

# THE LINK

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2021



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# OPENING THOUGHTS

## Cider making

Apples have been ripening and autumn has arrived. Apples are collected in bags and crates and delivered to the cider barn in October and November.

The apples are washed and chopped and the pulp added to the press base wrapped in layers of hessian cloths between slatted boards, pressing then begins, squeezing the juice out into a trough.

The sweet juice is then pumped into large barrels. Nothing is added apart from water to top up so apple bits rise and spill out, sugars from the juice, yeasts from the apple skins and warmth starts fermentation over the following weeks. Once this stops the barrel is sealed and left. It's a simple process and the cider is ready to drink in about three months. This amazing process of cider making has happened in Devon for centuries.

Autumn is the time for fruits, vegetable and cereals to ripen and be harvested, a time to celebrate at our Harvest festival services, being thankful, praying and singing our favourite harvest hymns.

We also are aware of climate changes around our world and the dramatic effects on crops and communities. Smallholder farmers say that farming is struggling. The weather is becoming unpredictable with droughts and flash floods. Younger people in many rural communities can find it hard to see a future in farming to make a living or to feed their communities. Farmers may have the potential to be powerful agents of change as they try to adapt.



## Benefice Coffee Morning

for all our Parishes

**21<sup>st</sup> Oct. & 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month

**From 10:30am to 12 noon**

**At Offwell, Social Club Room**

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enjoy coffee, home made  
cake and a chat!*



Lord, guide us to be good stewards of what you have given us and make us sensitive in all our dealings with each other and with your whole creation.

*Tara Huffman, Farway*

## BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS FARWAY

Tara Huffman	01404 871372
Robin Banks	01404 871355

### OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley	01404 831450
Marion Hutchinson	01404 830055

### WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins	01404 831688
Mary Wakeley	01404 831345

## OCTOBER SERVICES

	OFFWELL	FARWAY	WIDWORTHY
<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:30am HC HARVEST SERVICE		<b>4pm</b> HARVEST FESTIVAL
<b>October 10<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>3pm</b> - join with <b>Farway Methodist</b> Harvest Festival	9:30am Family Service
<b>October 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:15am</b> Family Service	11:15am HC	9:30am HC
<b>October 24<sup>th</sup></b>			9:30am Family Service
<b>October 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>3pm United Benefice Songs of Praise at FARWAY</b>		

## BIBLE READINGS

<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	Psalm 26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
<b>October 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Psalm 22:1-15	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
<b>October 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Job 38:1-7, (34-41)	Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
<b>October 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	Psalm 34: 1-8 (19-22)	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
<b>October 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Ruth 1:1-18	Psalm 146	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34

## FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH

### October

**3<sup>rd</sup> 11am** Conducted by Dr. Alan McIlveen

**10<sup>th</sup> 3pm** Conducted by Revd. Julian Albrow **HARVEST FESTIVAL** all are most welcome.  
The Church of England will be joining our congregation.

**17<sup>th</sup> 11am** Local Arrangements

**24<sup>th</sup> 3pm** Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam with HC

**31<sup>st</sup> 11am** Local Arrangements

### November

**7<sup>th</sup> 11am** Conducted by Mrs. Margaret Cole

**14<sup>th</sup>** No Service

**21<sup>st</sup> 11am** Conducted by Mr. Terry Palmer

**28<sup>th</sup> 3pm** Conducted by Revd. Julian Albrow



# NOVEMBER SERVICES

	OFFWELL	FARWAY	WIDWORTHY
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am HC		9:30am Family Service
Thursday Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10:55am</b> Act of Remembrance at church gates		
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>		10:50am Remembrance Service	9:30am Remembrance Service
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>10:15am</b> Family Service	11:15am HC	9:30am HC
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> in Advent			<b>4pm</b> Advent Carol Service by candlelight
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Advent	9:30am HC		9:30am Family Service

# BIBLE READINGS

Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth 5:1-5; 4:13-17	Psalm 127	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	1 Samuel 1:4-20	<i>Canticle:</i> 1 Samuel 2:1-10	Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18)	Mark 13:1-8
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Psalm 132: 1-12(13-18)	Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Malachi 3:1-4	<i>Canticle:</i> Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6

## Websites:

### Farway:

[www.farwaydevon.org.uk](http://www.farwaydevon.org.uk)

### Offwell:

[www.offwell.org](http://www.offwell.org)

### Widworthy:

[www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk)

[www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)

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The LINK is the magazine of the 3 Parishes of OFFWELL, FARWAY and WIDWORTHY.

Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the community. The next edition is **DECEMBER 2021**. Submissions to be received by **10<sup>th</sup> NOV at the latest please**.

Email Melanie at: [parisheslink@gmail.com](mailto:parisheslink@gmail.com)  
Submissions, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format. The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality. Please note - **Late submissions may not be included.**



# OFFWELL



**Devon Historic Churches Day** on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September was a great success. Children tried out the Ellacombe Chimes while the adults learnt that bell ringing is not quite as easy as it looks.



A number of people, villagers and visitors took the opportunity to climb the tower and see Offwell from above.

The **Church is now open every day from 10am until 4pm.** We are still looking for

people to help with unlocking and locking the church. If anyone is interested can they please contact Marion on 830055.

Please note that the **Family Services, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month** starts at the new time of **10:15am** from October. These are short, lay lead, very friendly services and you would be warmly welcomed.

**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER at 10:55am**  
**Act of Remembrance at St. Mary's church gates**

The **books** which are currently in the porch will now be put inside at the back of the church. Please feel free to take or leave any.

After so long without one we now have a cleaner. Thanks are due to Marion who, despite all her other commitments, has kept the church clean and sanitised enabling us to reopen and hold services during such challenging times.

The **Harvest Service** on the morning of **3<sup>rd</sup> October** will be taken by Bishop Oliver. From 3pm to 4:30pm that day there will be a **CREAM TEA** in the Social Club. £5 per person.

It was lovely to see so many people at the Benefice Coffee Morning last month. There was plenty of chatter as we caught up with friends we hadn't seen for so long. A little bit of normality returning to our lives. Details on Page 3.

Another enjoyable social event was the resumption of the Ladies' Lunch. As usual in August it was the Cream Tea and this was held at the Blackbury Honey Farm where we were made very welcome.

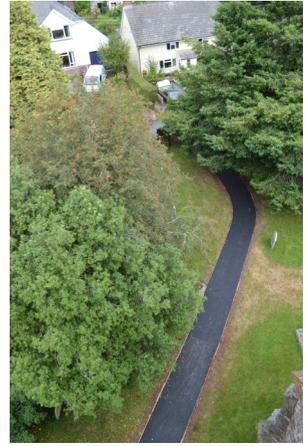




# OFFWELL



Thanks to some large and generous pledges **St. Mary's pathways** have now been completely re-tarmacked with a more substantial hardcore base. The cost was just over £9,000. The PCC are hoping to establish a **Parish Giving** scheme this autumn. This will make it easier for people in Offwell and further afield to make regular donations towards St. Mary's upkeep. More information will be posted on the website when the scheme is up and running. If anyone would like to make a donation in the meantime can they please contact one of the churchwardens



The PCC are waiting for an update from the church architect on the preparation of the **Faculty application**. The majority of church buildings, their contents and grounds are protected by Faculty Jurisdiction. Under this legislation any repair, alteration, extension, disposal or addition needs to receive approval. This is granted by the Chancellor of the Diocese or in some cases by the appropriate Archdeacon. Drawings and plans for a

re-ordering of St. Mary's have been completed, including the archaeologist's report. The PCC are now waiting for the faculty process to be finalised. It is hoped that the Faculty application will be submitted this autumn.

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month** from 6pm to 7:30pm - **Fish and Chips** will be frying in the hall car park .

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in each month** from 5:30pm to 8pm - **Thai Street Stall** will be preparing and cooking in the car park For the menu or further info please check out the Sports & Social Club Facebook page. This is a new venture and was very successful last month despite the rain.

On all these occasions the bar will be open and you can eat inside or outside.

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## The Gardener's Battle

I love to be in my garden  
Where I happily spend hours,  
Sowing seeds or weeding,  
Planting vegetables and flowers.

Pheasants trampled on my lettuces  
And the rabbits ate a few,  
The neighbour's cat from down the road  
Used my seed bed as a loo.

I planted out my cabbages  
Expecting quite a crop,  
They were doing well for several days  
Till something nibbled every top.

I bought some trays of marigolds  
With bright blooms and pungent smell,  
I thought they were delightful,  
The slugs and snails did as well.

I hoped the birds might help me out  
So to tempt them I bought nuts,  
The squirrel soon devoured all those,  
And the birds ate my fruit not slugs.

