

Remembrance.....All Souls Day

The vicar has asked the children to come to the service today with the names of anyone who have died and who they and/or their parents want to be especially remembered at the service this morning. He has put some paper and pencils out for those children who wish to write any names down for him to read in the service. See below how they did on this rather sombre but not unhappy day as they remember those who have died.

The vicar has asked Miss Enid to sit with some of the children as they think of those they have loved who have died and want to be remembered in this morning's All Souls' Day service.

Tom tells the girls he is very lucky because he can't remember ANYONE dying in his family! However, he IS still very upset because his pet hamster, Bungle, died only a week ago and he still finds himself crying in the morning when he remembers he can no longer go and feed and play with him.



Miss Enid assures him that he can put Bungle's name down and the vicar will read his name out during the service. Emily and Megan both tell Miss Enid they miss their great grandmothers VERY much so want them to be remembered today.

Miss Enid tells the children that she is writing down the names of her mother and father because, although it is a VERY long time since they both died, she STILL misses them very much.

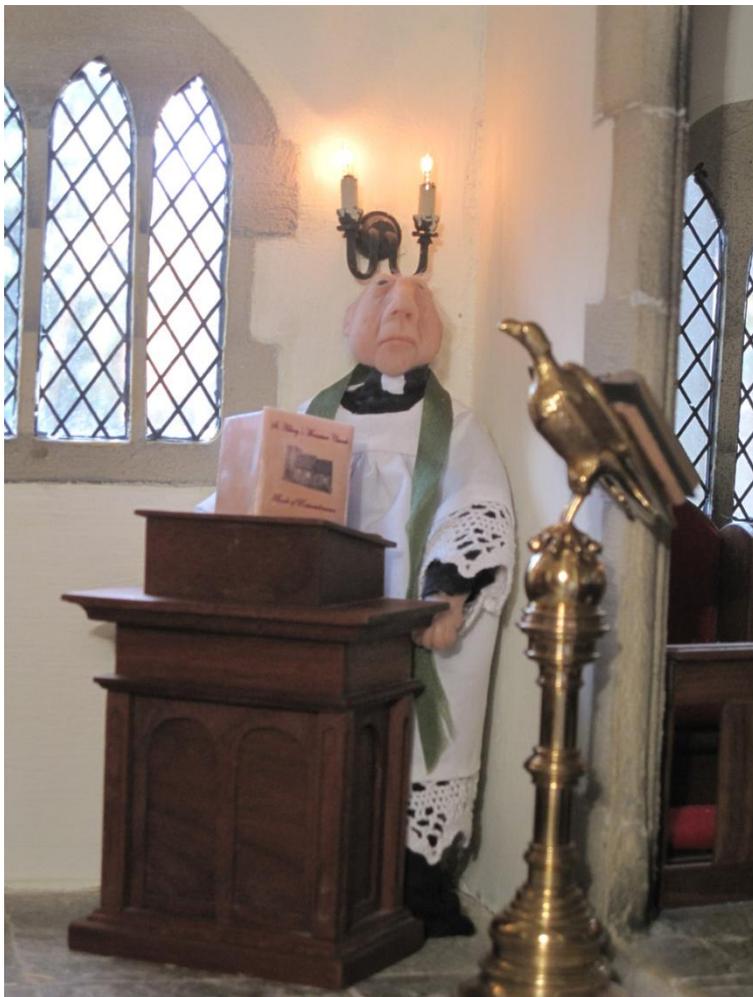
Ambrose brings the church's Book of Remembrance so that the vicar can read out all the names in there of the people who have died during the last year and had their funeral in St. Hilary's.

Magnifi-Cat and Sepp are not far away.....watching proceedings.

Who have we here? It is Esme and Ernest the local pair of Mallard ducks who live on the pond in Daffodil Green.

Ernest is looking very embarrassed..... Can you see that he doesn't have ANY piece of paper at all. That is because he can't read or write unlike Tinker who is a VERY clever cat who is waiting in the congregation to bring HER piece of paper up to the vicar.

However.....the vicar is still very pleased that Ernest has come up because he tells him that it is very brave of him to confess this in front of everyone else. He assures Ernest that there are many people too who can't read or write but it doesn't matter to God at all.....because He loves us all!



Ernest tells the vicar that he wants him to remember his Mum, Elsie, especially because she only died a month ago and his father, Eric, is very lonely and sad now. The vicar tells him that he will be honoured to read Elsie's name out during the service!

The time is here and the vicar is opening the Book of Remembrance to read the names out. However, before he starts to read the names from the book he asks the children who have written names down to bring their pieces of paper up to him so that he can read those names out too.

Look who is here first with her piece of paper.....!!

