



The Church of Saint Paul

Burton upon Trent



September 2026 Newsletter



CLERGY DETAILS

Rev Simon Archer	revsimonarcher@gmail.com	Tel: 01283 902157
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Retired Clergy Rev Trevor Thurston-Smith		

OFFICERS

Churchwardens	Colin Dawson	Tel: 01283 516714
	John Woolley	Tel: 01283 532748
PCC Secretary	Maureen Woolley	Tel: 01284 532748
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Safeguarding Officer	Sue Ganley	Tel: 07852 473250
Hall Booking enquiries	John Woolley	Tel: 01283 532748
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SERVICES

<u>St Paul's</u>	Sundays	10.45am	Sung Mass
	Thursdays	12 noon	Holy Communion
<u>St John</u>	Sundays	9.15am	Sung Mass
<u>the Divine</u>	Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion

ST PAUL'S CHURCH IS OPEN 10.30am – 4.00pm MOST DAYS

For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the clergy

Fr Simon's day off is Friday

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4195/>

Donations for St Paul's Church will be gratefully accepted

Lloyds Bank

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September 2026 for St Paul's Newsletter

As I write this article, we are coming to the end of August 2026. Traditionally, a month of rest, renewal and recreation. For those able to afford it, there might have been a holiday, at home or overseas; time beside the sea, a river or mountains. Perhaps time trying to avoid the baking heat that has lasted many weeks. Maybe a city break, in Britain or further afield.

If we have travelled, we will have needed to pack. At the moment, I am trying to sort out the gear required for our annual trip to the Greenbelt festival. That means gathering everything from mugs and packet food to hauling the tent, camping beds, sleeping bags, stove, fuel and kettle, crockery, table and chairs out of the under-stairs cupboard.

And there will be clothes required – covering all eventualities, even with the heatwave, now that the weather forecasters are talking about thundery showers. Living out in a field for several days, even in August, means it can turn cold in the evenings, too.

So, no chance of packing light. I always admire my festival siblings who make it there by train or coach, carrying all they need on their backs and one or two additional bags.

When Jesus sent his twelve disciples on a mission journey, in the Gospel of Matthew, he gave them directions on where to go and amongst whom he was sending them ('apostle' meaning 'one who is sent'). He also told them: 'Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food.'

You can only really pack that light if you are travelling together, in partnership or community. You can only do so also if you are journeying in the hopeful

expectation of making friends on the way. The apostles surely will need someone to offer them a cup of water, perhaps a clean shirt, or a place to rest their weary heads.

The apostles need to be stepping out in trust, able to rely on one another and on the strangers they will encounter on the way. If they pack absolutely everything they might possibly need, they won't need one another or need to make new friends.

In the Lord's wisdom, there is a sense of freedom, even joy, to be found in packing light, trusting that the community you will encounter will help meet your needs. Each traveller can offer at least a small bit of what they have received from God, the giver of all good gifts. And they also learn to receive, with true gratitude, what a fellow traveller may offer them. When fellow pilgrims enter this situation, one of giving and receiving, then love can be discovered in the exchange. The possibility of seeing one another's need, recognising our common humanity, as people each made in the image of God, and seeking to meet need, as little as we may think we have to offer. Even that little could be life-changing to someone, who feels seen, known and valued. Friendships are made, community found, lives sustained.

To pack and travel lighter, to make room for community, we need to believe that our needs will be met by God's abundance. Too often we think – or are encouraged to think – in terms of scarcity, particularly in a church struggling with lack of finance and a lack of volunteers.

I *will* try to travel as light as possible to Greenbelt. Thank the Lord I have no need of hair-straighteners - or even a comb.

And being among the community that is created there every year, one including people of faith (and of none), sharing a desire to change the world for the better, to learn and show the power of love, mercy and justice, perhaps to dance with one another, including strangers, under the stars, it becomes a special space of being and sharing.

