

**Progressive Spiritualists Church Inc.**

**Newsletter**

**AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**



**Matthew 9:37-38**

**Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but  
the workers are few."**

**"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out  
workers into His harvest."**

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### **A Word About Gender Nouns And Pronouns**

A number of (mostly) older sources used in the newsletter have an older style of writing, where "men" or "man" is used to denote people of the earth. This use is originally based on "man of the Manu", being the description of the species traditionally known as mankind. It denotes no gender.

This Church believes that many beings from the higher levels of the unseen worlds have no gender attached, including souls that have passed over. So they are genderless, i.e. there is no male or female.

***This Church considers male and female, man and woman, as equal.***  
Any use of the words "man" or "men" (and any equivalent pronouns) in this newsletter or in any of our other teachings does not indicate otherwise.

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## SERVICES FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Sunday	3rd August	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Sunday	10th August	Helen Payne	
Sunday	17th August	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th August</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>* No Flowers *</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st August</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	

Wednesday	6th August	Rev. Andrew Dinnie
Wednesday	13th August	Rev. Andrew Dinnie
Wednesday	20th August	Rev. Andrew Dinnie
Wednesday	27th August	Rev. Andrew Dinnie

Sunday	7th September	Fathers Day - Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Sunday	14th September	Sharlene Smith	
Sunday	21st September	Rev. Judith Andrews	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th September</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>* No Flowers *</b>

Wednesday	3rd September	Rev. Andrew Dinnie
Wednesday	10th September	Rev. Andrew Dinnie
Wednesday	17th September	Rev. Andrew Dinnie
Wednesday	24th September	Rev. Andrew Dinnie

<b>Sundays</b>	<p><b>Divine Service 10am start</b> (please be early)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Bring a small cut flower for a flower reading (not needed when Holy Communion is held).</li> <li>– Light Morning Tea held after the Divine Service.</li> </ul>
<b>Mondays</b>	<p><b>Healing 7:10pm to 7:50pm</b> (last client 7:40pm)</p> <p><b>Open Circle – 8pm - 9pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Doors close at 8pm sharp (arrive by 7:50pm).</li> <li>– Meditation (most weeks), except:</li> <li>– Discussion/Flower Reading (second Monday held in each month).</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<p><b>Open Circle 10am to 11am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Doors close 10am sharp (arrive by 9:50am).</li> <li>– Meditation or Discussion/Flower Reading (alternative weeks).</li> <li>– Light Morning Tea after the Open Circle.</li> </ul> <p><b>Healing 11:30am to 12:20am</b> (last client 12:10pm)</p> <p><b>Healing Meditation Service</b></p> <p><b>12:30pm start</b> (please be early)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Bring a small cut flower for a flower reading.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Services Available</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Baptisms (infants, children, adults)</li> <li>– Funerals, Interments of Ashes &amp; Memorial Services</li> <li>– Blessings. Pastoral &amp; spiritual counselling (limited service for both)</li> </ul>	

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## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Progressive Spiritualists Church Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we live and worship, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We value the contribution of all Indigenous people to the knowledge, preservation and education of spiritual matters and wisdom.

## Overdue Library Books

***There are a number of Church library books out on loan that are overdue.***

Please check your bookshelves to see if you have any overdue books and return them to us. They can then be loaned out for others to read. Donations of books on spiritualism, other Christian philosophies and the like are always welcome. Please ask us. Many thanks for your help.

## Volunteers Welcomed

The Church can always use some extra help in the garden, the grounds or inside the Church. This can be once-off or on an ongoing basis. We can arrange various days & times to suit most people's timetables. Please contact either Rev. Andrew, Michelle or Helen for more information. Thanks for helping!

## Newsletter Subscriptions, Contributions, etc.

*Subscriptions, contributions (articles, cartoons, etc.) and feedback to the Church Newsletter are always welcomed.*

*Please tell us what you want more or less of, what you enjoyed most, etc. We'd be most pleased to hear from you.*

*Please see Rev. Andrew or email your subscription, contribution & feedback to [newsletter@progressivespiritualists.org.au](mailto:newsletter@progressivespiritualists.org.au)*

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## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP & RENEWALS



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2025/26

Membership renewals have been sent out in early June to all financial members for the 2025/26 financial year.

