

Ready, Steady – Pray!

Soon after I was Ordained I lost my kneecap in a motorcycle accident. It wasn't all bad news. The Insurance Company paid out an extra £500 in compensation for being a Clergyman who couldn't kneel down.

This incident raises all sorts of interesting questions about the place of posture in the practice of prayer. The Insurance Company seemed to think that my access to the Almighty had been irreparably damaged by my inability to kneel down! But is that so? Surely not! Yet posture does matter to most things we do, and whether we kneel, sit, stand or lay flat on our faces to pray does seem to matter.

Then there are the words we use. What part do words play in the practice of prayer? Will day to day language be OK or do our words have to be special words, preferably with an olde worlde feel about them such as we find in the Book of Common Prayer or a strong hint of mystery as in some modern liturgies ("The Silent Music of your Praise" – what does that mean?).

Or do we not need words at all? Silence has featured large in manuals of prayer, and practising the art of contemplation and reflection without words is no longer the preserve of those committed to the monastic way of life. So what part does silence play in the practice of prayer?

By no means least, what about corporate prayer as opposed to private prayer, and what's the relationship between prayer and Bible Study? Are there special times of the day for prayer, or is it really to do with praying as we go about our daily business? What part can music, icons or the natural world around us play in the practice of prayer – and however or wherever we pray, what should be the balance between praise, confession, thanksgiving and intercession?

Finding answers to these questions which are right for you is very important, and that is why I hope to see you at the Cathedral on **Saturday 14th November 2009** from 11am to 3pm to sample various approaches to prayer during our **Taster Day**. A variety of workshops, displays and literature will be on offer with the opportunity to sample and explore ways of praying which may turn out to be just right for you – and you may also discover why some of them are not right for you at all.

No need to book. Just come along, but bring a packed lunch. It will be fun – and it could also change your practice of prayer for ever.

Contents

Where there's muck - Fr David's letter	2
To all Magazine distributors	3
Mothers' Union notes	4
News from the Bell Tower	5
A Quiet Day "St Francis and the Song of Creation"	
Playing it by the book.	6
'Bats' or 'bats'	7
October Diary	8
All Souls' Tide / Parish Registers	10
Donations for Church flowers / Stewardship	11
Friends Remembered	12
Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2009 / Travelling Christmas Crib	13
Ladies' Group: September	14
News from Ropery Hall	15
Ready, Steady – Pray! – Bishop John's letter	16



Copy Deadlines for the November edition.

Would all contributors please submit material by **Sunday October 18th** at the absolute latest?

Where there's muck....

Bishop Bill Ind, late of Truro and Grantham, once told me of a slightly tricky situation down in the south of Lincolnshire. A group of residents in a rather upmarket village development were pressing the parish council mercilessly about anti-social behaviour. (I can hear folk nodding approval and muttering, 'Quite right' from here.) What you might not expect was that their demands were that farm machinery should not start operating before 8 am (9 on Sundays), that tractors should not use the village main street (noisy and muddy) and that farm animals, especially poultry, should be silenced until a decent hour of day.

Now I'm not going to descend into a rant about 'comers-in' - Barton isn't Royston Vazey ("This is a local shop for local people"), and our communities are usually enriched by those who move in (let's be honest, we'd be a bit short of dentists, doctors vets, teachers and - dare we say it - clergy if we only dealt with the Born and Bred Here). No, instead, at harvest time, I'd rather think about how we should embrace messiness.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness" is a phrase which probably works well in a kitchen or an operating theatre - but roses grow in mud, tomatoes don't spring out of the ground ready tinned, and as for where eggs come from..... And yet we've managed to create an 'arm's length' society where such inconvenient facts are forgotten and left behind the shrink-wrap.

