

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*



MEETING POINT

3rd October 2021

‘Celebrating Harvest’

Online Worship



***Welcome to our Online Worship –
Meeting Point***

We are joined through our Sunday Services in our churches and our Online Worship as one family of God celebrating the seasons of the Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.

Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we explore readings from scripture and experiences from our day to day lives.



Meeting Point today celebrates Harvest Festival as we give thanks to God, the Lord of all creation, who gives us the bounty of the earth for our food and the beauty of the natural world for our delight. As we are increasingly aware of its fragility we remember that Christians are called to be good stewards of the great gifts of creation and God's people are always to recognise the needs of those who go hungry.

Thanks to all who have made
today's service possible
including members of the Ministry Team and their families, as
well as Andrew Wager and Sara Owst.

The Welcome

Michelle introduces today's service.



Hymn

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!
All be 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:
grant, O harvest Lord, 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 purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.**

**Then, thou Church Triumphant, come.
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

Words: Henry Alford (1810-71)

Music: George Job Elvey (1816-1893)

Greeting *Paul & Lynda*

The land has yielded its harvest:

God our God has blessed us.

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

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe!
Your word brings on the dawn of the Day.
Your wisdom creates both day and night.
You determine the cycles of time.
You arrange the succession of seasons
and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.
Lord of the starry hosts is your name.
Living and eternal God, rule over us always.
**Blessed be the Lord, whose word
makes light to shine in the darkness.**



The Collect for Harvest

Eternal God, 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.**

Hymn

**For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Music: Francis Jackson (b.1917)

Bible Reading - Linda



Jesus said; ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by

worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:25-33



Hymn

**Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer,
for all things living
thou madest good;
harvest of sown fields,
fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields,
blossom and wood.**

**Bless thou the labour
we bring to serve thee,
that with our neighbour
we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
we would work with thee;
harvesting, milling
for daily bread.**

**Father, providing
food for thy children,
thy 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;
freely confessing
thy gracious hand.
Where thy will reigneth
no one will hunger:
thy love sustaining;
fruitful the land.**

*Words: Albert Frederick Bayly (1901-1984)
Music: BUNESSAN Gaelic Melody arr. John Barnard (b. 1948)*

Meditation - Michelle



Hymn

**To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
in hymns of adoration,
to thee bring sacrifice of praise
with shouts of exultation:
bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
the hills with joy are ringing,
the valleys stand so thick with corn
that even they are singing.**

**And now, on this our festal day,
thy bounteous hand confessing,
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay
the first-fruits of thy blessing:
by thee the hungry soul is fed
with gifts of grace supernal;
thou who dost give us earthly bread,
give us the bread eternal.**

**We bear the burden of the day,
and often toil seems dreary;
but labour ends with sunset ray,
and rest comes for the weary:
may we, the angel-reaping o'er,
stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
to garners bright elected.**

**O blessed is that land of God,
where saints abide for ever;
where golden fields spread far and broad,
where flows the crystal river:
the strains of all its holy throng
with ours today are blending;
thrice blessed is that harvest-song
which never hath an ending.**

*Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Music: Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*



Harvest Thoughts

Last Sunday in St John's we enjoyed a harvest service in the setting of the village church and afterwards members shared their memories and thoughts about the message of God's faithful provision for us.

They included Andrew the Auctioneer who was preparing to auction off the harvest gifts after the harvest supper and Sara, who manages the local Food Bank.

Harvest Samba

**Cabbages and greens,
broccoli and beans,
cauliflower and roasted potatoes,
taste so good to me!**

**Apricots and plums,
ripened in the sun,
oranges and yellow bananas,
good for everyone!**

***It's another Harvest Festival,
when we bring our fruit and vegetables,
cause we want to share the best of all
the good things that we've been given.***

**Golden corn and wheat,
oats and sugar beet,
fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti,
wonderful to eat!**

**Coffee, cocoa, tea,
growing naturally,
herbal plants and all kinds of spices
very nice indeed!**



Prayers - *Brenda & John*

Let us give thanks to God,
the God of all peoples of the earth.

For the colour and forms of your creation
and our place within it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For our daily food,
and for those whose work and skill
bring your good gifts to us,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;
for insight and imagination,
for the skills of research which bring healing
and fulfilment to the lives of many;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,
and their variety and dependability;
for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For new hope and strength in our communities,
especially in your Church
and among all you call to serve you,
we bring our thanks, good Lord;
your mercy endures for ever.

For all in whose lives we see
goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,
and all the fruit of the Spirit,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the life we have been given,
and for all those whom you have given us to share it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

Giving thanks for all God's good gifts,
as our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

The Lord's 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
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace – Paul & Lynda

Peacemakers who sow in peace
raise a harvest of righteousness.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us share peace with one another.



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:**

*Words: Matthias Claudius (1740 – 1815)
tr Jane Campbell (1817 – 78)*

*Music: Melody by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800)
harmonised by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)*



Blessing – Michelle

May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you, and remain with you always.
Amen.



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