**These are now overdue.** You can pay in person at the Church or via EFT. Instructions are included in your notice.

Please see either Helen, Rev. Andrew or myself if you have any questions either about your renewal or membership of the Church.

We look forward to receiving your renewal.

On behalf of the Committee

Michelle Gardner, Chairperson



### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The Church always welcomes new members.

Membership is open to all who attend and/or support the Church.

Membership gives you borrowing rights from the Church library, voting rights at General Meetings and input in the running of the Church at these meetings.

You are not committing to any extra work if you become a member!

See Helen, Rev. Andrew or Michelle for a membership form or ask any Committee Member for more information. We would love you to be a member.

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## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 31st August - 10am



The Church's annual Harvest Festival will be held this year on Sunday 31st August. On this day the Church celebrates **both** the physical harvest and spiritual harvest of workers.

### **Dedications**

Dedications are also held on the day. Here a Dedicant offers their life to God, Divine Truth and in service of humanity, not to any church or creed. Please see Rev. Andrew for further information or to offer yourself for Dedication.

Flowers will also be read at the Service.

### **Bring A Fresh Food Offering**

Please bring a Harvest Offering of fresh food or cooking on the day. A table is set in front of the platform for these offerings which are blessed during the service. The offerings are then shared amongst everyone at the end of the service.

### **Light Lunch**

The service is followed by a light lunch. Any food offerings provided to assist with the lunch are welcomed.

It is a beautiful service so we would love to see you there. All are welcome to attend and participate.

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## AUGUST SERVICES

**Date:** Sunday 24th August

**Time:** 10am sharp

**Finish:** 11:10am (approximate)

*Followed by a light lunch*

(\*)

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

**Date:** Sunday 28th September

**Time:** 10am sharp

**Finish:** 11:10am (approximate)

*Followed by a light lunch (\*)*

*(\*) Any type of food offering is always welcomed.*

**All are welcome to attend & participate, including children.**

***Your choice of Communion (Bread & Wine) or a Blessing Only.***

***Children under 8 years and infants receive a Blessing Only.***

***All hygiene rules are observed. There's no sharing of wine.***

An easy to follow instruction booklet is provided.

Free-will donation applies. EFT option is available (please ask).

Please arrive to be seated *ten minutes prior* to the start time.

Allow extra time for street parking, if needed, especially in evenings.

**Please feel free to contact us if you need more information.**

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## CHURCH BUILDING FUND



The main Church temple building is now nearly seventy years old. This was built during 1956 and the first service was held in 1957.

The Committee is looking to restore and improve this part of the building. This includes painting (including the front sign), lighting, timberwork, etc.

A building fund is being set up in order to complete this work on the main Church temple where possible. Any donations to assist with these works from members, Church friends, visitors, etc. would be most welcomed. This can be done by EFT, cheque, cash, etc.

***Please mark or advise us that the donation is for the "Building Fund".***

Direct Bank Transfers Details:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank  
BSB: 066-132  
Account: 0080-0031  
Description: Building Fund

PayID Details: Use the Church's ABN: 39 150 089 646

Please see Helen, Rev. Andrew or myself if you have any questions or need further information about the works that we are looking to have done.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

God Bless

Michelle Gardner  
Church Secretary

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**THE LIGHT THAT IS TO COME**

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### **WHITE EAGLE: THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN**

Beloved children of the earth, we come into your midst with deep thankfulness, for it is quite a long time since we were here to speak to you in this Lodge. So we rejoice to come once again to bring the message of the spirit to you.

You have many opportunities on your earth of listening to very remarkable things. Lectures on science and many other subjects you receive. Particularly in this age of the mind, you receive quite a great deal of food for thought, but we do not come to bring you a message of the mind or the intellect. Our mission here is to bring to you words of the Spirit, words which come from a higher level of consciousness than the intellect.

