

The saintly Ms Mary

Ms Mary Read but oh! was she the virtuous one,
she didn't smoke and didn't drink
and bad language never passed her lips
unless it slipped out.

Charitable? Why certainly,
and everywhere she went
she took her own donation box
less one were not to hand
wherever she might be.

A byword for charity was Ms Read
and twice as sweet.

One day she came across a purse,
one quite full of notes of every kind,
and resolved without a thought
to ensure it would be reunited with its owner
when or wherever
its owner came looking for it.

To save their blushes
she flirted with her good friends' men
only — only! — when her friends were not around
(for she would never dream
of discomfiting a pal).

Good Lord was she a paradigm,

Ms Mary Read,
and I tell you all about the lass
to stress just how lucky I am
to know her,
an example to us all.