I suppose we could just sigh if it stopped at folk recoiling in faint horror at the muck-spreader rolling past the pot-pourri scented kitchen door of Jasmine Cottage. But there's a very serious side to this ability to distance ourselves from a mucky, messy world. We can break the link between our 'lifestyle choices' and their impact on people and planet. We can imagine our hands are clean and blame the politicians when something unpleasant happens. We can forget John Donne's words, 'No man is an island sufficient unto himself' and believe ourselves to be independent, free and beholden to no-one. Meanwhile the reality is very, very different.

It's been said that Christianity is probably the least airy-fairy of all the world's great religions, that it's rooted in the earth, in blood, soil, tears, bread, wine. An adult Christian faith will point us back time and again to the reality of creation and to the sometimes uncomfortable fact that we're part of it, cow-dung and all, and that to try and opt-out is to fool ourselves. This harvest, maybe part of our job is to look to the earth, look to the world, and recognise that we are part of it — even as we scrape the mud off our newly-polished car.

Central Park. His apartment was in Manhattan. He explained how it is normal for Police officers there to be armed and how they think our truncheons are some kind of joke. He declined to carry a gun and it was the only time he was shot at whilst there in the whole of his career, including having been in the Royal Marines. He took part in attending murders of which there are 2,000 per year in that State- in England only that number per year.

He also went on Drugs raids- he explained that helicopters with heat seeking cameras can detect cannabis factories in houses because heat is coming from the roof!! He described their methods of raiding a house as much more violent than here — they use explosives to remove the doors! He also took time to see the federal court system, the equivalent of our Crown Court (and assisted the judge!!) and lectured in one of their colleges, acquiring many amusing anecdotes to relate including the different meanings of words used both here and there. Ken now spends his time working for Victim Support, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Safety based at Scunthorpe Police Station.

Linda Turner, Maureen Garfoot and Elizabeth Elliott won the raffle.

Sue Wright

News from Ropery Hall

Half term is rapidly approaching and so is Barton's Christmas Festival.

For the past two years The Ropewalk has contributed to the Festival through children's charity ST-ART by organising the Lantern Parade from Maltkiln Road to the town centre.

Workshops on lantern making begin at half-term at The Ropewalk and this year, to mark the 40th year of man first landing on the moon the theme is Space.

Details of the workshops will be distributed throughout the town and to schools nearer the time and information will also be on http://www.the-ropewalk.co.uk/art_young.html

The Lantern Parade will be one of the highlights of the Festival on Saturday, November 28, which will also include the traditional parade of Father Christmas and his reindeer, live music, street entertainment and charity stalls.

Ladies' Group: September

For such an awful evening weather-wise the turnout was amazing- we have 105 members this year!!! Pauline welcomed everyone after the summer break and thanked the group for raising £138 at the garden Party.

The speaker for the evening was Trudi Norris a Medical Herbalist who practises locally, including at the Lindsey Lodge Hospice. She is a Member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists which was founded in 1864. All members are governed by a strict code of ethics and practice, and a complaints and disciplinary procedure.

Plants have provided the essentials of life for thousand of years- food, shelter, clothing, fuel and medicine and people are often looking for ways in which plants can provide a more natural healthy life. She explained that herbal medicine is appropriate for most of the conditions one would visit a G.P. for- e.g. digestive and circulation problems, skin complaints, sleep disorders, stress and emotional issues, hormonal imbalance, muscular-skeletal aches and pains and many more. The first consultation takes the form of a thorough look into ones medical history, medication, lifestyle, diet and taking blood pressure or other examinations where necessary.

Prescriptions can be tinctures, teas, capsules, tablets and for external use – creams, lotions and oils. The visits are followed up two to three weeks later to ensure effectiveness of the treatment. Trudi said that they are not allowed to claim to cure things but can assist with self help.

We passed around various things e.g. liquorice which influences immunity, gastric ulcers, and is used as a laxative. This is called the emperor of herbs by the Chinese. Lavender, used for nausea, headaches, and as an antispasmodic, the hawthorn berry which is a preventative for cardiovascular problems.

Members took the opportunity to ask her about herbs for various conditions and she was thanked by Pauline for an informative talk. The raffle was won by Wendy Stow, Marie Danson and Joan Stanley.

