

## Harvest Reflection

A few weeks ago, I suggested that we reconsider the stories which we tell about ourselves. In particular the idea that our glory days were behind us and that the church could be defined by what it lacked.

I challenged us all to prayerfully imagine new stories to be formed from the old tapestry threads, woven into a new and vibrant cloth of worship, welcome and warmth. I spoke of the faith and experience I see within the church, the multiple threads of service and generosity; of abundance in so many ways.

I wonder if all those words sound a bit hollow now. The nights are drawing in. It is getting colder. Financial pressures seem to have been compounded by those in power who have arguably chosen self-interest over compassion for those in need. To speak of abundance might confirm people's view of the church as painfully out of touch.

How do we thank God for the harvest in these chilly times? Our faith is centred on a God of extraordinary creativity and generosity. We face the challenge to share God's love, poured out through us into our neighbourhood – working towards a more equitable and loving society, one thread at a time.

*Rev Sarah*



## SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER

CRAFT HUB 10AM-12 NOON



ST THOMAS CHURCH HALL

**NEXT SUNDAY 09.10.2022 Trinity 17**

**SERVICES:** 10.30am in Church

**READINGS:** OT 2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15  
NT 2 Timothy 2: 8-15  
GOSPEL Luke 17: 11-19



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# St Thomas, Exeter

2nd October 2022

## Harvest Festival

10.30am in Church

### Today

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist.

Hymns for today

101 Come ye faithful people, come.

137 For the beauty of the earth.

534 We plough the fields and scatter.

### Tuesday 4th October

**7.30pm** House Group on Zoom. Session 3.

See Ian for details.

### Wednesday 5th October

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**7.30pm** PCC Meeting in the hall.

### Thursday 6th October

**9.30—11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30am** Knit & Natter. See notices.

### Friday 7th October

**9.30am** Morning Prayer.

**10am** Staff Meeting.

### Saturday 8th October

**9am** Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers.



## Collect

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the reaches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons, as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

## Philippians 4: 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## John 6: 25-35

When they found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

## Post Communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high.

**Knit and Natter.** From now on through autumn and winter the group will meet at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**Community Larder** is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

**House Group** Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for zoom details.

**All Souls** We are compiling a new list this year. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please add their name(s) to the list at the back of the church.

**Saturday 15th October 10am—12 noon.**  
**Craft Hub** in the Hall. Time to try something new? Children must be accompanied by an adult.

