

4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Harvest Thanksgiving



Despite the Covid situation, in fact possibly more importantly because of the Covid situation, we will gather, in whatever way we are able, to give thanks to God for all His 'gifts' to us this past year. The past 6 months have been tough and for many there have been lonely times, but by and large at St Mary Magdalene we have all survived so far and for that we must be thankful and pray it continues that way.

There is nothing to beat being together under one roof to celebrate in our usual style but, thanks to the power of technology (and a couple of youngsters who can operate it!!) we can be together, either in church or virtually, all at the same time as the service is live streamed. We will once again hear, as we cannot sing, the usual Harvest hymns. To my knowledge 'We plough the fields and scatter' has been sung in our church on harvest Sunday for the last 48 years and this year will be no exception, a different tune and sung by someone else but a reminder, that one day normality will return.

Our harvest gifts will once again be going to the Huddersfield Welcome Centre for them to distribute to those most in need in our area. After the summer they have had, their stocks are worryingly depleted and with many churches not fully up and running they are not expecting the usual replenishing of stocks this autumn. As the photo shows, with the gifts we have already received, and as many have contributed financially this year, we still have more products to be bought, thankful, our contribution is going to be the biggest ever.

It is one year ago this weekend since we first started to take supplies to the Homeless Food Kitchen in town and, as it is harvest and we have missed a few months, we will be sending 2 pans of hot food and a mountain of freshly made buns. Please remember in your prayers those who find themselves in hardship and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Once again, even in these difficult times,

**‘Come, ye thankful, people come’**

### Collect for the day

Eternal god, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. <sup>10</sup> You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup> Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup> When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup> who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous<sup>[a]</sup> snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup> and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup> Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” <sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.



### A reading from the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter of Paul to the Corinthians

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



## A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup> they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?” <sup>18</sup> Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”



Words from Fr. Rodney

There have always been celebrations around the gathering in of the crops etc before the coming of winter. They came to be known in our country as 'harvest festivals', but they had nothing to do with giving thanks to God ! There are historic accounts of what they were like, and it is quite clear that they were gluttonous, drunken events that went on for days as people ate up what couldn't be kept over winter, and washed it down with as much ale as they could drink! Finally the Church stepped in and transformed the celebration to Harvest Thanksgiving, and marked the gathering in of the harvest with services in church and harvest suppers etc. But the main change was that it now focussed on giving thanks to God for what He had blessed and provided, with harvest produce being shared with those in need. Today we come to give thanks to God for providing "our life, our health, our food", and to give thanks and pray for the farmers and all those who ensure that we have everything we need to live. But we do not forget those in need today, and part of our thanksgiving is to share our blessings both locally with our harvest gifts, and all over the world by our support for Christian Aid and other charities who work on our behalf. All of these thoughts are embodied in our harvest hymns. So as we gather in worship today for our Harvest Thanksgiving let us 'thank the Lord for all His love', the love we share with all in need and especially those who will receive our harvest gifts.

*As its the first Saturday of the month we had a zoom Messy Church  
Gillian found this lovely harvest prayer to read at the end of our Harvest  
themed Messy Church*

**God, we hold these seeds in our hand.**

**We see smallness, weakness, insignificance.**

**You see potential, growth, significance.**

**Tiny seeds grow by your power into huge trees.**

**They provide food for the hungry and homes for the birds.**

**From the darkness of the earth springs forth your life, your harvest.**

**Your Kingdom is like a tiny seed.**

**When we look at your church, and our own lives,**

**we see smallness, weakness, insignificance.**

**You see potential, growth, significance.**

**Give us eyes of faith and willing hands to see your**

kingdom grow in us.  
May we feed the hungry with food and the bread of life,  
welcome the homeless into your family,  
and gather the harvest your love has provided.  
In Christ's name and the power of the Spirit  
we commit our lives to you again.  
Amen.



***In a moment of silence bring your own prayers to God***

The Lords prayer  
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