Our second meeting was a talk entitled 'Time in New York' given by Ken Bates, a retired Police Superintendent /Head of C.I.D. He thought we were escapees from St. Trinian's when he arrived because of the talk and laughter going on!!

He decided to take a year in New York and applied to work there which took a year to achieve. When he arrived he was briefed by the F.B.I. on what and what not to do — e.g. don't go in the subway after 10p.m., or in

To All Magazine Distributors

It has been agreed that we should collect the year 2010 subscriptions during NOVEMBER so that the money will be banked in the 2009 financial year.

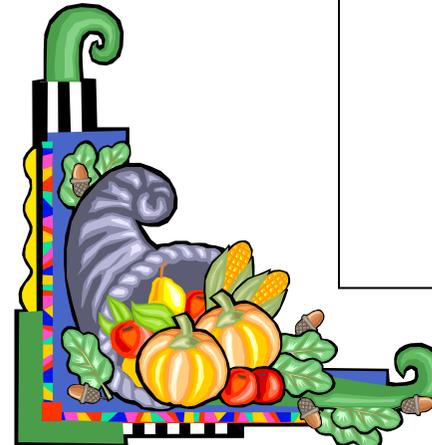
Joyce Gibson will be in the Hall vestibule after the 9.30am service on three dates to receive the money we collect. She will record the sum and issue a receipt straight away. She will also need the list of subscribers at the same time.

We hope this system will work smoothly and help those who organise the financing of the Parish News. Please do NOT put money in the safe or through anyone's door. If there is difficulty, contact Joyce to arrange payment.

The Sundays are: NOVEMBER 1st, 8th and 22nd. The subscription remains at £4.00 for the year.

Many thanks for this valuable work on behalf of our church.

Mike Searle



STEPHENSON SMART & CO

**ACCOUNTING
BOOK-KEEPING**

TAX

AUDIT

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

PAYROLL

*41 High Street
Barton-on-Humber
DN18 5PD*

Tel: 01652 632251

Fax: 01652 634894

E-mail: stephenson.smart@tiscali.co.uk

Mothers' Union Notes.

Our meeting on Wednesday Sept 16th was the first after the summer break.

Sheila opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, especially our speaker ,Mavis Silley who is the Mothers' Union Enterprises representative. Sheila also welcomed Winn Bunn and her granddaughter.

We sang "Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart", followed by a reading by Brenda Skinner from St John's Gospel (10: 11-18). Then prayers were said by Sheila, who gave out apologies and notices before she introduced Mavis, who spoke to us about her role. 'MU Enterprises Ltd' used to be 'literature' until the Charity Commission Laws meant it had to be separated from the Mothers Union, which is a charity. The profits from all sales of books and stationery go to help run our Head Office, Mary Sumner House in London, which would not be able to exist without sales from the catalogue, which changes 2 or 3 times a year. Each diocese is like a franchise. Lincoln made £8000 last year; 10%, the commission from the sales, going to St Benedict's. This year there are some new designs on Christmas cards, also some new cards and children's books. Mavis' job involves lots of travelling around the diocese and meeting people and she'd brought along fairly large selection of goods: these proved very tempting as lots of purchases were made at the end of the afternoon. Mavis was thanked for her talk by Brenda Skinner.

Oct 7 th	9.30	Corporate Communion Reader Auriol Trubshaw
Oct 21 st	2pm	Meeting. <i>Reader Elinor Cartwright</i>
Oct 28 th	2pm	Prayer Time. <i>Val Dukes</i>

Flowers : Oct 9th Elinor Cartwright. Oct 23rd Joyce Gibson.

Brenda Skinner.

Members please note that overseas boxes are due in to be counted .Please bring to next MU meeting.

Will all members please check the MU notice board at the back of church for information.

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2009

I hope everyone has had a chance, during the summer, to stock up on items for the shoeboxes. Copies of the 2009 leaflet/envelope/labels are now available at the back of the Church or from me at 77 Bowmandale.