We speak from the heart of truth to your heart. We speak in all sincerity when we tell you that you are not merely physical bodies, you are spirit. You are children of the Living God of Power, which is holding you in its heart. Never forget this. You have a demonstration of this truth before you here in your harvest festival; a harvest thanksgiving.

You have been taught from your earliest days to give thanks for the harvest of the earth. All people throughout time have given thanks for the harvest because without the harvest they could not survive on the earth. The harvest is God's greatest gift to mankind.

It is quite true to say that man has invented certain equipment for ploughing the earth and sowing the seeds – and even manuring the ground to bring forth a richer harvest. But we would like to remind man that the gifts of the brain and the body are given from God. God giveth life. Science does not give it. God gives to the men of science. It is up to those men to recognise this and to use these gifts to bless humanity, to uplift humanity and help him in his spiritual evolution.

Beloved children, you are held in the power of God. You are being held at this moment in a symbol which is formed by those in spirit. There is a company, a very large company of spirits here, heavenly beings, those souls who have passed onward in a greater understanding of life. They come to you to bring gifts. Yes, gifts to you. And you are being held at this moment in the rays of a central light. Poised over this congregation is a blazing star and its rays are pouring down upon you. You are held in its power and in its love. It will use you as you allow yourselves to be used in the service of humanity and in the service of the Spirit. You all have opportunities to sow the seeds of spiritual truth and the highest manure for those seeds is the Great White Light [the Cosmic Christ Light] – and we mean this –the Light which comes, which radiates from you when you live lovingly, when you choose to act as

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the Master demonstrated. The Master continually taught and demonstrated love. Brotherhood is love in action. When you sow the seeds of the spirit, manure them well with love, gentleness, faith and belief. Now, you are all waiting for your spiritual harvest. You believe it will come in the future, perhaps after death. But, my children, your harvest is coming to you every day. You do not see it, do not recognise it.

All good gifts come from heaven, but man is too blind to see these gifts. He does not understand that every day is an opportunity to evolve and to grow closer to God and to unfold these gifts of the spirit which are within man. The trouble, dear ones, is this. You have not all learnt the lesson of patience. Patience and humility are the two lessons which must be learnt before the soul can recognise the harvest. You must be patient. Strive for patience.



Now, we know most of you in this Service. You do not know us as well as we know you. We would just tell you this; that we have a meeting place for you with us. It is not only the earthly level of consciousness, it is above it, but that meeting place is a real place. We meet in a building. You meet here in this Lodge. There is a replica of the Lodge above. You would be very surprised if you could gain back memories of that place where we all meet. And it is there that we come into very close communion and communication with you. And we know, because you have talked to us, we know that there are many of you who are waiting to do the work and cannot understand why you are not allowed to get on with that work. 'Patience', we say to you again. All things are working together for good, for the man and woman who love God. In other words, for those who have the faith in spirit, who have faith the reality of a spiritual world, a spirit world and spirit friends and guides. To all these there will come a certain definite rich harvest. We have said to many of you on other occasions, keep faith and keep on keeping on. If you have the seed of truth in your heart you cannot turn your back upon it. You cannot turn away from that inner voice, that feeling which urges you all the time to keep on the high road with patience and humility.

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The presence of the Master is with you. He gave you the words of truth when He said, 'I am the Bread of Life, the Bread which cometh down from heaven' [John 6:51 KJV]. He did mean that He came down from heaven to earth to help humanity. We would have you think of Him as Jesus of Nazareth – who was a very fine specimen of manhood. He was tall, well built, healthy, happy, human.

Now this is the point, dear ones: the Master was above all things simple and human. He came to demonstrate to mankind the kind of life to live: human, loving, joyful, happy, entering into (with great zest) every aspect of life. This is the Master, that noble human Master, who is so close to humanity, so close. He is right in the heart when man allows him to manifest. He is there. 'I Am the Bread of Life. I Am the Life. I Am the Power. I Am the Light because I Am the Love.' Love is Light – and love is magical. You, dear ones, who are the healers, you know the magical touch. You know the feeling of the power which flows through your hands when you are in touch with Him. Your heart, your human heart is stirred with compassion and love for the patient. You open your heart and mind to the inflow of power, of love.

