

SAINTS OF ENGLAND

ST EDITH OF WILTON

963-987

Feast Day 16 September

Edith was the daughter of Edgar, King of England, and Wilfrida, a noblewoman whom he had carried off from the nunnery at Wilton in Wiltshire. Within a year Wilfrida returned to Wilton with her baby, who was educated by the nuns and where her mother became Abbess.

Edith's learning and sanctity were acknowledged during her short life and she was dedicated to her convent, so much so that when her half-brother, Edmund the Martyr was murdered at Corfe, she refused to become Queen of England as many nobles desired.

A number of "miracles" occurred shortly after Edith's death, and her cause for sainthood was supported by the Kings

Ethelred the Unready, Edmund Ironside, and Canute. Powerful backers indeed.

Twenty-one English churches are dedicated to St Edith, of which, curiously, over a third are in Lincolnshire.

Thank you Jim



THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 12th September 15th after Trinity

I started the week with a Chapter meeting for Rye Deanery clergy at St James the Great in Ewhurst Green. We began with Holy Communion and it was wonderful to be ministered to. I hadn't realized how much I needed that and it has been a great blessing this week.

Next door are having some repointing done and looking out of our sitting room window has been a bit like looking at dust clouds in the desert. Clem has had to clean the leaves of her many houseplants and the builders have just hosed down our window much to the horror of the dogs who took it as a personal affront.

I've noticed that as well as Montbretia it's a very good year for rowan berries. As I travel to and fro between church and home I've seen rowan trees laden and glowing with berries. Apparently you can make wild Rowan Jelly which is good

with venison or seasonal game. Here's an autumn prayer: We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest, and we bless each other that the beauty of this world and the love that created it might be expressed though our

lives and be a blessing to others, now and always. We are planning to celebrate Harvest this year on Sunday 26th September in both churches.

This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy



Westfield Church Services

Sunday 12th September Trinity 15

8.30am BCP Communion

10am Morning Praise

Wednesday 15th September

9.30 Holy Communion Cyprian, Bp of Carthage

2.30pm Funeral of Dan Evans

Saturday 18th September

12.30 Baptism of Isabella Young-Dodge

Sunday 19th September Trinity 16

FSW DONATIONS TO CHURCH PLEASE

8.30am BCP Communion

10am Holy Communion

Monday 20th September

7.15pm **PCC in Church Hall**

OUR HARVEST SERVICE WILL BE ON SUNDAY 26TH

Guestling Church Services

Sunday` 12th September Trinity 15

11am Holy Communion

SHORT MEETING AFTER SERVICE TO TALK ABOUT HARVEST

Sunday 19th September *Trinity 16 on line service only*

Thursday 23rd September NO Choir Practice

Choir practice has had to be cancelled for this Thursday.

Sunday 26th September HARVEST SERVICE

11am Holy Communion

Has anyone got a big builder's bag that Sue and Terry could use for collecting churchyard rubbish and taking it to the tip? Many thanks

Sue Howard writes:

Good morning.....
something I didn't
know about

Yew trees.

Nature never ceases
to amaze me.

We noticed some
acorn-like seeds on a
Yew tree in the Church-
yard. So we asked
some experts what
they were. Here is
their answer...

'They are the unripe
fruits. The "acorn cup"
bit around the base
swells up to become
the red aril of the ripe
fruit. The "acorn" is the
seed, which ends up
buried at the bottom of
a hole, as can be seen
in the ripe fruit on the
left of the first image.'

Amazing! Every day's a
school day!



Germany has a name for the “classic” lawn: it is the *englischer Rasen*, a close-mown, single species turf. Our social media gatepost offers an alternative – a Jiminy Cricket-like cartoon insect



declares that ours is a grasshopper nature reserve and that we are letting the grass grow until the end of the season. This one man has not been to mow a meadow since the first greenish-brown babies started leaping up from between the daisies in early June. On still, sunny days, the inhabitants seem to chirrup their approval. They have brought me to my knees once again. If I whip my glasses off, bend over and nudge my nose between the blades without making any sudden movements, leaning ever closer, I can get within 10 centimetres, and short-sightedness brings close-focusing dividends. A field grasshopper grasps the stem with forelimbs crooked, as if playing an oboe. I cannot make out the individual segments of its stubby antennae, but I can see those eyes very clearly, raised discs with pin-black pupils and rheumy irises, as if it has cataracts. They are patterned like the skin of an old frog. I am surprised by the thick, fine, mammal-like fur sprouting from its underside, not at all like the evenly spaced, bristly hair elsewhere. Its flattened wings are as veined and taut as the back of an elderly person’s hand. Those milky coffee-coloured back legs, cocked to spring, swell in graceful curves from ankle to muscled calf. Time to draw back and leave it to stridulate.

(from the Guardian Country Diary column)

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Trinity 15 Sunday 12th September 2021

Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
 upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
 grant that your people may be fervent
 in the fellowship of the gospel
 that, always abiding in you,
 they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Westfield and Guestling Lectionary Readings

James 3:1-12 Mark 8: 27-end

BCP Readings: for Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Galatians 6:11-end, Matthew 6: 24-end

Lord God,
 defend your Church from all false teaching
 and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
 that we may enjoy eternal life
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Current COVID Guidelines in Church

We have a PCC on Monday 20th when we will be reviewing the COVID guidelines in Westfield. Including keeping the church open as it used to be. Please continue to be mindful of other people who may be more nervous or vulnerable than you are.

**PLEASE THINK ABOUT COMING ON THE COFFEE ROTA SO THAT
 NO-ONE HAS TO DO IT EVERY WEEK**

This article comes from BBC's Travel series 50 Reasons to Love the World

West of Bethlehem, rugged stone-strewn mountains frame a green valley winding into the sun-hazed distance. The West Bank village of Battir nestles onto the side of one of the mountains, its beige stone houses blending into the natural surroundings. From afar, the only other hint of human



inhabitants is the ancient terracing that lines the mountain like a giant staircase.

These terraces are rock-walled agricultural plots that have grown olives and vegetables since antiquity. Such farm designs, along with the ancient spring-fed irrigation system, secured Battir a place on the Unesco World Heritage List in 2014. This ancient landscape couldn't be a more perfect home for an initiative, led by Vivien Sansour, that saves Palestinian heirloom seeds and in turn preserves cultural roots. Sansour didn't start out intending to create

The Palestine Heirloom Seed Library. Born out of a longing to find the traditionally grown Palestinian food she grew up eating, the seed library took root in 2014 when Sansour started asking people in her community for seeds to grow *baladi bandora* ("my country's tomatoes"), a drought-resistant heirloom tomato perfectly adapted to the region. Baladi, the term for heirloom seeds, translates directly as "my country".

I would ask about them and people would say 'Oh, no-one has them anymore', 'Oh it's dead and gone'," said Sansour. "I couldn't surrender to the idea that everything is dead and gone. I insisted in my heart that not everything is lost. I didn't set out thinking I was going to start a seed library; I was just longing for the things I love."

To Sansour, seeds are living beings, and to see heirloom seeds disappearing is a human tragedy. So far, Sansour has saved 47 varieties of Palestinian heirloom seeds, including one of her favourites, the *jazar ahmar* purple carrot, as well as the drought-resistant *J'adii* watermelon, originally from the agricultural city of Jenin in the north.

