

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

**St Saviour
Mortimer West End**

**St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer**

**St John the Baptist
Padworth**

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



The Parish Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist

8th October 2023 at 10 a.m. at John's, Mortimer

Online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Our forebears thought it important to gather to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest, but, perhaps, during the past century or so many of us who live in more affluent countries have forgotten how precarious the harvest can be. Perhaps advances in agricultural technology have led many of us in richer countries to think that the experience of the consequences of widespread crop failure is, for us at least, a thing of the past. But that picture appears to have changed in recent times where, even in richer countries, there have been shortages of goods and food prices have risen sharply. And perhaps we have come to recognise too that some of those advances in technology came with hidden costs and have harmed the earth we walk on, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Indeed, we all recognise how the way in which human beings have lived in our industrial and technological times has made such an impact on our planet that there is a danger that we may have made life very difficult for the next generations. We see on our news how already land is being lost to drought and to flood. And we are told regularly that our seas are getting warmer and more acid and are being polluted to the point where they may be less able to sustain the great diversity of life which depends upon them, and which includes, of course, those people who make a living from harvesting the sea.

So, perhaps, when we think of Harvest Thanksgiving 2023 we might all find ourselves prompted to reflect a little more carefully than we might have a few years ago. After all, we are all increasingly coming to recognise what a precious gift we have and how fragile are all those wonderful ecosystems through which that gift is made. And we increasingly recognise too that the earth is not a possession for some of us, but a shared home to be nurtured and cherished for the good of all of us and for the good of all creation too. And, of course, we increasingly recognise that if we don't learn how to cherish and share life better our present problems could end up looking small in comparison with what could befall us.

We sometimes hear people speak nowadays of a need to find a more 'spiritual approach' to the challenges and opportunities of our world. I'm not really altogether sure what that means, but perhaps it can help to remember that Jesus Christ did warn, 'Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life... the bread of God... which comes down from heaven and gives life to all the world.' And perhaps as we reflect on the harvest of 2023 and consider how we might share life better together we might find inspiration in that simplicity and respect for all creation which we find in Jesus' teaching parables.

Half a century ago there was movement which had as its 'mission statement' the slogan 'Live simply that others may simply live.' It might seem to some of us that those words have an even more urgent appeal now. In a similar vein, and not so many years apart, Mahatma Gandhi famously said 'the world produces enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed.' The Christian message reminds us that all our hungers can be satisfied when we are prepared to share the bread of life. And, of course, the Christian message, the 'Christian Gospel' speaks of Jesus inviting us to communion / to sharing life with God and with each other through sharing that bread of life.

At Harvest Thanksgiving we give special thanks, of course, for the expertise and hard work of all those who produce and supply our food both locally and globally. And as the 'giving' part of 'thanks-giving' reminds us all to share those harvest gifts, so let us, with as much faith, hope and love as we can muster, resolve and pray that, as that wise man St Paul put it, our lives may yield the harvest of 'the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (cf. Galatians. 5: 22, 23).

God bless, Paul.

The Parish Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist

Sunday 8th October 2023

A warm welcome to the Parish Sunday Eucharist.

An induction loop is provided. To use, please turn your hearing aid to T.

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the vergers who will pass the information on to the clergy.

Online: If you are not able to come to St John's you are warmly invited to share in the Parish's Sunday Eucharist online. And may God bless and renew us as we join together to worship. **Thank you.**

THIS 'HOLY MEMORIAL' is known by various names: 1) 'The Eucharist' - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) 'The Lord's Supper' - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) 'Holy Communion,' - because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) 'Holy Mass' - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.

The 'objectives' of the Eucharist: The community gathers for the public celebration of the Eucharist in order to worship God; ask his forgiveness for sins; thank him for blessings received; listen to his voice in the Scriptures; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him and his loving service; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing life with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized around achieving these goals.

THE GATHERING SONG

**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 as praise to God we 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.**

**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!**

THE GATHERING

Priest + In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

THE GREETING - Words of Welcome and Introduction.

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us.

The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

The priest may introduce the Eucharist.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Invitation to Confession - we call to mind our sins that we may repent of them / turn from them and ask forgiveness of God and each other.

Priest My brothers and sisters,
as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love,
revealed to us in Word and Sacrament,
let us call to mind our sins and the sins of our society in the misuse of creation.

A pause for quiet reflection follows.

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

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

The Absolution

+ Almighty God,
bring us back to your goodness,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.
To God be glory forever!
Alleluia Amen! Alleluia Amen! Alleluia Amen!**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus.
To God be glory forever!
Alleluia Amen! Alleluia Amen! Alleluia Amen!**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit.
To God be glory forever!
Alleluia Amen! Alleluia Amen! Alleluia Amen!**

THE COLLECT

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.

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 the glory of your goodness,
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.
All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.

In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

Either two or three READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE follow, the last of which is the Gospel.

THE FIRST READING – 2 CORINTHIANS 9: 6 - 15. - To be read by Gwen Adshead.