I should be very grateful if completed boxes could be brought to St. Mary's, at service times on Sundays or Wednesday mornings only, so that they can be stored safely. Alternatively they can be brought to 77 Bowmandale: I suggest you phone first to make sure there is someone at home. If you would have difficulty delivering your box, please contact me and ask for it to be collected.

The completed boxes need to arrive at Church or at 77 Bowmandale by Sunday 8th November 2009 as I expect to be making arrangements for their collection very shortly after that date.

Many thanks

Rosemary Lamert

Travelling Christmas Crib

Would any household interested in hosting the Travelling Crib this year please contact me by mid-October. I appreciate that children who were once interested, feel they become too old but older "children" are sometimes willing to humour interested parents and households without children are entirely free to entertain the knitted figures and to enjoy socialising for a short while with people they may not previously have met, or with people they may not know very well.

Rosemary Lamert (01652)634518



Friends Remembered

During the past year and a half, St. Mary's has lost several familiar faces from the congregation. These include Marjorie Radford whose warm friendliness and good humour are very much missed, Don Broughton, that phenomenally faithful member of the Choir and purveyor of terrible jokes, Geoff Bromfield, the widely known, skilled and respected Bell Tower Captain and Ted Appleyard "Mr Barton", who gave regular support to Parish events, including gifts of flowers and fruit for raffles.

Most recently we lost Vera Atkin, "Aunty Vera", a redoubtable lady who, unlike those previously mentioned, was not a native of Barton but who had wholeheartedly become an adopted Bartonian. As Fr. David said at Vera's funeral, she would see a job that needed to be done, would decide that she could do it and would take it on — there was her work for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, undertaken with her husband Joe but which she continued for some years after his death. There was also her leadership of the Barton Branch of the Mother's Union and when she decided she really could not cope with this, she still felt able to act as Electoral Roll Officer, a post she relinquished only this year. Even then, already far from fit, she continued with her knitting for Operation Christmas Child. She had been so pleased when the Mission Committee instigated support for that charity and characteristically saw a way to offer practical help. Those of us who saw the growing piles of knitting stored in what Vera called her "glory hole" - surely the tidiest under-stairs cupboard I ever saw - could only admire her industry. Next year, many of you will miss being handed the polythene bag of knitting with the terse comment, "That will give you a start with your boxes". However, the spirit of Vera will live on in some measure. One or two people will work to produce some knitted sets, using the yarn accumulated by Vera in her magic cupboard and kindly passed on by her daughter Elizabeth.

We remember all these friends, for themselves and for the time and special talents they offered to the Church - their personal mark of stewardship. It is said that no one is indispensable and people are found to continue the practical tasks, but we can and do miss these and the other uniquely individual characters we have known during the years.

Rosemary Lamert

News from the Bell Tower

On Sunday the 28th June the ringers of St Mary's Church, Barton upon Humber took part in the Victorian Day celebrations organised by the local Civic Society to mark it's 40th birthday, they displayed and encouraged willing participants to try out the Lincoln Diocesan one bell simulator. Hopefully this may encourage more learners to the art of change ringing on the church tower bells.

A peal of plain Bob Major on handbells was rung by Anne Parkin, Geoffrey Bryant, Richard Hopper and Neville Parkin (conductor) at the Queen Street School to mark the Victorian day and the start of Barton Arts Week.

On the 6th September a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major on the eight bells was rung at St Mary's by local ringers Geoffrey Bryant, Joan Barton, Ruth Kitching, Linda Howden, Jenny Merch, Roger Lord, Andrew Lord and Richard Hopper (conductor).

On the 12th September 2009, our team took part in the six bell striking contest finals at Middle Rasen, Barton A team comprised the following ringers, Joan Barton, Linda Howden, Ruth Kitching, Andrew Lord, Roger Lord, Daniel Young. The team coming forth in the contest for the Ted Colley Cup, narrowly being beaten by Epworth, Stow and the winners, Bourne.

