

Vicar's Letter for October 2016

Dear Friends

Our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday October 9th and it will be a shared service between the Deaf and Hearing Churches. So we welcome you to come along and join in as together we give thanks to God for all that he provides for us.

I know we can expect a beautifully decorated Church as well. If you would like to be part of the team this year, please speak to Isobel who would be happy to have you joining in and helping out. In the Church where I was baptised and where I worshipped until I left home as a young adult, decoration the Church for harvest is one of the memories that stands out for me. It was very much a community event as on the day before we celebrated Harvest lots of us would gather in the morning and set too. I remember that decoration of the font was for the Sunday School to do; the window sills were piled with potatoes and onions; cabbages lined the floor by the choir stalls, and the pulpit was adorned with vine leaves and bunches of grapes. There were wheat sheaves on each side leading up to the chancel and flowers everywhere! Such decorations are a visible reminder to us of God's gracious provision and sustenance, nourishment and care. How easy it is to forget that sometimes and think we are the ones who do the providing. We are co-workers with God and we pray for farmers, fishermen and all who work on the land closely with nature, soil and the seasons to produce our food.

As in previous years we will be giving our harvest produce to the Booth Centre for the Homeless and to the St Bride's Refugee and Asylum Seekers' Project. What they ask for are:

Coffee, tea bags, sugar, biscuits

tinned meat (corned beef, ham, tuna, meatballs, hot dogs, stewing steak etc),

tinned fish,

tinned potatoes and veg, tinned fruit, custard and rice pudding.

Porridge oats, beans, jam and marmalade.

Pasta, rice.

Jars of pasta and curry sauce.

Thank you.

In the same way as Harvest reminds us of God our Provider and Sustainer, so also in this month of October we will be starting a new Pilgrim Discipleship Course on the Eucharist. The Eucharist is central to our lives as Christians, as week by week we are sustained and nourished by the body and blood of Jesus in the bread and wine we share together. If you would like to be part of the course, do let me know. It is a good opportunity to look with fresh eyes on something that is so familiar to us. There is a course booklet and these will be available to purchase at a cost of £5.99. We will be meeting on Tuesdays at 7.30pm on October 11th, November 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th, and December 6th.

In this Harvest season, here are some words from Psalm 107 v8-9:

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,

for his wonderful works to humankind.

For he satisfies the thirsty,

and the hungry he fills with good things.

With every blessing
Kate