



THE BEACON



The Anglican Church of Saint Dunstan

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“And did those feet in ancient times, walk upon England’s mountains green: And was the holy Lamb of God on England’s pleasant pastures seen!” – William Blake, Jerusalem

No one is sure when and how Christianity first came to England, the earliest evidence seems to date from the late 2nd century AD. But we do know that by the time Pope Gregory sent a mission to Britain, led by Augustine of Canterbury, in 597 AD, he found flourishing Christian communities there. Many legends and traditions have sprung up around this question. One of these legends suggests that Christ came as a child to England with Joseph of Arimathea. This idea is immortalized in William Blake’s poem, Jerusalem, now a lovely hymn. We know from the Gospels that Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy follower of Christ who laid Christ’s body in his own tomb after the Crucifixion. The legend grows up that Joseph traveled to England trading for Cornish tin and may have brought the young Jesus with him.

Later legends have Joseph receiving the Holy Grail and traveling to England with it around 63 AD. There he buries it under Glastonbury Tor. The spring known as the Chalice Well is said to flow from that spot. In the Middle Ages Joseph and the Holy Grail become entangled with the Arthurian tales and the quest for the Holy Grail. It is said that Joseph established the first monastery at Glastonbury and built the first wattle church.

Another story involves Joseph climbing up Wearyall (or Wirral) Hill and thrusting his staff into the ground to rest. By morning his staff had taken root. This staff is supposed to be the origin of the Holy Thorn that grows near Glastonbury. The thorn trees flower twice a year around Easter and at Christmas. The trees have been examined and they are not a species native to the British Isles and seem to be of Middle Eastern in origin. In the 17th century the Puritans cut down the thorn tree which they saw as an object of superstition. Local people kept cuttings, though, and from these the current trees are descended. There is a custom of sending a budded branch of the thorn tree to the monarch at Christmas that continues to this day. Christians still climb the hill and tie ribbons to the branches as prayer intentions.

There are some indications that Christianity came to Britain from the east. The dating of Easter and the style of monastic tonsures was like the Eastern Church. But whether Christianity came from the east or with Joseph of Arimathea, Celtic Christianity, as it became known, had a set of distinctive practices that centered around monastic centers and small abbeys. St. Brigid, St. Patrick, St. Columba and the abbess Hilda of Whitby are particular exemplars of Celtic Christianity.

Anglicanism 101

Some have asked about the stand we now have for holding votive or prayer candles. The stand, known as a pricket stand, was given to St. Dunstan's by Bishop Strawn. Donna and Len Kaufer refurbished it and the beautiful kneeler was made by Fr. Bart Ryan and donated to the church. Lighting a candle in prayer is a powerful symbol, full of meaning. Candles symbolize the light of Christ or the light of the Gospel and we see so beautifully and dramatically in the Easter Vigil. The very first action of God in creation was to make light. "And God said 'Let there be light', and there was light."

The votive candles are a sign of prayer or for a special intention. The prayer can be for yourself or someone else. It can be a petition, a prayer for healing, a prayer of thanksgiving or support. When you see a lighted candle you can add your prayers and offer that prayer up to God. When we go, leaving the burning candle behind, we are reminded that our souls never leave the presence of God, in company with His Saints. Prayer is not self-centered, it is God-centered, and an important element is prayer for other people and causes. The candle will not be a substitute for the prayer of your heart, but an accompaniment. A small offering which, in honoring the Saint and giving glory to God, speaks both from the heart and to the heart. Lighting votive candles in church, when asking the prayers of the Saints and thereby to the greater glory of God, is a popular practice in which many millions of Christians around the world find a great deal of inspiration.

Ministry Schedule for September

September 3rd – Trinity XII

Altar Guild Lucille Thornsjo

Acolytes 8:00 Claeys

10:00 Willard

Lector Dick Cochrane

Ushers Dawn DeNio Donna Kaufer

September 10th – Trinity XIII

Altar Guild Jane Spann

Acolytes 8:00 Canada

10:00 Woiwor

Lector Tara Keehr

Ushers Myers and Jerry Keehr

September 17th – Trinity XIV

Altar Guild Dawn DeNio

Acolytes 8:00 Roath

10:00 B. Murphy

Lector Gannon Murphy

Ushers Brian & Dick Davis

September 24th – Trinity XV

Altar Guild Carol Freed & Mary Lou Sharp

Acolytes 8:00 Claeys

10:00 Willard

Lector Mary Lou Sharp

Ushers Amy Fromayan Gannon Murphy

For your prayers our September Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 4	Brian Thornsjo	R.I.P.
	Stephen Hovsepian	Birthday
	Christopher Smith	Birthday
September 5	Jeff Greenwell	Birthday
September 7	Rebecca Osten Visser	Birthday
	Linda Schuette	Birthday
September 8	Jenny Borlik	R.I.P.
September 11	Kim Dufur	Birthday
September 13	Lucille Thornsjo	Birthday
September 15	Kathy Hitesman	Birthday
September 17	Sophie Smith	Birthday
	Judy Wittig	Birthday
	Marisa Lynne Bryden	Birthday
September 19	Gary and Linda Deiters	Wedding Anniversary
	Michael Ryan	R.I.P.
September 20	Richard Andersen	Birthday
September 22	Duane Smith Sr.	Birthday
September 25	Donna Davis	Birthday
September 28	Terri Bloomquist	Birthday
September 29	George Richard Kohan	Birthday
	Fr. Bart	Ordination 1995
September 30	Lynn Bechtol	Birthday

Prayer for a Birthday. Watch over thy child, [N.], O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him where he may be, keeping him unspotted from the world. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Wedding Anniversary. O God, who hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon thy servants, N. and N., that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word, (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it, loving and cherishing it even as his own flesh,) and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient to her husband; and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Anniversary ("Year's Mind") of One Departed. Almighty God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servant [N.], and we pray thee that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, thou wilt receive him more and more into thy joyful service; that he may win, with thee and thy servants everywhere, the eternal victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission Statement of the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan

We are a Traditional Anglican Church – Catholic Faith with the Anglican Tradition

We believe:

- The Bible is the Word of God
- With the Word of God, we hold the Creeds of the Church, the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Creed of St. Athanasius to be sufficient statements of our faith
- We are a Liturgical Church and we celebrate the Seven Sacraments of the Church Catholic
- We recognize three orders of ordained ministry in the Apostolic Succession
- God created us to be His people, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the people of the World.

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