Love all. Love everything. Love flowers and animals. Love your life. Love the weather. Love each other, and love all your experiences. Love is the magic word. And to love means to give kindly and with best thoughts towards life. This is the magic which works in humanity. This is the human touch. And the Master had the human touch. Power flows through love and love flows through man. It is magic, divine magic, and it can change a life, change the conditions in the life. It can bring light out of darkness. And all crooked places will be made straight. [Isaiah 45:2 KJV]

They are crooked because man is crooked in thought and word and deed. But the Bread of Life is the food of the Spirit. The food of the spirit comes from the heart of Christ, the Cosmic Christ, the Great White Life, which is the Creator. This is the Bread, the Heavenly Bread which feeds the spirit in man and which brings to man the harvest, rich harvest, – love, happiness, godliness; oh, happiness beyond all earthly knowledge at present!

And our last point tonight is this, that man needs to develop that spiritual understanding, that spiritual perception of truth. Then he hits the mark, the centre in life, in every action and in every thought and word. And he hits the mark like an arrow going through a bull's eye. The man of God hits truth, sees truth. All the mists and the confusions of earthly thinking are banished, are melted, are dissolved. Truth is eternal. It may be covered up. It may be smothered. There may be every effort to put it out [but] truth can never die. It is like fire just covered up – but which smoulders, and eventually bursts forth again into fire: divine fire, divine truth. The man who takes the Bread and eats the heavenly Bread opens his vision, his hearing to the world of Light; the heavenly world. And he becomes alive in that heaven world, and he never dies because it is his spirit which is alive and spirit is eternal.

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When you take communion [Holy Communion], remember the symbol which is shown by the Master, the symbol of the Bread, [of] which He says, 'The Bread is my body'. Now, the body of the Cosmic Christ is everything; is everywhere. Will you understand us if we say to you that even the fruits here displayed, the food here displayed [before the altar] is a symbol of the body of the Cosmic Christ? For the Cosmic Christ is the source of Light and is the Creator; and no matter what science can do, it cannot produce this food without the Light of the Creator; and the Wine, sometimes called the Blood of Christ, is just a symbol of the life essence, the spiritual essence; the spiritual essence of the Christ, the life of Christ through love.

And you take this sacrament in your own room in silence, or you may take it in company with your brethren, with your human companions in this [White Eagle] Lodge. By so doing you are sharing with your companions both in spirit and on earth. You are sharing this mighty, glorious sacrament of communion with the Cosmic Christ. And without the Bread and the Wine you cannot live physically. And without this corresponding food and wine in spirit you cannot live spiritually. You cannot know the meaning of eternal life. You cannot know the meaning of the magic of love: the magical power which love gives to man to create, to heal, to overcome death. For there is no death. The spirit of man must develop that spiritual consciousness of his own being through the life in the flesh; through his life with his companions on the earth. This is why you are here. This is the object of life and the harvest is golden.

We have many things to be thankful for, my dear ones, many things. And to be thankful is to open the floodgates of the spiritual power. Nothing brings results in life more than a thankful, humble heart.

We thank you for your presence and for listening to our words so quietly, so humbly. We thank you for these gifts to the harvest festival. We thank our choristers for the beautiful singing, and our organist for her faithful devotion in spite of tests and trials. We thank God for this Lodge, and for all our dear ones who gather here to serve the spirit of love.

And now, the presence of our Lord with the symbols of the Bread and Wine. Take, eat and absorb into your bodies the Bread. Sip the essence, the Wine, the Essence of the Christ spirit. At this moment, forgive, forgive, forgive anyone who has harmed you or hurt you. 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' [The Lords Prayer]

And so, beloved children, this is your Harvest Festival. God be thanked and praised and served now and for ever.

