



St Paul's Church

This Saturday evening we look forward to enjoying our Harvest Supper together as a community, and on Sunday we celebrate the bountiful gifts of the harvest at Café Church; please remember to bring food gifts with you for either of these events for distribution to those who need it most.



As the nights draw in and the days get colder, celebrating harvest brings together all the recent themes we have been considering in our Sunday services here at St. Paul's:

- We looked at the *Celtic tradition* with its emphasis on the spirituality of outdoor spaces, the idea of nature as intrinsically good and an irreplaceable part of God's creation.
- The last time that Rev Chris preached, he spoke about *humility, inclusivity and hospitality*, and we hope that there will be plenty of these good things on offer at our own Harvest Supper.
- September's Café service focused again on the *beauty of creation* and our responsibilities towards the planet that sustains us, as well as towards one another and other creatures.
- When we looked at the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son, we reflected on the *grace of God*; that God gives us so much regardless of whether we 'deserve' it, and always without waiting for us to make the first move.
- Last week, it was the turn of the Rich Man and Lazarus from Luke 16, and we explored the implication that it was the Rich Man's *inability to share his wealth* that was directly responsible for Lazarus' hunger.

Harvest gives us the perfect opportunity to weave together all these themes as we take time to appreciate the food we have to eat, those who have grown it and prepared it, and those with whom we get to share it, either in person or through our donations. We pause too to reflect on our responsibilities towards our planet and fragile ecosystem, and most of all, we appreciate the grace of our loving God who has provided every good thing for us.



'When we give generously, with an abundance mentality, what we give away will multiply.'
Henri Nouwen

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

All services are in church, zoom is available for some services.

SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER – TRINITY 16

10 am Café Service – Gwyn

SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER – TRINITY 17

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris (Zoom)

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER – TRINITY 18

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER – TRINITY 19

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

EVENTS

SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER

5.30 for 6 pm - Harvest Supper (*sign-up sheet at back of church*)

FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER

9.30 pm - St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER

7:30 pm - Boxley Church 'An evening of superb jazz with Dr Jazz and Lyn Falvey'

Adults £10, Children £5 - Tickets from Gill Munson 01622 630231, Jackie Saunders 01622 677121 or on the door. Proceeds to 'The Friends of Boxley Church' - car parking available.

THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER

12 noon for 12.30 pm - MOTHERS' UNION - Harvest Lunch @ 'The Bull'

THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER

12.30 pm - FELLOWSHIP - Making gift boxes - *Sue Pamphlet*

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 14th October.

PRAYER RESOURCE

Prayer Resource for Harvest 2022

'To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.' (Ecclesiastes Ch 3)

We give thanks for:

- God's generosity: may we all celebrate it within our church's ministry and mission.
- Late flowering plants and berries brightening up our gardens at this time of the year.

Please pray for:

- The life of the world: that every nation may seek the way that leads to peace, that human rights and freedom may be respected and that the world's resources may be ungrudgingly shared among all.
- Syria, as climate change and conflict have led to a severe shortage of water and many reported cases of cholera; pray that there will be access to safe drinking water and that the cholera outbreak can be quickly contained.
- Pakistan, that the floodwaters and high level of disease due to stagnant water recedes and that aid agencies continue to provide emergency and essential supplies.
- The provision of food and water for communities in Ethiopia affected by the expected hunger crisis caused by another failing harvest.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Joan, Gilly, Hazel, Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony, Maureen, Carol and Margaret; and for Ruth, Helen, Meaghan, Libby and Richard.
- As we start a new month, let us pray for God's blessing on our lives, our activities and work, on our relationships and as we rest.

You may like to use this prayer during this Harvest time:

Gracious God, I pray for everyone in this world who is hungry or thirsty. Please show me ways, however small, in which I can join with you in your mission to end injustices such as hunger and thirst. Amen.