

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

## Appropriate

**“To thine own self be true.”**

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Lessons from a Quiz Night, number 2 ... Before I ran my Quiz Night in the church, I joined a Charity Quiz Night with my daughter's work, with a proper professional quiz-master – *and* a charity raffle!

We had a “family” table, made up of three generations, including my fifteen-year-old grandson. There was a list of the raffle prizes on our table, about thirty in all, half to be drawn at the mid-quiz interval and the remainder at the end. The first tranche of prizes were all “things” arrayed on the table at the front – red wine, prosecco, toiletries, hampers, chocolates, and the like. During the first half of the quiz, my grandson had annotated the list of prizes – with a “no” against all the alcohol, female toiletries, groceries, and the like, and a “yes” against the chocolates, and chocolates, and more chocolates. A wish-list, indeed ...

The remaining raffle prizes were “vouchers” for various services and events. This time, my grandson *and* his grampa checked the list, and while there were “yesses” against a gym membership, bakery voucher, trip for four to a science park and meal for two, there was a heavily written “no” against the “wash-and-blow-dry”, “hair styling” and “highlighting” at various hairdressing emporiums. Given my own lack of hair and my grandson's modern “short-back-and-sides” (or whatever the current equivalent is) we now had a note of what was acceptable to both of us and what was not. In the end, we won nothing – not *even* the prizes of our choosing. But we both knew what was appropriate for us and what wasn't.

Too big a leap to the quote above from *Hamlet*, “To thine own self be true?” Maybe. But if a fifteen-year-old and his grampa can share even a few moments to work out what's appropriate for him and for me, perhaps it's not too big a leap after all. What's appropriate for his life to give it meaning and purpose may be different from what's appropriate for mine, and *vice versa*. Hairdressing? Yes, that too. But if a young man can learn to be true to himself *and* understand that others also have a right to that, then we'll all be winners – better than *any* random raffle prize!

### **A prayer for today**

*Help me to be true to myself and to live appropriately for you. Amen*