It will, at the same time, involve some deep reflection and a willingness to be open to others' stories that can often be hard to hear – whether from people caught up in the violence of Gaza and the West Bank, of Ukraine, or places of climate change

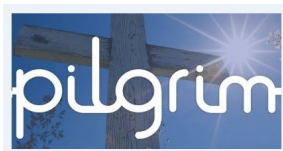
devastation. This year at Greenbelt there will be a stream about the threatening rise of so-called 'Christian' nationalism, and ideas on how to counter it, peacefully, in an informed way and in the light of Jesus' teaching on care for the stranger, the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned.

One year, when I was planning to head off to Greenbelt, I was encouraged, well-meaningly I'm sure, by someone to 'enjoy your break', as if it was some kind of jolly. In the fields, there are usually challenging issues to learn about. But because we will do so together, with fellow pilgrims of goodwill and creativity, each year we go with the confidence that we will discover how the love of God in Jesus Christ can make a difference.

And perhaps we learn how to travel that bit lighter into the future, renewed in faith and hope, and ready to give and receive more readily.

Fr Simon

Our Bible and nurture course



will begin on Saturday, 5th September at 9am.
then first & third Saturday of each month
at Red Lion House Community Centre, Horninglow.

All are welcome, as we explore the Christian faith together and see how
it can be lived out each day.

If you would like to know more, please speak to Fr Simon.
Tel: 01283 902157

PARISH NOTES

We are having approximately 650 hits on our website each week which is a fantastic amount. It would be lovely to have some feedback from the people who look at the site.	Standing Committee meeting on Thursday 17th September at 12.45pm. PCC on Thursday 1st October at 12.45pm.
Deanery Synod meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm.	We have a new server called Aaron who has join our team. He is a very quick learner and has settled in nicely.
We shall be having another Quiz – lookout for the date and get a team together. The last quiz was very enjoyable.	Harvest Festival is on 4th October. Donations of non perishable foods for the YMCA foodbank.
Fr Simon wants to start a Book Group to read together a book (spirituality, Bible, other) and meet monthly informally to discuss what we've read. If you would be interested in joining in, please let Fr Simon know.	We will be having a Ploughman's Lunch on Tuesday 13th October at 12 noon.
The vicar and churchwardens of St Paul's and St John's will meet with the Archdeacon's representatives (the rural dean, Dr Robin Trotter and Deanery chairman Doug Brown) in early September. This is an opportunity to discuss concerns and governance issues and share advice for the smooth operation of the parish.	

Feast of St Michael and all angels 29th September

St Michael the archangel is considered to be the greatest of all the angels, as messenger of God bringing peace and justice; and his feast is celebrated at Michaelmas on September 29.

The book of Revelation chap 12 describes a vision.

“A woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, with twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and in labour. A huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns appears. It’s tail drags stars from the sky and the dragon stopped in front of woman as she was having the child to eat it as soon as it was born. And now a war broke out in heaven and Michael and the angels attacked the dragon who was defeated and driven out of heaven. The great dragon known as the devil or Satan who has deceived the world was hurled down to the earth.”

In the Book of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s golden statue false god and were thrown into the fiery furnace singing praises to God and were rescued by an angel. Daniel also has an apparition of an angel sent by the archangel Michael to tell Daniel that he has been specially chosen and to be strong, and tells of the future and how Michael stands guard over the people of Israel.

In the Great West window in St Paul’s Michael has a sword across his neck and holds scales in left hand, he is the protector and brings justice. Above him is Christ crowned and holding a scroll “Saviour of the world” his right hand raised in blessing.

There is a splendid wooden statue of St Michael on the north side of the nave. It shows an armoured St Michael the archangel killing a wingless dragon. In a west window, now in the kitchen, St Michael is shown with other archangels. He is standing on and killing a splendidly depicted winged green dragon, overcoming the devil and thus overcoming evil.

Like the angels, we love praising God with Hymns. There are many hymns featuring angels each with its own flavour. “Stars



of the morning, so gloriously bright” asks “Who like the Lord?” “thunders Michael the chief”, reflecting the meaning of his name, like God. And the favourite “Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels” which prays...