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

'He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Now we prepare to hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Those who sow now in tears *Psalm 125: 5.*
will sing when they reap.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - ST LUKE'S GOSPEL 12: 15 - 21.

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you .**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the crowd: 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a person's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

We are a Eucharistic community - united around word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. The sermon reflects on our readings and relates them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary daily life.

After the sermon there may be a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding self-giving love.

All **We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.**

We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION

We are invited to pray for all people and for all creation and for the needs of the Church's mission in bringing Christ's Gospel to the world. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his prayer before the Father for the needs of the Church's mission to the world and for of people. Our prayer flows from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; and we remember those who have died. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God's saving love.

Priest In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Jesus Christ, let us pray to our heavenly Father.

The deacon or minister continues:

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Church's ministry throughout the world: that Christians everywhere may be faithful to our baptismal promises, awake to the beauty of the earth, and thankful for the wonder and diversity of creation. Bless and guide Justin our Archbishop, Stephen Archbishop of York, Steven our Bishop and Olivia our Area Bishop, and the mission and ministry of our parishes and schools of St Mary's and St John's.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for Charles our King, for our Government, for the Leaders of the Opposition, for our District and Village Councils and for all in authority that they may govern with wisdom and justice and always seek the common good.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus Christ shared the life of a family. We pray for our families and neighbours and that we may learn to serve Christ in one another and to love others as he loves us.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the harvests of the land and sea. Give us grace to be good stewards of this world that we may work together to cherish and protect our planet. Bless those who work with the earth - our farmers and growers, and all who are custodians of our land and its life. Deliver us from the spirit of greed, fear and selfishness and help us to share the fruits of creation in the light of justice and in the way of peace.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are hungry for food, and for all who are suffering poverty, and for all whose livelihood is threatened. Give to us grace to share life responsibly and with joy.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those at war, and for all who face persecution, and for all who long for peace.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are suffering and in pain at this time... May the love of Christ bring them comfort and may the hope of the resurrection bring them peace.

Lord of the harvest.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have died recently... and all our loved ones gone before us. May we be united for ever in the joy of heaven.

Lord of the harvest.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, are bodies are made from the earth and to the earth they shall return. Give us grace to tread lightly; to work carefully; to live wisely and well; that we may come at last, with hearts content, to join with Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist and all the saints in heaven.

Priest Merciful Father,
All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful – a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).

Priest The harvest of 'the fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (cf. Galatians. 5: 22, 23).
All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

**Christ bids us break the bread
and share the cup he gave,
in token of the blood he shed
for those he died to save.**

**It was for us he came,
to bear, by human birth,
a crown of thorn, a cross of shame,
for every child of earth.**

**The Saviour crucified
in glory rose again:
we here remember him who died,
ascended now to reign.**

**Our hearts his word obey,
in thankfulness and love:
we feed on Christ by faith today
and feast with him above.**

**O Christ, once lifted up
that we might be forgiven,
we take the bread and drink the cup
and share the life of heaven.**

THE PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

BREAD

Priest Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
All Blessed be God for ever.

WINE

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts.
The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Priest Heavenly Father, may our thanks for the harvest bear fruit in the gifts of our hearts and lives.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

In the Preface we praise God for his mighty acts:

Heavenly Father, it is our joy always and everywhere to give you thanks for you created all things and have given us the fruits of the earth to share.

You have made us, each and every one, wonderfully different, and to be good stewards of your creation.

Give us grace that we may find a voice to join with heaven to sing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us now the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.’

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give glorify your goodness, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

All Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We bless God and pray for our world, our communities and our lives to be shaped by God's will; we pray for daily needs to be met, for forgiveness for wrongdoings, strength to resist temptation and protection from danger.

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**All 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the 'sign' of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, if you think right, communion may be received in one 'kind.'

The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ Amen.

DURING HOLY COMMUNION *The Choir may sing anthems or songs or lead hymns.*

‘Thou visitest the earth.’ Composer: Maurice Greene

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray.

The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom. We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.

Priest 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.

All **Amen.**

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

AN ACT OF COMMITMENT FOR THE CARE OF CREATION.

As creation looks with eager longing,
let us pledge ourselves anew to be its good stewards
in the service our Creator,
the Father who is the maker of all things,
the Son through whom all things are made,
and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

Let us affirm our commitment to work together to care for God's creation.

All **Lord of all life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves anew to care for creation,
and to cherish and protect the rich diversity of its life.
May your wisdom guide us and your strength be our help
that the commitment we make this day
will be matched by faithful living. Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

THE BLESSING

Priest May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessings upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may use his gifts to the glory of his goodness,
for the welfare of his people,
and the good of all his creation.

+ And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

‘Freely we have received and freely should we give.’
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE SENDING OUT or RECESSIONAL 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 heav'n 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 seedtime 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.

Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. *The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors were closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding the parish lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. Thank you.*

