

Helpers and materials needed, please

At the Fun Afternoon, the children in small groups do several activities. Could you help look after a group of children or be an extra pair of hands for one of the activities? Perhaps you would like to do refreshments? **If you would like to be involved in any such way**, please contact as soon as possible Hilary Darque (☎ 01732 453929) or Elspeth Cooke (761766). In terms of **materials**, we need many inner cardboard tubes from kitchen paper rolls (NB not toilet rolls!) – please leave at the vicarage.

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Reminder – Harvest Supper on 30th September

The Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 30th September at 7 pm in St Lawrence Village Hall. If you haven't already got your tickets, you might just be in time if you act now. Please phone Elspeth Cooke (761766) or Rosemary Cole (763107) without delay. £8 (adult) or £4 (child).

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God's response to our prayers

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said: "No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said: "No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain. God said: "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly pursuits and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said: "No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said: "No. I will give you life that you might enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me love others, as much as He loves me.

God said: "Ahhhhh, finally you have the idea!"

Thanks to Rob Marsh for forwarding this quote.

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From the Vicar

After the frivolity of the summer holiday season – delightfully extended for many of us who have no school-age children or who can afford not to be at work – now it is the return to reality.

There are two certainties in life, they say – and while I can't presume to advise on tax affairs, I can tell you that this year is proving to be the worst of my 10 years as your vicar when it comes to us counting funerals – between the two parishes we have had far more than our statistical share of them.

Which prompts the question – is each of us as prepared as we can be for that inevitable event? An event which (as I know from my own younger sister's death earlier this year) can come all too ahead of expected or planned time.

We do have a current will? Let's please check – and if there's any doubt, why not take advantage this November of the "Will Aid" partnership between solicitors and nine of the UK's most respected charities. Their campaign puts you in touch with solicitors who will draw up a basic Will free of charge. You can then choose to make a donation to participating charities. Details from 0870-6060239 (national rate), or www.willaid.org.uk

And we do each have a declaration for an Enduring Power of Attorney? If not, know that the rules change in April 2007, and become much less easy. So there's an extra encouragement not to leave it a moment longer.

Does our family have details of a suitable undertaker? Funeral companies are not all the same, either in cost or in the service provided. I won't put any recommendation (or converse) in print, but if you want advice do please ask.

And do we know that, even if the wish is for cremation, the main service is so much better *not* at the crematorium? - in some respects this latter is like a conveyor belt, with an appallingly short time to pay proper respects, and for only one type of event. You don't need to be a church-goer for a funeral to be held in church, where the fullness of life – births, marriages, deaths and above all beyond - is celebrated!

Have you thought about a favourite hymn, piece of music, or reading? The wishes of a person who has died should never be prescriptive for a family, but it might well help them.

Let's end on the positive! – and share the most important matter:- getting to know (biblical 'remembering') one's Creator *this* side of the grave. As the otherwise rather cynical Ecclesiastes (12: 1ff) put it long ago:-

/continued . . .

“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" - before ... (and here the Preacher gives a graphic list of a man’s progressive deterioration) ... and mourners go about the streets. Remember him!”

Knowing Jesus already is eternal life. And if you want to share thoughts on that with me, terrors of the grave will pale in the light of his glory and grace.

With all blessings

Michael

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From the Registers at St Lawrence’s

1st September Funeral and burial of the late Eileen Elsie Engeham who died aged 82. We offer our deepest sympathy to all who loved and valued Eileen, especially to her children Rosie, Suzy and Valerie.

9th September Burial of ashes of the late Philip John Attenborough, whose funeral and Thanksgiving services had taken place in April. We continue to hold the Attenborough family in our thoughts.

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Remembering those who have died and are dear to us

For the last ten years a service has been held within our parishes on 2nd November when those who so care can remember in a formal way by prayer and with a lit candle those who are dear to them and who have died. This year, as a change, the service will not include Holy Communion and we hope everyone will feel very much part of our extended church family.

The service this year for both our parishes will be held at St Lawrence’s on **Thursday 2nd November at 8 pm**, and will be led by Gretel Wakeham. Please let's mark the date now in our diaries.

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***Come, ye thankful people, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!***

THE VOLUNTEER STITCHERS

*The first meeting of the Group to make
Church Kneelers and Cushions
will be at*

*2 pm on Tuesday 10th October
at*

Beaconsmount, Ivy Hatch.

Please contact Roz if you would like to join in. 01732 810227

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Two special Sundays in October: 1st and 29th

October 1st is our Harvest Festival. We look forward to a well decorated and well-filled church for our festival – the collection at this service will be for the Rural Development Movement at Parakkanvilai in Southern India, the place where Ellen Wakeham spent six months in early 2005.

October 29th is All Saints Sunday – and both our services on this fifth Sunday of the month (for which we have no regular pattern) are united – ie. for both our parishes. Think of coming twice to church!

At 10:30 am at St Margaret’s there will be a **Songs of Praise** – this is an opportunity to request that hymn you think we never sing! (Provided you expect to be present, could you please offer your suggestion for a hymn, with a reason why it’s your choice, to Michael before Sunday 22nd.)

In the evening (6 pm) St Lawrence’s will be hosting a sung Evensong for All Saints-tide – the two Psalms to be sung are 148 and 150, the latter to the magnificent setting by CV Stanford.

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St Lawrence’s Children’s Autumn Fun Afternoon

St Lawrence Church is organising a Fun Afternoon for children aged 3-11 on the afternoon of **Saturday 14th October** at 2 pm in St Lawrence Village Hall. Leaflets with booking forms have been sent out to children in the parish and through the school, but can also be obtained from the Vicarage. Please phone Michael on 01732 761766 if you would like more information.

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