It is Tinker. Isn't she a clever cat because she has been able to write down the name of her grandfather who she still misses VERY much!

However.....the vicar cannot see her can he?

Tom comes to the pulpit holding HIS paper up and guess what name is on this piece of paper?....."BUNGLE" of course.....his last hamster who died only a week ago.....

Oh dear.....Tinker is STILL waiting for the vicar to notice her.

Tom is kind and tells the vicar that Tinker has a paper to give him and the vicar agrees to read her name out too!

After all the other children, including Emily and Megan, have brought their pieces of paper to him with the names of those they want remembered and read out, the vicar reads ALL the names he has.



Of course he HAS to remember dear Ernie who was their much loved churchyard gardener and who died during the last year.

The children and congregation sit VERY still and listen to him in complete silence as they too remember those whom they have loved and lost with joy and affection whilst thanking God for their lives.....



St Hilary's Christmas Scrap Book

Christmas time at St. Hilary's is always great fun for the children, clergy, and the entire congregation too. They all wanted to do something a little different this year so they have put this scrap book together for you all to see photos of how they enjoy the preparations for Christmas.

The children always know that Christmas is not far away when the church trees are put up! This year they are having a tree outside the church too and Ambrose is busy decorating it. The days are not very long now so he has put the lights on first and turned them on as it is early evening and the sun has nearly set!

Rev Ken has brought his guitar so that he can entertain the children as they help



Ambrose decorate the tree.

Look who else has come outside to help too? It is Magnifi-Cat and Bardsley. Poor Adele has had to bring her warm scarf and muff to keep warm!

The boys insist they don't need ANY scarves or gloves to keep them warm as they are busy with the tree. Rev Ken keeps his fingers warm by playing the guitar for them!

Whilst Ambrose is busy outside Esther is busy setting the Christmas tree up inside the church. Doesn't the angel look lovely on top of the tree. The children insist that the angel is ALWAYS placed there every year!

Again they have chosen to put the tree under the bell tower next to Magnfi-Cat's cat basket and cat food bowl!

Some of the children are practising bell ringing under the eagle eye of Esther..... Tinker is trying to get Adele's attention but we think Adele is too interested in her bell ringing to take any notice of her.....poor Tinker!



The children have pooled their pocket money together to buy Miss Enid a Christmas present. They often hear her say that she almost always has to visit the library to renew an organ book she loves to use to play in the services.

Sometimes she is late remembering to renew it and has to pay a fine. The children know she can't keep affording to do that as she is now only on a pension and has to watch her pennies.

Homer, who used to play the organ back in Germany, had secretly checked to see which book it was and has told Ambrose. Ambrose has just bought the book and is showing it to Homer for his approval!

Homer is pleased because he is hoping Miss Enid will be kind enough to let HIM borrow it sometimes when he fancies practising on the organ!



What is happening here? Esme and Ernest have been VERY worried about Miss Enid because she sometimes complains her knees hurt when she walks because of her arthritis. They really wish that they could earn money in order to buy her a nice walking stick but know that they really don't NEED any money because they find all the food and shelter they need at the local village pond!



The ducks are SO pleased. Can you see why? It is because Ambrose and Alice have been thoughtful enough to buy a special walking stick with a duck's head on to remind Miss Enid who REALLY gave it to her!

They just LOVE it as Priscilla Jane shows it off to them here.

Esther could see something was going on and has come over to see what is happening!

She tells them that she is worried Miss Enid may see the walking stick that Ambrose and Alice have bought as a Christmas present on behalf of Esme and Ernest for her.



The children have been so excited and couldn't wait till Christmas morning to go to church!

They were dying to see Miss Enid's face when she was presented with not just ONE present but TWO from them all!

Esme and Ernest are the first to give her their present of a walking stick with a duck's head on it. Ben had to help them carry it to church though!

Hasn't Priscilla Jane wrapped it up well for Esme and Ernest? She decided to make it look like a long cracker!

Miss Enid is MOST amused as you can see. She is checking this new walking stick with a duck head VERY closely isn't she? Ernest was so excited as he watched her unwrap it.

Alice too is here to see what Miss Enid thinks of her new walking stick.



Phoebe hears Miss Enid give a huge exclamation of surprise and delight and so comes over to see her!

Miss Enid is just thrilled with her present. She now knows that she will NEVER need to remember to renew this book at the library ever again and incur a fine every time she forgets!

Phoebe already knows what this present is so she is quick to tell Miss Enid how she has been BURSTING to tell her but knew that it was a big secret til this morning!

The vicar is enjoying some peace and quiet in the sanctuary whilst admiring the beautiful Christmas flower arrangements.

He has had a great Christmas Day with the children and congregation but he is also looking forward to some peace and quiet too!