A Quiet Day.

"St. Francis and the Song of Creation"

An exploration of the Franciscan view of the Created Order led by The Revd. Gordon Plumb and David Redrobe. Saturday 10th. October. 9.30am - 4.00pm. Saint Mary's Parish Church. Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided.

"To walk past the font is to be recalled to that once and for all sacramental washing. To walk up to the altar-table past the lectern and the pulpit is to be put in the position of being fed with the food and drink of unending life in Christ".

(From the Preface to "Do This" by Kenneth Stevenson, Bishop of Portsmouth. Published by Canterbury Press. £14.99)

Playing it by the book.

Bible Sunday is just around the corner, and the following contribution came in as a timely reminder that brain needs to be engaged before opening mouth. It highlights, in a tongue-in-cheek way, the importance of understanding the culture, time and purpose of the instructions given and reading the Bible in the light of the continued influence and discernment of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Dr. Carey;

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your sermons and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate.

I do need some advice, from you, however, regarding specific laws and how to best follow them.

(a) When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odour for the Lord (Lev. 1:9). The problem is my neighbours. They claim the odour is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

(b) I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do think would be a fair price for her?

(c) Lev. 25:44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?

(d) I have a neighbour who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obliged to kill him myself?

(e) A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. 11:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?

(f) Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

Donations for Church flowers

Donations for Church flowers have been received in loving memory of:-

Hugh Varah
Marjorie Radford
Bob Griffiths
Jeremy Griffiths

Shirley Creasey

Stewardship.

It's a long time since we had a proper stewardship renewal, and a small group of us is working with Andy Wright, the diocesan stewardship adviser, on a programme which will run after Easter 2010.

We intend to take 'stewardship' in its widest meaning, and we're putting things together bit by bit. One thing we've become aware of, though, is that there's still a lot of confusion 'out there' about where the money comes from and where it goes (for example, you'd be astonished how many folk think the clergy are paid by the state, or that church repairs are the responsibility of some Whitehall department).

It would be useful for us to know how well the people of St. Mary's have been kept informed over the years about the basics of Church housekeeping, so Andy has helped us prepare a short survey to find out what people know and what they're not certain about in the world of parish (and church) finance. This will be going out from Harvest, October 4th, and it would help if we had the replies back by the Civic Service, October 18th, for number-crunching. To try and make sure no-one's left out, we've taken the names from the Church Electoral Roll, but if you would like your say, and are not on the list, please do ask for a copy.



***Local Handyman,
Reliable Service, Reasonable Rates.***

***General Maintenance Undertaken —
Everything From Gardening
to Interior/Exterior Painting.***

No Job Too Small!

***Ring Ian On 07825 703593
for A Prompt Service.***

All Souls' Tide.

As is our tradition here, there are two services marking this important time of year.

On Sunday October 25th, there is the annual Memorial service to which we invite the relatives of those who have died over the last twelve months. It isn't, of course, limited to those who are invited, and we do welcome all those who have been bereaved, even long years ago, to share in this commemoration. There will be light refreshments afterwards, and the clergy will be on hand should anyone wish to have a word with them.

Monday November 2nd is All Souls' Day, the day on which for centuries the Church has prayed for the faithful departed. There will be a Requiem Eucharist at 9.00 am, and, as is customary, the departed will be prayed for by name. We do keep a list of those whom we commemorate year by year, and this will be put out at the back of Church soon. Please let us know if there are any omissions from the list, or if any corrections need to be made.

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS:

September 13 Bethany Ann Neall, daughter of Rachel Claire Sheppard & Peter Anthony Neall.
Jordan Ashley Shephardson, son of Corinne Jayne Sheppard & Darren John Shephardson.

September 20 Hope Olivia Smales, daughter of Kirsty Lee Ward & Daniel Smales.

MARRIAGES:

September 19 Liam Graham & Kerry Anne Joyce.