The deer were frequent visitors  
With voracious appetite,  
Devouring flowers and green shoots  
Of every plant below deer height.

The runner beans were blown down  
On a very windy night,  
The tomatoes and the roses  
Got a nasty touch of blight.

The sweetcorn was almost ready  
A few days off being ripe,  
But the badgers came and one by  
one  
Took a plant down every night.

When I wonder why I carry on  
It's heartening to see  
That despite all this, at Harvest time  
There's plenty left for me.

*By Pam Staunton*



## Harvest Cream Tea

Sunday 3rd October

from 3pm to 4:30pm

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Tickets £5



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# OFFWELL FLOWER SHOW 2021



We had a very successful Flower Show on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. After Covid forced cancellation last year we were pleased to welcome the show back. With a few minor adjustments everything fell into its usual place. At the last minute one of our judges had to pull out with broken foot but thankfully, Julia Harrison from Exmouth stepped in to save the day. We had 244 entries and there was some close fought competition in most classes.

The "Men Only" decorated chocolate cake was particularly competitive (and we've spent almost the rest of September eating chocolate cake.



The overall winners' cup was taken by Alison Monkhouse with 39 points and Bridget Hallowes came a close second with 33 points.



A huge thankyou to everyone who entered exhibits, helped with setting up and taking down, baking cakes, serving teas, selling and buying raffle tickets and anyone else we've forgotten to thank. A big thankyou too to the organising committee led ably by Marian.



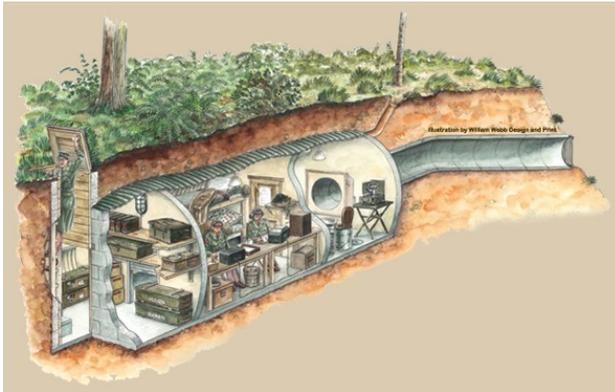
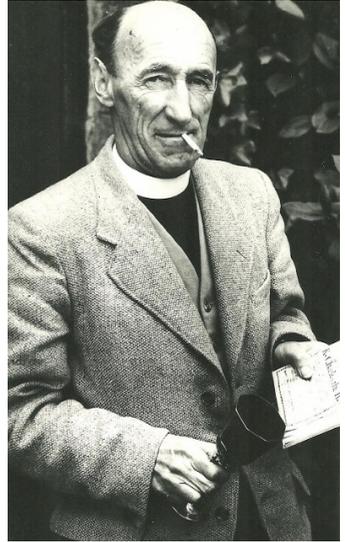
See you all again next year! We can't do it without you.



## The Copleston Spy

As we commemorate 76 years since the ending of WW2 declassified documents are still emerging, revealing secret service operations that the vast majority of people in the UK have never heard of. One of these was the Special Duties Branch (SDB). There were real fears that the Germans would invade Britain in 1940 and the SDB was set up as a secret civilian spy and radio network, put in place to be active during the first few weeks of an invasion. **Rev. Frederick Elford Copleston**, vicar at St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's, from 1935 to 1954, was an SDB spy and wireless operator.

There were around 1,000 male and female SDB volunteers in 1940, increasing to around 3,500 by mid-1944. Special Duties volunteers were told to stay behind should invasion occur; they were trained to observe the enemy, to record unit identification, armaments and direction of vehicles and large group movements. Coded information was to be relayed via messengers and runners through a series of dead-letter drops. All very 007 this was by such methods as hollow gate-bolts, Oxo tins in tree stumps and even split tennis balls. This information was then passed along the network via secret wireless and these were hidden in underground bunkers, chicken sheds, pub attics etc., depending on the operator's livelihood.



It is not known who recruited Frederick but he had served with the Royal Fusiliers in WW1 and would have had a large number of local contacts due to the Copleston family's long association with Offwell and Widworthy.

After the war Rev. Fred's nephew, John Copleston, together with his brother Martin, would spend part of

their summer holidays at Widworthy Rectory and John remembers his uncle showing him an underground bunker or dug out, located in a 'wild part of the garden'. John remembers being told it was used for communication purposes but thought nothing more about it.