*Send thine archangel Michael from thy presence:
peacemaker blessed, may he hover o’er us,
hallow our dwellings, that for us thy children
all things may prosper*

Father almighty, Son and Holy spirit, thine is the glory which the angels worship
JWW

Many thanks to those who supported our Coffee Morning and the Take a Break recently. We had really good turnouts and it was lovely to see a lot of people enjoying the company and having a good natter. Thanks as always to Colin for the delicious goodies. Our next Coffee Morning will be in aid of Macmillan Cancer on Tuesday 29th September at 10.00am.

KNIT & NATTER

Our July meeting the group painted these pretty garden stencils. [thanks Pat for the materials].



The August meeting Gill based her idea on Indian feather jewellery. The items are made from the seams of old denim jeans! Then threads removed, and decorated as you wish. We think they all look stunning. Well done Gill.

Come and join our friendly group. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th September at 10.00am.



Congratulations to Dorcas and Edmund on the birth of Everita born on 22nd July. A sister for Johnson.

The family will be moving to New Mexico very shortly as Edmund is joining the Military.

FROM THE WOOLLEYS...

Our holiday this year was up north in Craster, Northumberland. On our journey we saw the “Angel of the North” statue – not quite as we imagined it as it was sited quite close to a road.



We visited Lindisfarne - Ali, James & Mick were very happy when we arrived there as it was their first taste of a crab sandwich! [they did indulge in more during the week!] We went towards the castle and saw the statue of St Aidan [we hummed the tune to the hymn of the northern saints – “raise the ancient banner” as we walked passed].

We went to Amble several times where John enjoyed a swim in the sea. On one of the days Mick & James decided to go mackerel fishing. It was hilarious - as we saw the boat returning Mick cried out that he needed buckets. Ali rushed to find a shop to purchase some. Apparently they had caught 15 mackerel. We had to go back to our cottage quickly so they could clean them. They ate several of them for their supper and froze the rest. [this meant that we had to transport frozen mackerel on our way home].

Northumberland was not the place to go for fish and chips as up north they cook everything in beef fat – not suitable for a vegetarian!

We enjoyed our holiday and we will hopefully go back again.

John and Maureen celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 7th August. We had a lovely get together with family and friends at the Spread Eagle.

Ali had several surprises up her sleeve. She borrowed a mannequin and displayed my wedding dress, had a flower arrangement made of similar flowers that were in my bouquet and gave us corsages to wear.



We were thrilled that at the Mass on Sunday Ali surprised us by singing **“the Wedding Song”** from the opera Ptolemy by George Frederic Handel - lovely words
“ Father in heaven abiding,

Who hears our prayers at all times:

*Grant that these pledges given and taken with Thy blessing,
may bring to these, Thy servants, a joy never known before;*

That, in these years to follow, increases more and more.

*Give them the grace of Angels, give them a constant charity
and faith in the peace of heaven which we, with them, may see.*

Father and Son and Spirit, with prayers from thy Saints and Angels:

*Grant that these pledges given and taken with Thy blessing,
may bring to these Thy servants a joy never known before,
Love in a new fulfilment, increasing more and more”.*

Grateful thanks to Colin and Pat for making a beautifully decorated celebration cake for us.

After the celebrations we spent five days relaxing at Mick’s house in Upper Quinton.



