

Hoseanna
(where you go)

We've got a lot of angels this week, for it so happens that, as well as Monday being Michaelmas Day and the festival day of the 3 great archangels, today Oct 2nd is the feast-day of the angels guardian. I know that angels generally have been having a bad press (as they say) these past couple of centuries probably: even in the past few decades, interest in them has waned... perhaps it's even not too unfair to say that people who still believe in angels are often thought of as being a bit odd. The really odd thing of course is that at the same time it's quite fashionable nowadays to believe in spirits and powers and influences, zodiacs and the like — but not angels... at least, not yet. For perhaps after all angels are due for a re-appearance (so to speak) without the accumulation of misunderstandings and prejudices against them that have been built up by bad art and poor theology in past ages. The Jewish and Christian tradition of the existence and function of angels is basically an acknowledgement of the world of spirit — the realities we can't see or hear or touch or taste or smell. That such a world exists is of course denied by many people, especially in ^{board} daylight and out loud. But there's still an awful lot we don't know about our world and about ourselves, and the way people take to astrology or fortune-telling, palmistry and a host of other non-rational or non-physical-science beliefs seems to suggest there is a wide acknowledgement of the world of spirit, of the powers and influences that, for instance, St Paul was very conscious of around him.

God is not limited to using his visible creation to speak to ^{humanity} mankind, to touch the hearts of ^{people} men. And all ^{God's} his creation is interlinked, as we're only now just beginning to find out painfully as regards ourselves and our physical environment. Is it so strange that there should be spirits who care for us, who protect us from evil and harm, who bring us (apparently so fortuitously) into touch with each other, with absent friends; who are, sometimes, God's presence with us. His word, message, inspiration? One of the most charming characters of the ^{turbulent} 16th century, a priest who travelled around much of Europe in the cause of the counter-reformation movement, kept a diary of his travels and prayer: on his way to another city or town, he always prayed for the people there and for the guidance and help of their guardian angel. In his prayer for the prominent people of the day also, he prayed to their guardian angels for their intercession too, for he felt that communities of ^{people} men, and people on whom health or wisdom or fate the lives of so many others depended surely could not be without the interest and protection of God's good spirits, the angels. What we'd maybe call coincidence, strange concurrence, luck, ~~the~~ ^{the} smile of fortune, he had another understanding of. Was he not perhaps closer to the truth? For a song today, "Peter and the Angel" by John Ylvisaker

MUSIC
PRAYERS (A 90) — from a sermon of St Bernard on Ps 90

QQQ (Office 2 Oct)

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