Continued.....

Rev. Fred was not the only clergyman to be involved. On the Devon/ Dorset border one vicar kept his wireless set in the pulpit. Not an option for Rev. Fred as during the war the evacuees staying with Vic (as they called him) and his wife Joyce, were expected to attend church on Sunday and pump the organ in St. Cuthbert's. A Dorset vicar had his bunker located underneath the outside toilet.

Another Copleston and distant relative of Rev. Fred was Beatrice Temple, niece of Archbishop Temple. She was the Senior Commander of the Auxiliary Units Special Duties Section (Signals). Her role included interviewing potential recruits in Harrods Tearoom. These well-educated and attractive women became known as the 'Secret Sweeties'. In the event of an invasion her ATS personnel were to go to ground in concealed bunkers and remain hidden, and operating, until the enemy found them. Being sworn to everlasting secrecy, their motto was:

'Be like Dad – KEEP MUM'.

*Carol Hayes*

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## FARWAY



Everyone is invited to join our Methodist friends for their **Harvest Festival at 3pm on October 10<sup>th</sup>** at their chapel.



On **October 31<sup>st</sup> at 3pm** there will be a **Benefice Songs of Praise** in Farway. We look forward to welcoming everyone to come and sing some favourite hymns.



On **Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>** our **Remembrance service** will start at the earlier time of **10:50am**

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### PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Our Parish Giving scheme has gained interest and we are now receiving more regular monthly donations from our community.

This has made things easier for our treasurer and we are now securing a regular income to support our church funds.

If you are interested in regular giving or want to know more about how the scheme works, please contact:

Liz Lee, PCC Treasurer Tel: 871202 Email: [churchapproach@outlook.com](mailto:churchapproach@outlook.com)



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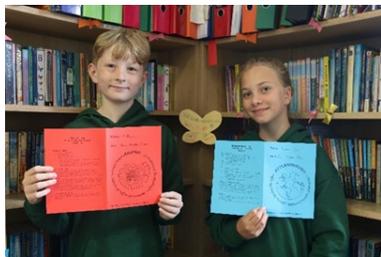


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Tel: 01404 831417

We are back! Offwell School children returned on Wednesday 8 September and to everyone's delight, were once again able to mix in classrooms and have playtimes together. Long may this last. Of course sensible precautions remain in place for keeping our children, families and staff as safe as possible.



We are now fully operational with our new house names: Attenborough (blue) and Anning (red). Each child in each class has a house point card, designed by some of our current year 6 children, the cards have appropriate logos on them and also some information on the person after whom they are named. House captains from Year 6 will be appointed shortly and they will be responsible for supporting other members in different classes.



We have new school sports hoodies, organised by the PTFA, and the children look really smart and quite sporty – some of the staff wear them when they are taking PE lessons and they also look smart and sporty. Hopefully, if restrictions continue to ease we return to participating in sporting events with other local schools.



All classes are busy learning, filling any gaps and extending their knowledge.

**Oak Class (ages 9 to 11)** Off With Her Head – travelling back in time to meet the Tudors. What sort of man would order the beheading of his wife?

**Beech Class (ages 7 to 9)** Blue Abyss – going deep into an underwater world of incredible coral and mysterious sea creatures.

**Willow Class (ages 5 to 7)** Movers and Shakers – learning about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world.

**Ash Class (3 to 5) and Nursery** Friends – a topic full of communication and language to help all our new children to settle in to school.

Classes look more 'normal' with children once again sitting in groups, rather than all facing one way, and they are enjoying the opportunity for peer learning and collaboration.

School has now returned to using St. Mary's on Thursday afternoons, from 1:00 to 1:30pm, for Collective Worship. Mr Thomas, Senior Teacher, is delighted: "Having all the children together for the first time in at least 18 months and listening to their voices singing the song 'Together', together, was uplifting and joyful". The church will also be used on Friday afternoons from 14:30 to 15:00pm for a Celebration Assembly, to which all parents are invited. We are hopeful that many parents will attend as this will also help our feeling of unity.

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# Hymns

We are in the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' which brings with it that great church celebration – Harvest. Even as you read those words, I bet the tune is already rolling round your head and you're mouthing the words 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land'. I wonder what it is that fixes certain hymns in our subconscious and runs them at a moment's notice like a Netflix streaming service.