FUNERALS:

August 24 Ethel Greenwood.
August 24 Cecelia Catherine (Celia) Reynolds.
September 10 Stephen Paul Sopp.
September 10 John Stanley.
September 11 Lawrence Thompson
September 15 Jeremy Teale Walker..

(g) Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?

(h) I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

(i) My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments of two different kinds of thread (cotton / polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? (Lev. 24:10-16). Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Yours sincerely.....

'Bats' or 'bats'

Three vicars were discussing the infestation of bats in their various churches.

Vicar one said, 'No matter what we do they always return- I've tried using a stuffed owl but still they come back.'

Vicar two said, 'Well, I've tried all sorts including smoke but still they return!'

Vicar three listened carefully to them both and then announced, 'Well I've found the answer to all our problems! What you do is this :- christen them and then confirm them and you can guarantee they'll never be back at all!!!'

"Liturgists are an affliction sent to try the Church so that, when there is no overt persecution, the faithful may not be denied the merits of suffering."
(Anon.)

October Diary

Thu 1	9.30 -11.30	Open Door
October 4th Harvest Festival.		
	8.00 am	Said Eucharist.
	9.30 am	Family Eucharist.
	2.30 pm	Service at the Willows.
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong.
Mon. 5	10.15 am	Toddler Time.
	7.00 pm	Harvest Supper & Auction of produce.
Tues 6	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Wed. 7	9.30 am	Said Eucharist (<i>MU Corporate</i>)
	7.00 pm	Ladies' Group Harvest Supper
	7.30 pm	Mission Committee meet at 77 Bowmandale..
Thu 8	9.30 -11.30	Open Door
Sat 10	9.30 - 4.00	<u>A Quiet Day.</u> "St. Francis and the Song of Creation" (see article).
October 11th Trinity		
	8.00 am	Said Eucharist.
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist.
	4.00 pm	Baptisms.
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer.
Mon. 12	10.15 am	Toddler Time.
	2.00 pm	Standing Committee meets at the Vicarage.
	7.00 pm	Youth Training session 2 in the Hall.
Tue. 13	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist.
Wed. 14	9.30 am	Said Eucharist.
	2.00 pm	Service at Eagle House.
	7.15 pm	Ministry Team meets at the Vicarage.
Thu 15	9.30 -11.30	Open Door
		Home Communion.
October 18th Trinity 15		
	8.00 am	Said Eucharist.
	9.30 am	Family Worship.
	3.00 pm	Civic Service.
	6.00 pm	Parish Eucharist.

Mon. 19	10.15 am	Toddler Time.
		Home Communion at St. Peter's Court (10.15) & Victoria House (11.00).
	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist.
Tue 20	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist for Healing & Wholeness.
Wed. 21	9.30 am	Said Eucharist.
	2.00 pm	MU Meeting.
	2.00 pm	Service at Beech House.
	7.00 pm	Ladies' Group.
Thu 20	9.30 -11.30	Open Door.
Sat 24		<i>Barton Town Band Proms Concert in Church.</i>
October 25th Last after Trinity – Bible Sunday.		
	8.00 am	Said Eucharist.
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist.
	6.00 pm	All Souls' Tide Memorial Service
Mon. 26	10.15 am	Toddler Time.
	2.00 pm	Worship Review Group meets at the Vicarage.
	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist.
	7.30 pm	PCC meeting.
Tue 27	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist.
Wed. 28	9.30 am	Said Eucharist.
	2.00 pm	MU Prayer Time.
	7.00 pm	Stewardship Steering group meets at the Vicarage.
November 1 All Saints.		
	8.00 am	Said Eucharist.
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist.
	11.15 am	Sunday Club
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong.
Mon. 2	9.00 am	All Souls' Day Requiem Eucharist.
	11.15 am	Toddler Time.
<i>Morning Prayer is usually said at 9am Monday-Friday in the S^t. James' Chapel.</i>		