Ali put together this Golden Fun Quiz

1. What popular breakfast product was perfected in 1874 by James Robertson?
2. Canis Lupus Familiaris is the scientific name for what dog?
3. The Gold Coast is which country's theme park capital and renowned for its pristine sandy beaches and legendary surf breaks?
4. '*All that glisters is not gold*' is a line from which Shakespeare play?
5. By the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas, how many gold rings would you have?!
6. Which Olympian holds the record for the most Gold Medals won (across five Summer Olympic Games)?
7. In September 2019, a solid gold toilet was stolen from which building?
8. Kate Hudson is the daughter of which American actress, famous for starring in films *Private Benjamin* and *Death Becomes Her*?
9. Carte D'Or is an ice cream produced by which company?
10. Gold refined to a high standard and kept in the form of bars, ingots or coins is called what?
11. Jason and the Argonauts go in search of what mythical prized relic?
12. Referring to a satellite weapon, what is the title of Pierce Brosnan's first James Bond film?
13. *The Golden Apples of the Sun* and *Fahrenheit 451* are novels by which author?
14. What song written and sung by Sting was inspired by the land surrounding his home?
15. Whose mask was made of 10kg of solid gold inlaid with gemstones?
16. Rose gold is made of gold blended with what other metal?
17. The Golden Record is a disk portraying Earth's life and culture, serving as a message to extra-terrestrials, aboard which spacecraft?
18. *All in the Golden Afternoon* is a song in which Disney animated film, based on a Lewis Carroll poem?
19. Which footballer was affectionately given the nickname *Golden Balls* by his wife?]
20. What name is given to the special mathematical proportion that appears frequently in nature, art and design?

- 21. The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez is a short story involving which great detective, who deduces from the lone piece of evidence of the spectacles that the murderer is a woman of refinement with a thick nose and whose eyes are close together?
- 22. Which song did The Four Tops originally record in 1964 before The Tremeloes released their more successful version in 1967?
- 23. James Galway is a virtuoso with what nickname?
- 24. Starring Chaplin in his Tramp persona, what 1925 film was also written, produced and directed by Charlie Chaplin?
- 25.Which character finds the final golden ticket to enter Willy Wonka’s secretive factory



Fr Paul [former priest of St Paul’s 1999 to 2013] and Darquise celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 22nd August with a Eucharist at St Mary’s Church, Tutbury followed by a buffet and barn dance at Tutbury Village Hall.

Fr Paul has retired from his position as priest at Chislehurst and is now house-for-duty priest at Coven near Wolverhampton .

PRAYER DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

1	St Giles of Provence c 710	War-torn areas
2	New Guinea martyrs 1901 and 1942	Our priests
3	St Gregory the Great 604	the new school term. Pupils & teachers

4		Those awaiting surgery
5	St Birinus bishop 650	those having difficulty in relationships
6	TRINITY 14 Allen Gardiner missionary 1851	St Giles Hospice. Patients & staff
7		those who care for the housebound
8	Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary	the new born and their parents
9	Charles Fuge Lowder priest 1880	The situation in Gaza
10		Burton Queens Hospital – staff and patients
11		the human and divine nature of Christ
12		for retired priests in the deanery
13	TRINITY 15 John Chrysostom 407	Job seekers
14	Holy Cross Day	the victory of the cross
15	St Cyprian bishop and martyr 258	Our churchwardens
16	St Ninian bishop c 432	Students starting university
17	St Hildegard 1179	charity workers
18		Those affected by the recent landslide in Nepal and Tibet
19	St Theodore of Canterbury c 602 to 690	administrators and office workers
20	TRINITY 16 John Coleridge Patterson and others martyrs in Melanesia 1871	the work of the Mothers Union

21	St Matthew apostle and evangelist	Those with terminal illnesses
22		The bereaved
23		Our armed forces
24		Our PCC
25		understanding between different nations
26	Lancelot Andrewes bishop and writer 1626	Authors
27	TRINITY 17 St Vincent de Paul founder of the Congregation of the Mission 1660	Charity workers
28		The famine in Eastern Africa
29	St Michael and All Angels	the glory of God in heaven and messengers to earth Our Macmillan Coffee Morning
30	St Jerome 420	Lay readers

From the Anniversary of Death book we remember in September Doris Hall, Margaret McKernan, Brian Ward, Arthur Underhill, Frederick Caldwell, Ron Staley, Barbara May Gooding, Doris Selmes, Queen Elizabeth II, Norma Totty, Elizabeth Yates, Nigel Payne, Keith Gooding, Derek Ward, Phillip Chambers	<i>Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.</i> <i>May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.</i>
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RELAXING

Father, so often I fail to find you in my praying,
despite all my best efforts. I enter grimly into prayer,
trying to gather up all my wandering thoughts
and suppress them, control them for you.

