



# Welcome to our Harvest Festival

Sunday 2 October 2005

**St Mark's Church**

## **Welcome**

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

## **Opening Verse**

The land has yielded its harvest: God our God has blessed us.  
Psalm 67:6

## **Opening Prayer**

**Dear God, our loving Father,  
thank you for your goodness and care for us.  
We thank you for the gifts of the harvest  
and for all the good things which we are able to produce  
from this beautiful world.**

**We thank you for all the talents which you have given to people  
in offices, factories, hospitals or other places of work.  
We praise you for the creativity of the human mind  
and the opportunities which you have given to us  
to make this world a better place.**

**Help us to use your gifts not just for our own well being,  
but also for the relief of those in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**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

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;  
come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know is God indeed:  
without our aid He did us make:  
we are His folk, He doth us feed;  
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,  
approach with joy His courts unto;  
praise, Laud and bless His name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

## Prayer of Adoration

### 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

**God forgive us, for the destruction  
which we bring upon this world and all who live in it.  
You have entrusted this world into our care,  
forgive us for the way in which we destroy and pollute,  
and fail to protect the precious resources which we have.  
Forgive us when the power of the human mind  
is used wastefully, and destructively,  
whilst millions are in need of skills  
to bring them clean water and basic medicine.  
Forgive us when we fail to speak out for justice for all people.  
Forgive us when we are tempted to despair  
at the size of the problems  
and the seeming insignificance of our own contribution.  
Strengthen our faith, hope and trust  
in the miracle of your redeeming love.  
This we ask in the name of your Son,  
our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*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.**

**We welcome the talents of  
St Mark's Pre-school  
Little Red Tractor  
Oats and Beans**

## **We welcome the talents of Sunday School**

Two songs about autumn

### **Hymn**

*We really want to thank you Lord,  
we really want to bless your name.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is our King!*

We thank you Lord for your gift to us,  
your life so rich beyond compare,  
The gift of Your body here on earth  
of which we sing and share. (*Refrain*)

We thank you Lord, for our life together,  
to live and move in the love of Christ,  
Your tenderness which sets us free,  
to serve you with our lives. (*Refrain*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above you heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (*Refrain*)

## **We welcome the talents of Storybox Plus**

‘Colours at Harvest’

Presented by Liz Spavins

Partnership Youth and Children’s worker

### **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 to 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**

*At the end of each reading*

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Hymn

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

*Gracious God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and brain's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

## Sermon

The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley

**The Prayers**  
Led by Mrs Alison Holden

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.**

## Hymn

- 1 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.*
  
- 2 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.  
*Chorus*
  
- 3 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.  
*Chorus*

## The Blessing

May God the Father bless you,  
who first sowed the seed of eternal life in your hearts.  
May God the Son bless you,  
who nurtures you with the rain and sunshine of love.  
May God the Spirit bless you, who brings all things to fruition;  
and may the blessing of God Almighty  
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

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

## My Harvest things to be thankful for

S Q E S U O H S G U N U  
P R R M P L R X U B Y N  
S D E V B P Z F W S Z M  
Y K D H O S A T Y R E U  
H W O X C M W R S B R J  
E S O P I A T O E R Y X  
A E F L S N E L D N X Y  
L H Y F U Q G T S S T B  
T T L O F R I E N D S S  
H O C U O H P G T G I M  
C L J Z A Z E N W B I U  
Y C L V X G U Z Z J J S

JESUS, PARENTS, FAMILY, FRIENDS,  
TEACHERS, COUNTRY, HEALTH,  
CLOTHES, FOOD  
HOUSE

Thank you to all who have helped prepare  
our churches for this Harvest Festival Service,  
and also to those who have contributed  
in any way to our worship.