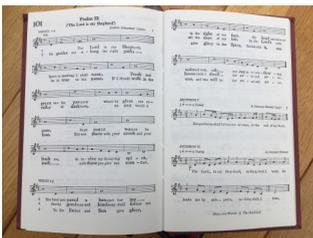
For me, as a pupil at a C of E primary school and then a long standing member of the church choir it's obviously repetition, but all the ones I can instantly recall also have great writers and accessible tunes. But I don't believe that's all it is because this handful of favourites has obviously touched a raw nerve in almost all of us as we have instant re-call of the words and music.



There are no printed words or singalong banners at football matches but huge crowds belt out 'Abide with me'. How many weddings feature 'Love divine all loves excelling' where most members of the gathering are looking at the bride rather than having to follow the printed word. And every parent who gets to visit a school assembly will join in with 'Morning has broken, like the first morning' without any hymn books being to hand.

We will shortly move from autumn to winter and I have only to write 'While shepherds' before the tune will be running through your head and the refrain will come to you word perfect. And I can't recall how many funerals I've been to where 'All things bright and beautiful' makes an appearance – with or without a hymn sheet.

My personal favourite is none of the above. At my school, when it was your birthday, the head would call you up to stand at the front of the assembled horde to choose the hymn for that day's worship. On my tenth birthday I chose 'Eternal father strong to save' - the seafarers hymn. We did not live close to the sea, but this hymn had such drama and power it obviously took hold in my head and has remained there ever since. 'For those in peril on the Sea.'



So what's the hymn that is lodged in your subconscious that surfaces intact and whole with only the smallest nudge?

*Frank Hayes*

# ST. CUTHBERT'S, WIDWORTHY



Please plan to join us in the church for **Harvest Festival** on **Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm** followed by a cream tea in the church. Please bring your own mug for tea. The service will be taken by the Revd Nigel Freathy and the church will be beautifully decorated with flowers and the fruit and produce of the harvest. It is a good time to stop and think about all that we have been given over the last year and to give thanks.

Our regular services in October continue on Sunday mornings **at 9:30am** with a Family Service on the second and fourth Sundays and Holy Communion on the third Sunday. As October 31 is a fifth Sunday, there will be a **Benefice Service at 3pm in Farway**.

A huge thank you to Mary Wakeley for the organisation and to everyone who helped with the **Sponsored Spring Clean** of the church on 11<sup>th</sup> September. So far we have raised over £200 with more money coming in, for the Devon Historic Churches Trust and had fun in the process chatting while we worked. Half of the amount will come back to us for our repair fund. Plan to join us again next year!

Our **Remembrance Sunday Service** will be on **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**. It is always a moving service with a bugler playing the Last Post after the names of the fallen from Widworthy Parish are read. Last year when we were in lockdown, we had the service at the lych gate which people enjoyed so much that if the weather is favourable, we will do again. Otherwise, we will be in the church. As the generations that remember and fought in the two world wars are dying out, it becomes even more important that we teach our children to remember what happened in this country and across the continent of Europe and the world and make certain that the personal links to those who fought and died are kept alive down through successive generations. This year the service will be taken by the Revd Nigel Freathy.

The season of Advent is a time of prayer and preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The fourth Sunday in November is the first Sunday in Advent, **November 28<sup>th</sup>**, when we again will have the beautiful **Advent Carol Service** by candlelight at **4pm**. Our first Sunday Family Service and third Sunday Holy Communion in November will be at the usual time of 9:30am.

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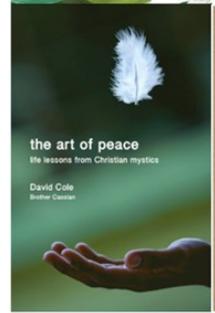
## BOOK REVIEW

### The Art of Peace: Life lessons from Christian Mystics

By David Cole, BRF, £8.99

Deep inner peace and peace of mind with spiritual balance is something everyone wants, but how does one attain it? More importantly, how does one maintain it in the midst of everyday life?

With sections on Stillness, Silence, Solitude and Sanctuary, this book draws on the lived experience of the author, as well as wisdom of Christian contemplatives and mystics from the past, to help people walk the mystic path of peace through life.



COLOUR- ME-IN Autumn Mice

### *Smile lines -*

*Editor: Here are some more **real-life extracts from church bulletins and notices that didn't come out quite in the way intended!***

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nurseiy downstairs.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.



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