthony Drake and Zoey Dale Ward
Emily Rose Andrews, the daughter of Jamie Andrews and Jenny Lee Oldfield
- 7th August Daisy Campbell and Oliver John Christopher Campbell, the daughter and son of Andrew John Campbell and Joanne Campbell

For those who have recently married

- 13th August Joseph James Harkin and Heather Jane Warren

For those who have recently died

Barbara Jones
Shirley Gillibrand



It was unfortunate that the Sunday School seaside outing forgot where they had buried the minister.

Church service

A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

No men

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

Miscellaneous

Do you know where you're going to?

Billy Graham, the great American evangelist, told this story at one of his last public appearances:

'Albert Einstein, the great physicist, was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

'The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it." Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back in dismay and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket."

'Einstein looked at him and said sadly, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know, is where I'm going!"

Graham concluded: 'When you hear I'm dead, I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am, I also know where I'm going."

Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

Wedding

This is a true story: My parents had been invited to a wedding, and I was about 4. They went shopping for a wedding present -- a silver teapot, as I recall -- in a very posh shop.

Anyway, the assistant asked if he could help them, and my Dad said they needed a wedding present. At the top of my lungs, in a totally shocked child's voice, I asked "Are you and Mummy getting married, Daddy?" *A Holland.*

Door-to-door

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, two young church members were going door to door to invite people to visit their services. When they knocked on one door, it was immediately clear the woman who answered was not happy to see them. She told them in no uncertain terms that she did not want to hear their message, and slammed the door in their faces.

To her surprise, however, the door did not close; in fact, it bounced back open. She tried again, really putting her back into it, and slammed it again with the same result - the door bounced back open. Convinced these rude young people were sticking their foot in her door, she reared back to give it a slam that would teach them a lesson. Just then, one of them said quietly: "Ma'am, before you do that again, you really need to move your cat."

Wave away

It is a tradition that the Queen and other members of the royal family go Royal Ascot for the horse racing each year. They drive slowly and people come to wave. A former teacher told me that years ago, she worked at a school on the Queen's route and told her class of little children that if they came back to where the school was a couple of hours after school had finished with their parents, and looked out for a black car travelling slowly with flowers on it, it would be the Queen, and they could cheer as she went past.

At breaktime, she went into the staffroom, and the teachers in there heard a great cheering and yelling from outside. They went to see what was going on, and they saw all the children near the school railings, loudly cheering and waving while a hearse was going by. The headmistress said, "Well, at least he got a good send-off." – *A Holland*

What time is your stress?

If you are a mother, you probably already know this: but 5.55pm is the most stressful time of the day for you. That is the moment when, already tired from your own day, you are trying to persuade your children to 'eat up' so that they will not be late for after-school activities.

It is followed by 7.15pm (bath-time), 8.45pm (bed-time) and in fourth place, 8.20am (school run time). More than half of mothers admit to losing their temper at some point during the day under the strain of juggling different priorities. More than half of mothers admit to serving unhealthy food - simply to save time.

The research, carried out from Betterbathrooms.com, concludes that mothers need at least an hour to themselves each week. "They should run a nice bath, have a glass of wine, pick up a good book, and leave the kids with dad."

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

Because of God's grace, failure is never final.

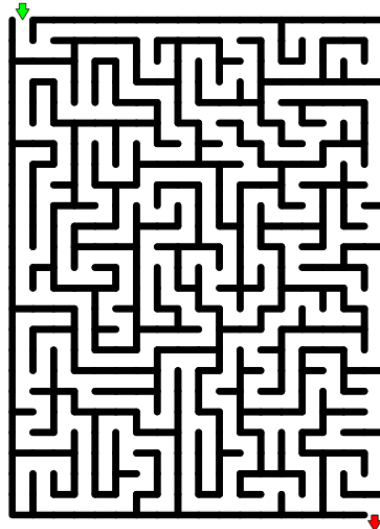
We never do anything so secretly but that it is in the presence of two witness: God and our own conscience.

Miscellaneous

Try your hand at Sudoku. Each box of nine squares must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 and each line (horizontal or vertical) must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. Answers next month

	3			4	8	9		2
		8		3			1	5
		5			7		8	
1	7	2	4				5	
4								8
	8				3	2	9	4
	5		8			6		
3	6			5		8		
8		4	3	7			2	

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Answer to last month's Sudoku

6	8	3	2	5	9	7	4	1
7	5	1	6	4	8	9	2	3
2	4	9	3	1	7	5	6	8
8	1	6	9	2	5	3	7	4
3	2	5	8	7	4	6	1	9
4	9	7	1	3	6	2	8	5
1	6	4	5	9	2	8	3	7
5	3	8	7	6	1	4	9	2
9	7	2	4	8	3	1	5	6

Get something out of it

Coming out of church, the wife asked her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?" Her husband looked vague. "And that dress Mrs. Hansen was wearing," she continued, "Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper costume for a mother of two." Her husband looked blank. "Oh, for heaven's sake," snapped his wife. "A lot of good it does you to go to church!"

Show me a sane man and I will cure him for you. *Carl Gustav Jung*

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. *Anita Koddick*

If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes. *The Houghton Line, November 1965*

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon. *Susan Ertz*

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. *Dr. Seuss*

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. *Foe Ancis*

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. *Lionel Kauffman*