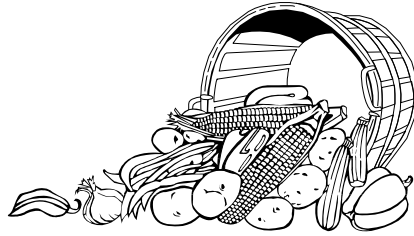


St Mary's Chilton Foliat

Parish of Whitton

A Service of Thanksgiving for Harvest and Stewardship of the Church



Welcome

A village church exists in and for its community and includes all manner of people and gifts. There are the acts of service we see on Sundays such as readers, sidespeople and those who provide refreshments. There are the things we hear such as bell ringing, the organ and voices singing. There are many things we take for granted such as flowers, cleaning, maintenance of the church and churchyard which are done discreetly and lovingly. All these – and more – are provided and supported financially by our stewards to whom we extend a very warm welcome today. At this time of harvest we celebrate the rich harvest of love and support for the church. We thank God for you and thank you for all that you do.

Opening Responses

Praise the Lord: Praise the Lord from the heavens:
praise Him in the heights above.

Praise Him, all his angels:
praise him, all his heavenly host.

Praise Him, sun and moon:
praise Him, all you shining stars.

Let them all praise the name of Lord:
praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the earth:
praise Him, great sea creatures.

Praise Him, storms and clouds:
praise Him, mountains and hills.

Praise Him, fields and woods:
praise Him, animals and birds.

Praise Him, rulers and nations:
praise Him, old and young.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord:
praise the Lord. Amen.**

(From Psalm 148)

Hymn

Prayers of Preparation and Repentance

Dear friends, we come together today to worship Almighty God our heavenly Father and to give thanks for his abundant harvest: not only the harvest from the fields but also from the seas which feed and sustain us.

We pray also for the fruit of the Gospel and we pray for the life, work and witness of this parish and benefice: its mission and outreach into schools and the community.

Harvest Thanksgiving calls us to look around the wonderful world of creation and give thanks to God for it all, but in so doing, we may also see where we have failed to do our best, for our world or for those in the world.

So, let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

So may our Lord Jesus Christ, who promises to forgive all who truly repent and believe in him, by his great mercy forgive all your offences; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Presentation of the Gifts

Harvest Collect

**Eternal God and Father,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the 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.**

First Reading

Hymn

Second Reading

Address

Hymn

Intercessions

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And 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

During the singing of this hymn we take up an offering

Offertory Prayer

Lord, make holy the gifts we offer with gratitude
from the produce of the earth and the work of our hands.
As you have made our land bear a rich harvest,
make our hearts fruitful with your life and love.
Grant this through Christ our Lord
Amen

The Blessing

Please stay for refreshments at the close of the service.