*[ Source: "Harvest Service", Sunday Address - 7th October 1956, St Mary Abbots Place, London, The White Eagle Lodge ]*

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## INITIATION (Part 1)

We need to understand what Initiation really means. It is purification, but a purification of a very special kind. To us, when we are in the world of spirit, the soul is the whole being of man. When that soul is imprisoned in the human body he is attached to a personality. Soul and personality are two but soul-personality is one.

When you are a spiritual being, set apart to fulfil some spiritual work in the world of men under the guidance of God's laws, planned for your return to earth in this day of time it was for you, and those who guided you and are still guiding you, a very important event for when the soul has a spiritual message to give, that soul is not permitted to slip through the ethers from heaven to earth for incarnation. It is a very long preparation and a dwelling in each plane of consciousness on the part of the soul before it enters the human body.

While you were in the place of light, you would become one of a group of workers attached to a Master-Initiate. The work of the Master-Initiate has one definite purpose; he may be a healer, he may be a teacher, he may be both teacher and healer, but one of those attributes will be the most important one. But because he is a Master-Initiate he himself has passed through every phase of the experiences which we call 'Initiation'. He knows how far a student may be helped and how far he must tread the path of initiation alone, and he knows just exactly how much power and light and what coloured rays will be necessary for the student's path.

You, too, as the soul coming into incarnation, have a part to play. You must prepare for that descent into matter. First of all, under the guidance of your Master-Initiate, your Doorkeeper and your Spiritual Guide will be chosen. Although your Doorkeeper and your Spiritual Guide will be indicated by you, it is the Master-Initiate who advises you, and there is no choice.

You will spend a portion of each of your periods, which are equivalent to your day and night on earth in the company of your Doorkeeper. You will



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spend a similar period with your Spiritual Guide. Those periods will be spent in preparing for the great event of birth and living in the physical body.

There will be a great deal to be done. You will have to meet those Great Beings of the Hierarchy who guide that particular group of Master-Initiates, and step by step, with all the joy and the glory of the place of light, you will be guided by your Master-Initiate in all you say and think, 'say' being merely a projection of sound upon the ether, not the spoken word.

You will plan your life under the guidance of the Master-Initiate. It will be his advice that will set the plan of your Zodiacal signs and of course the planets which guide you under those signs, and there will be a helper set apart who will collect your past experiences. These will be studied and arranged in such a way that certain of them will be taken again, so that it will be a very long preparation. Your soul will be purified during the whole time of the preparation. The rays of light will be poured into you and then there will come that immensely important moment when the Spirit of the Father-Mother God will be poured into you by the Father Himself, that is His gift to you as you set forth, and that spirit contains a portion of the Glory of God which you carried to earth with you even though you may not remember it.

You will greet your Master-Initiate at regular periods of very short intervals in between. You will come to know him and to love him and to realise his gentleness contains the power of the love of God and that his severity must always be with you and that you must understand the need for that severity if you falter on the path.

So you make preparation for that immense journey to earth. The soul sets forth, descending, oh so slowly, through plane after plane of consciousness until the moment comes for it to enter the physical body and be born a tiny crying child. It will probably be a long time before the Master-Initiate himself, to whom you belong and who belongs to you, will be able to manifest to your vision or your understanding, but he will be very near you through your life, and those whom you call your Guides will come under his instructions until the moment comes for him to manifest to you, and after that moment you will spend two periods in every twenty-four hours with him.

For a long time, you will not even be conscious of his presence. You certainly will not be conscious of it during the waking hours of the day, but you will begin to be conscious during the hours of sleep and when you meet him pass it off as a dream. But all the time he will be guiding you towards those great steps of initiation which you have come to earth to take and you are not taking that initiation alone for yourself; you are taking it with a large company of men and women who serve and love the same Master-Initiate as you do and whom you will meet in your waking life without recognising them, and during the hours of sleep with still less recognition.

*[ Source: The Sacred Vessel, Mona Rolfe, 1978, Neville Spearman Ltd ]*

*[ The second part of this article will be published in the next newsletter. ]*

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## THE MEANING OF HARVEST

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called *Lammas*, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain. Sometimes neighbouring churches will set the Harvest Festival on different Sundays so that people can attend each other's thanksgivings!

Farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called a harvest supper. Some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.



*Harvest time in Thetford (UK), 1950s. Credit: Graham Knott / Flickr*

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## THE BAY TREE

The bay tree [ *Laurus nobilis* (Lauraceae) ] was a tree of great symbolism to the classical Mediterranean civilisations, thanks to the largely vilified Philistine people. The Philistines as a tribe were best (or worst) known for their conflict with the Israelites, as documented in the Old Testament in the Bible. Throughout history, the Philistines have been described as barbarians, but today many people, among them archaeologists from Bar-Ilan University of Israel, believe that they were responsible for an agricultural revolution in the Middle East, between 1200 and 600 BC. They are now credited with the introduction of many useful plants in the region, and with discovering the full benefits of such indigenous plants as the bay. The tree's use for food is likely to have been discovered by them.

In ancient Greece, bay is the classical laurel, sacred to Apollo as a symbol of glory, victory and honour. As such it was fashioned into wreaths to be worn by victorious warriors, the winners of sporting events and even great poets (hence the title 'Poet Laureate'). In addition, priestesses of ancient Greece ate bay leaves, which are known to be mildly narcotic, for the trance-like effect that allowed them to prophesy the future.



*The Bay Tree [in a pot]*

The Latin word for "laurel berry" is *baccalaureus*, and that word came to represent university undergraduates [they received what was then called a *baccalaureate* degree]. They also wore laurel-berry sprays and became known as "bachelors", defined as unmarried men. The Romans also crowned their great men with laurel wreaths. Such was the respect for the laurel that its image was carved into Roman architecture in the belief that it would provide protection against evil spells, disease and lightning.

Today the bay leaf is widely used as a culinary herb. The bay itself grows happily in mild, temperate climates, in the garden, in tubs and containers, or as an indoor pot plant. Its oil is valued in massage therapy, reputed to alleviate arthritis and rheumatism; in aromatherapy it is used to treat earache and high blood pressure; and a poultice made of boiled bay leaves is a folk remedy for rashes caused by poison ivy and stinging nettles.

*[ Source: "The story of trees: and how they changed the way we live", Hobbs, Kevin and David West, London: Laurence King Publishing, 2020 ]*

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## THE RAINBOW

In Genesis 9:12-17, the rainbow appears after the storm as an emblem of promise. So it was in the Biblical story of the flood [Genesis Chapters 6-9] when the inundating waters of divine judgement abated; and so it has been ever since: Rainbow is the sign of renewal, the transmuting changes of the heart and the eros [union] of covenant between heaven and earth.

A complex optical phenomenon as wondrous as the fanciful ways we depict it, the rainbow is formed when sunlight (or moonlight) strikes a “screen” of raindrops, drizzle or fog. The droplets act as a prism, refracting and then reflecting the white light of the sun. To an observer standing between the sun and the rain, an arc of concentric colours appears – the limpid spectrum that forms the rainbow.

Poets call the rainbow “the dyes of heaven”, “a glittering robe of joy” and “a celestial kaleidoscope”. The Book of Revelation describes a rainbow, “like an emerald,” surrounding the throne of God [Revelation 4:3]. Alchemy portrays the rainbow as a form of the cauda pavonis [peacock’s tail] of brilliant hues, alluding to the lapis [Latin: stone] that unites all qualities. Tibetan Buddhists find in the rainbow’s ephemeral translucence an intimation of the spirit transcending the nature of reality, the “rainbow body” achieved through intense, solitary mediation. Desire disappears, replaced by luminous awareness and bliss so complete that if one dies in such a state, the body itself dissolves into rainbow-coloured light, leaving only hair and nails behind.

For many, however, the rainbow represents the imaginal bridge that links the visible world and all that is invisible, magical and supernatural. Fantasy peoples the rainbow’s unseen perimeters with angels, fairies and elves that guard abounding treasure, the bright fold and luminous pearls of wisdom, creativity and mercurial play. Myth has portrayed the rainbow as the highway over which psyche’s supernal emissaries bring their messages to consciousness.

