

# Harvest Festival Service

A special welcome to all who have joined us today for our special Harvest Festival Service.



**Praise God for the harvest of farm and of field.  
Praise God for the people who gather their yield,  
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,  
the patience of science, the power of machine.**

## Welcome

### Opening Verse

The land has yielded its harvest: God our God has blessed us.

Minister: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it

**All: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice**

### Hymn

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home:  
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide, for our wants to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day, all offences purge away;  
give his angels charge at last, in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store, in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord quickly, come, bring thy final harvest home:  
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin:  
there, for ever purified, in thy garner to abide:  
come, with all thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest-home.

### Thanksgiving Prayer

**Minister:** Father in heaven all good gifts come from you. You send the sunshine and the rain, and it is through your love and care that we enjoy the harvest time. Thank you for providing so richly for our needs and help us to share the good things we have with those who have little or nothing.

Minister: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer**

**Minister:** Lord we pray for your blessing on every kind of harvest that we enjoy. Thank you for the harvest of the land and the sea. Bless too the harvest of factory, mine and workshop. Bless the harvest of research and of creative art. May we work together with you in every area of life to produce what is worthwhile, good and fruitful. May you be glorified in it all.

Minister: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer**

### **Confession**

We confess to you  
our lack of care for the world you have given us.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you  
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you  
our failure to protect resources for others.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The minister will proclaim the words of forgiveness.*

### **Offering**

*If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to reclaim tax. Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order, through the bank, or envelopes. Please stand as the Offering is brought forward.*

**Dear Lord, the gifts of the harvest are yours. May we use them wisely to your glory and for the relief of the suffering, as well as for our own needs.**

## Hymn

*(Tune: Country Garden)*

- 1 We eat the plants that grow from the seed,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Cures can be made from herbs and from weeds,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Ev'rything beneath the sun,  
all the things we claim we've done,  
all are part of God's creation:  
we can meet people's needs  
with things we grow from seed,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.
  
- 2 We find the iron and turn it to steel,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
We pull the levers, we turn the wheels,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Ev'rything we say we've made,  
plastic bags to metal spades,  
all are part of God's creation:  
we can make lots of things  
from microchips to springs,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.

## Collect Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, we offer you our grateful thanks for your fatherly goodness and care in giving us your gifts and the fruits of the earth through the seasons. Give us grace use them rightly, to your glory, for our own well being, and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Bible Readings

*The readings may be followed in Partnership News*

*At the end of each reading*

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord

**All:** **Thanks be to God**

## Hymn

We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:  
he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

He only is the maker of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.

We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer, for all thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

## Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

## Hymn

*(Tune Bunessan)*

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,  
for all things living, you have made good.  
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Lord, bless the labour, we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbour, we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you;  
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.

Father, providing, food for your children,  
your wisdom guiding, teaches us share  
one with another, so that rejoicing  
sister and brother, may know thy care.

Then will thy blessing, reach every people;  
each one confessing, your gracious hand.  
When you are reigning, no one will hunger,  
your love sustaining; fruitful the land.

## The Prayers

Minister            Lord in your mercy  
**All**                    **Hear our prayer**

*At the end of our prayers we say The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father,  
which 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**



### What will we do with the Harvest Gifts ?

Our chosen charity this year for Harvest produce is BeCHaR (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) a local Bedford charity based in Prebend Street Day Centre. They will use the tins and packages of food to feed the hungry. The Prebend Day Centre is open 365 days a year helping those least cared for in the community; the homeless, the rootless, the poor, and the hungry. For more information about BeCHaR call our church offices or visit the website [www.prebendcentre.org.uk](http://www.prebendcentre.org.uk)

## Hymn

*(Tune: Stowey)*

Praise God for the harvest of farm and of field.  
Praise God for the people who gather their yield,  
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,  
the patience of science, the power of machine.

Praise God for the harvest that's sent from afar,  
from market and harbour, from tropical shore:  
foods packed and transported, and planted and grown  
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.

Praise God for the harvest of alloy and ore,  
by mining and drilling, on land and off-shore;  
for oil and for iron, for tinsplate and coal,  
praise God, who in love has provided them all.

Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,  
the urge to discover, create and fulfil,  
for all new inventions that promise to gain  
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.

Praise God for the harvest of conflict and love,  
for leaders and peoples who struggle and serve  
to conquer oppression, earth's plenty increase,  
and gather God's harvest of justice and peace.

## The Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children, that you may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you, this day and for evermore. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

**All**      **In the name of Christ. Amen.**





Every Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need. To show our gratitude for how fortunate we are, we use Harvest as an opportunity to raise funds and give towards a charity.

### **Our 2012 Fundraising Appeal is Kisiizi Hospital Uganda**

This year we will support the work of Kisiizi, a Christian hospital in Uganda. This hospital serves those of all faiths, and none and nobody has been turned away through reasons of poverty. The hospital has never closed to patients even in the cruel Obote and Amin eras. Patients come from a large catchment area stretching hundreds of miles, sometimes travelling from beyond Mbarara, the regional town 80 miles away. Thank you for supporting our appeal

To learn more visit  
[www.kisiizihospital.org.ug](http://www.kisiizihospital.org.ug)

See Kisiizi Hospital on YouTube  
[www.kisiizihospital.org.ug/friend-of.html](http://www.kisiizihospital.org.ug/friend-of.html)