

**ST THOMAS CHURCH  
ELSFIELD**

# Harvest Festival



**Sunday 26th September 2021**

# WELCOME

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

*Please hold up your harvest gifts*

Thank you, God, for your goodness that blesses us and the earth.  
You are generous.  
**Thank you, God.**

Thank you, God, for the people who made this food and those who will share in it. You are generous.  
**Thank you, God.**

Thank you, God, for this place, the parish of Elsfield and for your faithful love over many generations. You are generous.  
**Thank you, God.**

Creator God,  
breathing your own life into our being, you give us the gift of life.  
You placed us on this earth with its flowers and fruits, minerals and waters, living creatures of grace and beauty.

At Harvest time the earth reaches the peak of its fruitfulness.  
It depends on us to praise you by harvesting its goods in ways in which ensure there will be harvests in the future.  
Help us to be good caretakers of your creation.  
**Amen**

**HYMN - We plough the field and scatter**  
*(During which our harvest gifts for The Food Bank can be brought up and a blessing is said)*



## COLLECT

Almighty and bountiful God,  
you have given us this earth as an inheritance for ourselves  
and for the generations to come:

Accept, we pray, the fullness of our harvest,  
and guard our thankful hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## SAYING SORRY

**When we are unkind to people, and forget they are God's children,  
When we are careless with the animals and forget they are God's  
creation;**

**When we ill treat the land, and forget it is the splendour of God,  
Forgive us, O God of Love and reconcile us to yourself, to one another  
and to the creation.**

**Teach us that the earth and all it's fullness is yours, the world and  
those who dwell in it.**

**Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of harvest in Galilee  
And joins us now as we celebrate your good gifts together.**

**Call us again to safeguard the gift of your creation, now and forever.**

**Amen**

The Lord enrich you with his grace and nourish you with his blessing; the  
Lord defend you in trouble and adversity, the Lord accept your prayers and  
forgive you your sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## BIBLE READING - 1 King 17: 8-16

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN - 179 God, whose farm is all creation

## **OFFERING** (*Various gifts are brought to the front*)

Let us give thanks for the sharing of all God's gifts and ask for God's blessing on our own harvest and upon the harvests of those far away.

### *Honey*

Bless O lord this honey, the work of bees and those who keep them.

Lord thank you for your blessings:

**Sweeter than honey dripping from the honeycomb.**



### *Livestock*

Bless, O Lord all the livestock, and the many blessings that they bring, their wool, milk, meat, cheese and manure

Bless the families who care for their animals, especially in the rearing and breeding of new stock.

Lord, thank you for entrusting animals to us:

**May they live, healthy fruitful lives.**



### *Seeds*

Bless, O Lord, these seeds, and those who harvest the plants which grow from them.

God, thank you for seeds and their sowers:

**May God multiply our seed for sowing and increase the harvest of souls.**



### *Water*

Bless, O Lord, this water and those whose bodies and lands are refreshed by it.

Lord, thank you for precious water:

**Refresh us with your living waters.**



### *Fruit*

Bless, O Lord, the trees on which this fruit is grown, and all those who tend them.

Lord, thank you for the fruits of your Spirit:

**May they grow and flourish in us. Amen**



## **GOSPEL READING - Matthew 14: 13-21**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting.  
Gather the fruit for eternal life.

**Alleluia.**

*The reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SHORT ADDRESS** *by Joel*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN: 137a For the beauty of the earth**

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

For rain and sun and insects to pollinate crops; for farmers and all who work on the land.

**We give thanks O God**

For the soil, rich and precious, home to countless living creatures, which maintain fertility and give us food and life.

**We give thanks O God**

For all who produce our daily food

**We give thanks O God**

For all those affected by climate change and those working to reduce the effects of it

**O Lord, hear our prayer**

For all those who do not have enough to eat and who wonder where their next meal will come from

**O Lord, hear our prayer**

For all those suffering the effects of war and violence

**O Lord hear our prayer**

For those crushed by debt, or exploited by the greed of others

**O Lord, hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, may we always walk gently upon this earth, in right relationship, nurtured by your love, taking only what we need, giving back to the earth in gratitude, sharing what we have, honouring all with reverence, recognising our proper place as part of your creation.

**Amen**

*We say the Lord's Prayer together;*

**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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **PSALM 65 - Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty**

1 Praise is due to you,  
O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
**2 O you who answer prayer!**

**To you all flesh shall come.**

3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.

**4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.**

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.

**5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.**

6 By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.

**7 You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.**

8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

**9 You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.**

10 You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.

**11 You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

**13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.**

## **THE PEACE**

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **FINAL HYMN: 101 Come, ye thankful people, come**

## **BLESSING**

May the Father,  
who fed his children with bread and honey in the wilderness,  
strengthen you in your pilgrimage to the Promised Land. **Amen.**

May the Son,  
who gave his flesh for food and his blood for drink,  
keep you in eternal life and raise you up on the last day. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
help you discern the Lord's body  
and empower you to proclaim his death until he comes. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit  
be with you and all those you love, now and always. **Amen**

*Please stay for tea and coffee after the service*