From the rainbow bridge the Japanese divine couple Izanagi and Izanami stir the primal sea of potential with a jewelled spoon whose droplets coalesce into living matter.

The spirits of the Hopi kachinas [the ancestors of this Native American tribe] descend from the celestial realm of the dead to the land of the living by means of the rainbow, whose earthly counterpart is the ladder descending into the kiva [a ceremonial room used by the Hopi].

*[Source: The book of symbols: reflections on archetypal images, Martin, Kathleen (editor), Cologne: Taschen, 2020]*

# AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

## THE LISTENING TREE

There is a tree that stands tall and proud in the forest. Its branches reach almost as far as it its tall, falling into a blissful green canopy. Grandfather Sun shines his warming light between the leave and the rain spirits sometimes rest upon them, before drip, drip dropping down to moisten the ground below. This is the Listening Tree. It has been there for longer than any other tree in the forest; its root reach deep, deep down into Mother Earth and its highest limbs reach out to join Father Sky.

For as long as any of us can remember, people have visited the Listening Tree; it ahs long been a place of solace and healing for those with heavy hearts and sorry stories to share. And the tree listens. It always listens. People reach out and place their palms against its gnarly skin, or sit and rest their backs against its welcoming trunk. Sometimes people weep. Sometimes they just talk, for minutes or hours. Sometimes they just talk, for minutes or hours. Sometimes people leave offerings at its base, or tie prayers into its branches. Always people leave less burdened, standing taller and with a hint of promise in their eyes.

The Listening Tree must be thousands of years old, older, perhaps than you or I might be able to comprehend. What stories it must have seen unfold. What beauty, magic and wisdom it must have gathered. It stands there, tall and proud and silent, never sharing secrets, only ever listening, holding and providing support for all who need it. We could all learn so much from its purity and strength.

The Listening Tree asks for nothing, yet stand for so much.

Perhaps there is a listening tree in woodlands near you. Perhaps, dear one, there exists a tree just for you – a place for support, sharing, even confessions. When people feel they can speak to nobody else, when the secrets are too great or the sorrow too deep, the Listening Tree I sing of is always ready to hear, always ready to absorb sadness, anger, frustration, guilt, grief and every other emotion known to man; and when it has hear our words, it transmutes that energy into something pure and good to send deep down into Mother Earth, goodness seeping through its roots back to the core.

When you find your tree – and I know there will be one close to you somewhere – remember to fit it with happiness too; allow your tree to take your problems and woes, but remember to share joy and laughter also. When you can feel it taking your sadness, perhaps give it thanks with a song, or your favourite humorous tale, a dance, a hug, some love. For it the tree is listening, it seems only right to provide lightness to balance the shadows of our hearts.

*[ Source: Thornton, Taz, Whispers from the earth, Winchester, UK: Moon Books, 2016 ]*

## AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

### THE SPIDER AND THE HARVEST

There was once a spider who lived in a cornfield. He was a big spider and he had spun a beautiful web between the corn stalks. He got fat eating all the bugs that would get caught in his web. He liked his home and planned to stay there for the rest of his life no matter what.

One day the spider caught a little bug in his web, and just as the spider was about to eat him, the bug said, If you let me go I will tell you something important that will save your life. The spider paused for a moment and listened because he was amused. You better get out of this cornfield, the little bug said, The harvest is coming!

The spider smiled and said, What is this harvest you are talking about? I think you are just telling me a story. But the little bug said, Oh no, it is true. The owner of this field is coming to harvest it soon. All the stalks will be knocked down and the corn will be gathered up. You will be killed by the giant machines if you stay here.

The spider said, I don't believe in harvests and giant machines that knock down corn stalks. How can you prove this? The little bug continued, Just look at the corn. See how it is planted in rows? It proves this field was created by our God. The spider laughed and mockingly said, This field has evolved and has nothing to do with a creator. Corn always grows that way.

