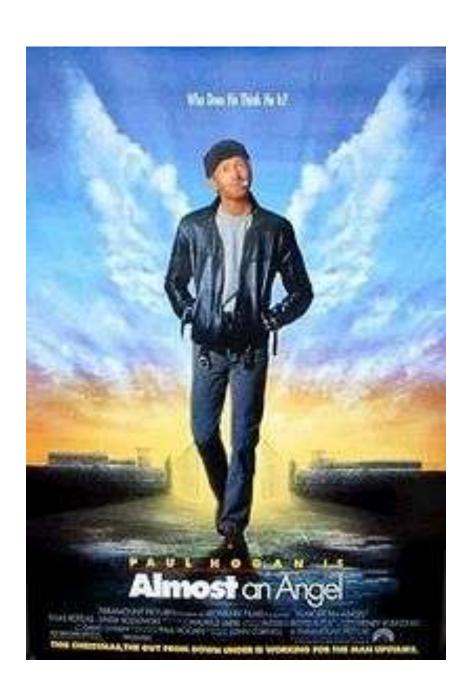


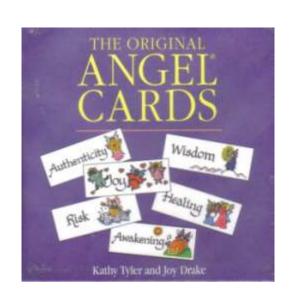
Angels are a favourite topic of films, books, adverts, songs and paintings

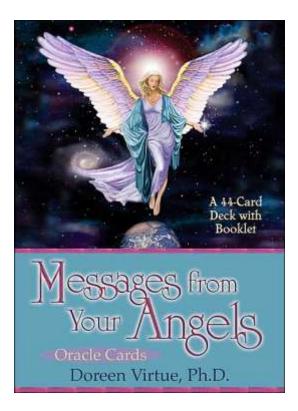




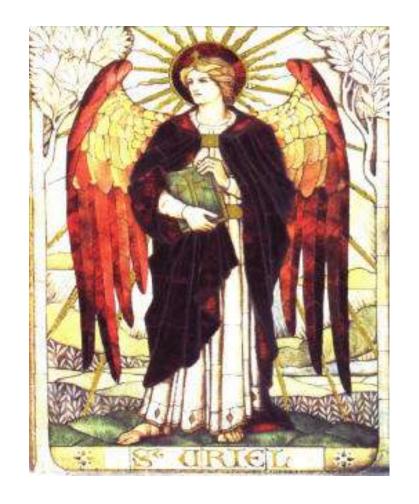


## There is a huge New Age Angel Market!









The word 'angel' comes from the Greek – angelos which means 'messenger of God



Angels appear across religions and faiths, reflecting a shared belief that we may not be the only sentient beings in existence



Angels are often said to come to those who are the edge of losing their faith



Angels may comfort, encourage or warn us



The physical form of angels can vary – sometimes they are depicted as bathed in glorious light and at other times they are indistinguishable from ordinary people



Angels are usually considered to be androgynous!



Very few angels are individually named in the bible although they are divided into a hierarchy



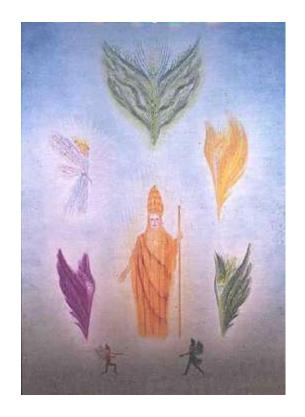
Cherubim are generally considered 'angelic beings' and are not the plump winged babies depicted in classical paintings and sculpture!



They are God's record keepers and are responsible for carrying his throne throughout the heavens



The Seraphim are God's attendants – they have 6 wings and fly about God's throne exalting his Greatness – like an angelic hifi system with surround sound!



There are 9 rungs on the angelic ladder.

Other angel orders include

Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, and the top dogs - Archangels



Thrones bring justice according to God's law



Dominions organise the other angels a bit like project managers to make sure all the work needed, gets done



Virtues rain down blessings and help to worthy people on the earth



Powers keep the world in order and ensure that the demons do not take over – angelic police officers!



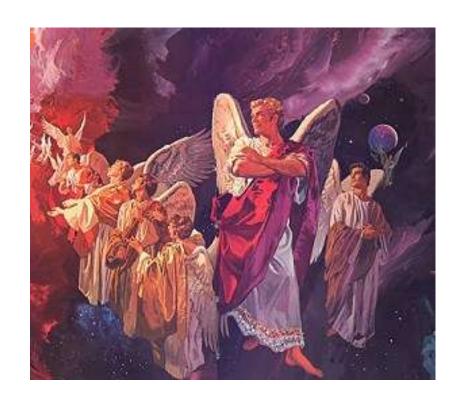
Principalities watch over all nations and attempt to advise and inspire the leaders to make wise and good decisions



At the top of the angelic pecking order are the Archangels such as Michael, Uriel, Raphael and Gabriel who are the intermediaries between the world of spirit and the world of man



The concept of a Guardian Angel assigned to protect an individual doesn't appear in the bible and seems to be a more modern concept



Angels are beings rather than Gods – they can make mistakes and perhaps one of the biggest boo-boos in angelic history was that made by Lucifer – God's favourite winged being!



While his name means 'Bringer of light' he became jealous of God's power and tried to raise an angelic army against his boss...big mistake! He was cast out of heaven



Some have even gone as far as to suggest that angel sightings and alien visitations might be connected in some way!

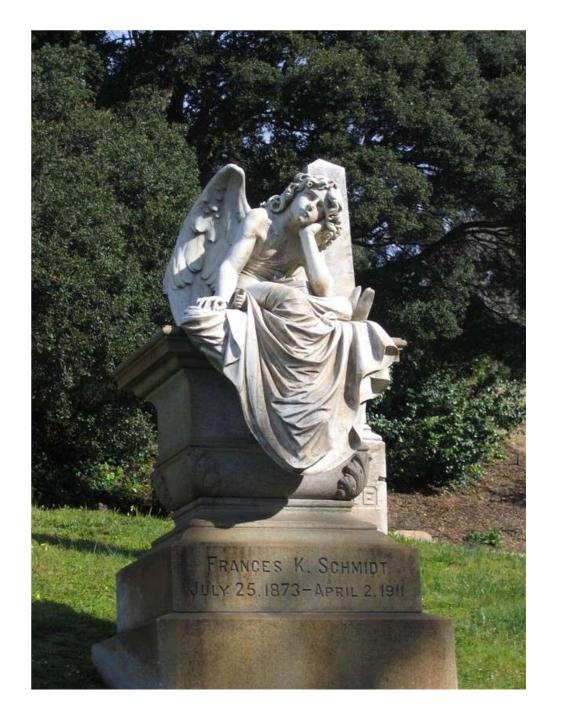


It doesn't really matter whether or not angels ARE real – the fact that they remain such a persistent and powerful symbol tells us a lot about our longings and hopes for the world



Today you are most likely to find an 'angel' in a cemetery – tomb angels became popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, cast in bronze or plaster







Figures of 'Victory angels' are also found on columns all over Europe and we have one in Norwich