I seek your presence, Lord,
attempting to clear my mind of all possible distractions,
all conceivable interruptions.

Yet, no matter how I concentrate my thoughts thread their way back
to the business of my daily life and work.

Am I so wrong in this Lord?

Surely if these are the things that concern me
the matters around which my life revolves,
then they should form the content of my prayers.

When will I learn that prayers are not time set aside from life,
reserved for thinking pure and holy thoughts,
but prayer is a lifelong dialogue with yourself
concerning all that is important in my life.

Help me now, not to concentrate but rather to relax.

Convince me that I cannot raise myself
into your holy presence by sheer determination,
that you are always already here, and all I have to do
is to open myself to your presence.

Help me to be myself in my praying, Lord.

Taken from a Diary of Daily Prayer

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Lord, give me I pray:

A remembering heart for the things that have happened

An attentive heart to what I have heard

A forgiving heart for what has hurt

A grateful heart for what has blessed

A brave heart for what may be required

An open heart to all that may come

A trusting heart for You and all Your creation

A longing heart for the reconciliation of all things

A willing heart to say "yes" to what You will.

Leighton Ford taken from Prayers for Today

To St Paul’s Church

Dear All

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the Food Bank. Your generosity and commitment make a real difference, The Food Bank is a vital service for our community. Every day we see first-hand the challenges many people face, and the growing need for emergency food support. The service relies entirely on the generosity of our community and the donations we receive to ensure we can continue providing this essential help.

Over the past year, demand has increased beyond expectations, with record numbers of people accessing the Food Bank. Your help will ensure the service remains sustainable and available for those who need it most. We simply could not continue our work without the kindness and support of others, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to helping our cause. At a time when so many individuals and families are facing increasing hardship, our services are more essential than ever. Your donation enables us to respond directly to this growing need within our local community by providing vital food supplies for emergency food parcels, ensuring that no one is left without support.

This is the reality many in our community are facing, and we are doing everything we can to meet this demand and support those experiencing food poverty.

On behalf of everyone at YMCA Burton, thank you once again for your kindness, generosity, and continued support of our charity.

Yours sincerely

Julia Taylor Foodbank Co-ordinator

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Macmillan COFFEE MORNING 29th September 10.00am in the Church Hall	CRAFTS, KNIT & NATTER Tuesday 15th September 10.00am in the Church Hall All welcome
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QUIZ
IN THE CHURCH HALL
date to be arranged - book your team

Puzzle time

Answers to the emblems of saints

ACROSS:

3 Ivan	5 Judas	6 Augustine	8 Peter	9 Simon
10 Adrian	11 Agnes	13 Sebastian	14 Matthew	
17 Bartholomew		18 Christopher	19 Lucy	20 Cecily

DOWN:

1 James	2 Laurence	4 Alban	5 John	7 Thomas
10 Ambrose	12 Patrick	15 Matthias	16 Paul	

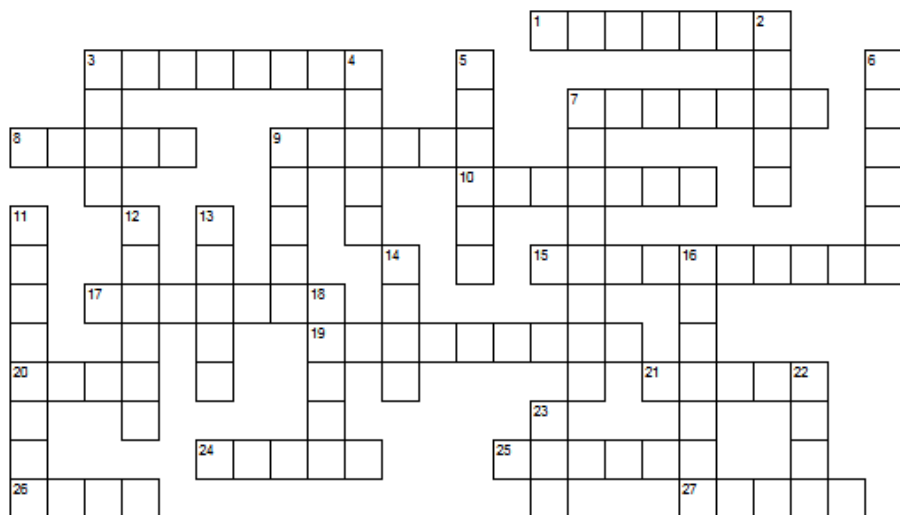
Answers to Quiz about Summer Saints:

1. St Mary Magdelene
2. St Francis of Assisi
3. St Lawrence
4. St Christopher
5. The Assumption
6. St Lawrence
7. St Brendan
8. St Isidore of Seville
9. St Augustine
10. St Fiacre

Trivia Quiz about September

(Answers will be given next month)

1. Which famous structure officially opened in September 1973?
2. Why did September 1752 only have 19 days in Britain and its colonies?
3. Which major event in 1939 began on September 1.
4. What does the Latin root of 'September' mean, and why is it inaccurate today?
5. Which band released the hit song 'Wake me Up When September Ends'?
6. What specific calendar date does Earth, Wind and Fire sing about in the opening line of 'September'?
7. Which classic 1993 movie stars standard-September icon Keanu Reeves and features a title named after a different month?
8. What celestial event occurs every year between September 21 and 24?
9. What are the two zodiac signs for people born in September?
10. What is the traditional primary birthstone for September?
11. September is the only month in the English language to share what specific trait with it's letter count?



MISSING WORDS IN HYMN FIRST LINES – CAN YOU FIND THEM?

ACROSS

- 1 In heavenly love
- 3 Give me joy in my heart keep me
- 7 Make me a of your peace
- 8 All people that on do dwell
- 9 Father hear the we offer
- 10 How shall I sing that
- 15 Christ, ever reigning
- 17 O for a thousand to sing
- 19 My God how thou art
- 20 All my on God is founded
- 21 voices ever singing
- 24 My looks up to thee
- 25 Jerusalem the
- 26 Lord and Father of mankind
- 27 Be thou my guardian and my

DOWN

- 2 is thy faithfulness O God my father
- 3 Blest are the in heart
- 4 Amazing how sweet the sound
- 5 I believe and truly
- 6 When a won his spurs
- 7 Come let us join our song
- 9 King of glory, King of
- 11 Loving of thy sheep
- 13 Lord the of your love is shining
- 14 Christ for the world we
- 18 How the name of jesus sounds
- 22 of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
- 23 Immortal invisible ... only wise

READERS ETC FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

		Reader	Prayers	Offertory
6 th Sept Trinity 14 Proper 18	Ezekiel 33.7-11 Psalm 119.33-40 Romans 13.8-14 Matthew 18.15-20	Tom Foster	Clergy	Svetlana
13 th Sept Trinity 15 Proper 19	Genesis 50.15-21 Psalm 103.[1-7]8-13 Romans 14.1-12 Matthew 18.21-35	Susan Monkhouse	John Woolley	Sue Sweeney Valerie Cammack
20 th Sept Trinity 16 Proper 20	Jonah 3.10 - 4.11 Psalm 145.1-8 Philippians 1.21-30 Matthew 20.1-16	John Woolley	Maureen Woolley	Tom & Helen Foster
27 th Sept Trinity 17 Proper 21	Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32 Psalm 25.1-8 Philippians 2.1-13 Matthew 21.23-32	Mike Mear	Colin Dawson	Rose Jefferies
4 th October Trinity 18 Proper 22 HARVEST	Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or 28.1-14 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 12.16-30 or Luke 17.11-19	Sue Ganley	Clergy	Olwen & Alan Sharpe
11 th Oct Trinity 19 Proper 23	Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14	Valerie Cammack	Mike Mear	Lilian Keen