The bug went on to explain, Oh no. This field belongs to the owner who planted it, and the harvest is coming soon. The spider grinned and said to the little bug, I don't believe you, then the spider ate the little bug for lunch.

A few days later, the spider was laughing about the story the little bug had told him. He thought to himself, A harvest! What a silly idea. I have lived here all of my life and nothing has ever disturbed me. I have been here since these stalks were just off the ground, and I'll be here for the rest of my life, because nothing is ever going to change. Life is good, and I have it made.

The next day was a sunny day in the cornfield. The sky above was clear and there was no wind at all. That afternoon as the spider was about to take a nap, he noticed thick dusty clouds moving toward him. He could hear the roar of a great engine and he said to himself, I wonder what that could be?

*[ The encounter between the spider and the little bug is a parable of spiritual guidance. The bug, a messenger from God, imparts crucial information to the spider — a revelation about an impending event. In our lives, messengers often arrive in various forms. The spiritual significance here lies in our ability to recognize and heed these messengers, understanding that their insights may hold the key to navigating the changes that lie ahead. ]*

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## QUOTES ABOUT HARVEST

"A hidden fire burns perpetually upon the hearth of the world.... In autumn this great conflagration becomes especially manifest. Then the flame that is slowly and mysteriously consuming every green thing bursts into vivid radiance. Every blade of grass and every leaf in the woodlands is cast into the great oven of Nature; and the bright colours of their fading are literally the flames of their consuming. The golden harvest-fields are glowing in the heart of the furnace.... By this autumn fire God every year purges the floor of nature. All effete substances that have served their purpose in the old form are burnt up. Everywhere God makes sweet and clean the earth with fire."  
– Hugh Macmillan

"You shall sow your land for six years and gather in its yield, but on the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove."  
– Exodus 23:10-11

What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action  
– Meister Eckhart

"You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during ploughing time and harvest you shall rest."  
– Exodus 34:21

The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest.  
– William Blake

"Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labours from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the In-gathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labours from the field."  
– Exodus 23:16

The harvest of old age is the recollection and abundance of blessing previously secured.  
– Marcus Tullius Cicero

"All the best of the fresh oil and all the best of the fresh wine and of the grain, the first fruits of those which they give to the LORD, I give them to you. "The first ripe fruits of all that is in their land, which they bring to the LORD, shall be yours; everyone of your household who is clean may eat it."  
– Numbers 18:12-13

# AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

## SOME FUNNIES FOR THIS MONTH

### You Want Some Cheese With That?

A wife apologised to her unexpected guests for serving the apple pie without cheese. The little boy of the family slipped quietly away from the table for a moment, and returned with a cube of cheese, which he laid on the guest's plate. The visitor smiled in recognition of the boy's thoughtfulness, popped the cheese into his mouth, and then remarked: "You must have sharp eyes, son. Where did you find it?" The boy replied with a flush of pride: "In the rat-trap."

### Lobster Tales

In the window of a seafood restaurant, a man spotted a sign saying "Lobster Tails \$10 each." Sensing a bargain, he went inside and asked the waitress why they were so cheap. "They must be very small tails for that price," he suggested. "No," replied the waitress. "They're normal length." "Then they must be pretty old." "No, they're fresh today." "There must be something wrong with them..." "No, they're just regular lobster tails." "OK," said the man, "for ten dollars I'll have one." The waitress took the man's money, sat him down and said: "Once upon a time there was a big red lobster..."



### A Fishy Story

A man went into a fishmonger's carrying a trout under his arm. "Do you make fishcakes?" he asked. "Yes, we do," replied the fishmonger. "Great," said the man. "It's his birthday!"

### The Hare Necessities?

A man went into a butcher's shop and asked for a half rabbit. "I'm sorry," said the butcher. "I don't want to split hares."

### A Question That Bears Some Weight

A husband was standing on the bathroom scales, desperately holding his stomach in. His wife, thinking he was trying to reduce his weight, remarked: "I don't think that will help." "It does," he said. "It's the only way I can read the numbers!"



### **Matthew 13:30-35 (KJV)**

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

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