

**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



*Harvest at La Crau
Vincent van Gogh*

Harvest Thanksgiving Parish Eucharist

**Sunday 10th October 2021 at 10.00 a.m. at St. John's, Mortimer
and online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>**

Prayer thoughts: *It's Harvest Thanksgiving time. This is the time of year when we come together as a community to give thanks for all the wonderful gifts of creation. It's a time when we acknowledge our dependency on this Earth and, too, our mutual dependency on one another, and pray for grace that we may work together to become better stewards of this world's gifts.*

At Harvest Thanksgiving we give special thanks for the expertise and hard work of our farmers and growers and all those who produce and supply our food both locally and globally.

The 'giving' part of 'thanksgiving' reminds us to share the gifts of the harvest.

And let's hope and pray that, as Paul the Apostle puts it, our own lives may yield the fruits of the harvest of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (cf. Galatians 5: 22, 23). God bless.

The Parish Harvest Eucharist

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 faith 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 Scripture; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized to achieve all these goals.

If you are not able to come to St John's please do share in the weekly service online. May God bless us as we join together to worship. The present guidelines about cleaning, attendance, distancing, singing & speaking and receiving Holy Communion in churches will be followed carefully.

THE GATHERING SONG

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home:
all is 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!**

**We ourselves are 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.**

**Then, the Church triumphant come,
raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever 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 priest may introduce the Eucharist.

THE GREETING

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.

All The Lord be with you
 And also with you.

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.

As those who know the generosity of God,
let us confess our sins,
especially the ways in which we take creation and God's gifts for granted.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

Lord, you give us this good earth,
yet we take your generous gifts for granted.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you give us this good earth,
but we squander its rich resources.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you give us this good earth,
but we fail to share your bounty with all of your children.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

Almighty God,
in Jesus Christ you have given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, open our eyes to the truth, strengthen us to do your will,
and give us the joy of your heavenly kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen.**

THE HARVEST 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.

Priest 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 forever.

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).

THE FIRST READING - The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 9: 6 - 15. Read by Sarah Theaker

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

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 reluctantly 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 for ever.'

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 sharing 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 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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

You lift up your eyes
and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting.
Then gather the fruit for eternal life.

cf. John 4.35,36

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - ST LUKE'S GOSPEL 12: 16 - 30.

All The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Do not worry.

He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, 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, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

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: Let us pray to our heavenly Father in the power of the Holy Spirit of God and in union with Jesus Christ.

The deacon or minister continues:

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Church throughout the world that Christians everywhere may be faithful to the promises made at our baptism. With the dawn of each day may we be awakened to the beauty of this earth and rejoice in the wonder and diversity of creation in all its forms and colour. Bless and guide Justin our Archbishop, Stephen our Bishop and Olivia our Area Bishop and the mission and ministry of our parishes and two schools of St Mary’s and St John’s.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for Elizabeth our Queen, for our Government, and for our District and Village Councils. Give to them and all in authority wisdom that they may direct the nations and peoples of this world in the ways of justice and peace that people everywhere may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, as all living things depend on the quality of this planet's air, soil and water, may your wisdom guide us to be good stewards of our environment. Bless those who care for the earth - our farmers and growers, those who work in our nature reserves, national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, and sites of scientific interest, and all who are custodians of our landscape. Deliver us from selfishness and greed and help us to share the resources of this world in the cause of justice, stability and peace, between nations and peoples.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the harvest of the seas, lakes and rivers. May we cherish the biodiversity of our planet and resolve to protect its marine, animal, insect and plant life.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we bring before you areas affected by chronic shortage of water and food and pray for those suffering as a result of drought and famine. We pray for those suffering the effects of extreme weather, and those whose environment has been damaged. Give us insight to understand the effects of our lives on this planet and grace to live responsibly.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Your Son shared the life of a family: we pray for our families, friends, and neighbours. Help us to learn how to serve Christ in one another and to love as he loves us.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer today in body, mind or spirit...; give them hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord of the harvest.

All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have died recently... and our loved ones who have gone before us.

Lord of the harvest.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have made us from the earth and to earth shall our earthly bodies return. May we tread lightly upon this earth and work together for the renewal of our planet. Give us grace to live our days wisely and well and come at last with Blessed Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist and all your saints, to paradise.

Priest Merciful Father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY 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 Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **And also with you.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

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.

Priest **BREAD**
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 FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING

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.

Father, make holy the gifts we offer with thanksgiving
from the produce of this earth.

As we give thanks for a rich harvest,
make our hearts fruitful with your life and love.

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 by the priest 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:

Lord of all life, we give you thanks
for you created the universe which reflects your glory.
You have given us this beautiful earth to discover and to cherish.
You have made us, each wonderfully different,
to be good stewards of your creation
and to find a voice to join with heaven and sing:

The Acclamation

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 the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these harvest gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.
In 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.**'
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, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the
Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of the
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

Priest Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so let us pray:
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.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY 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 communion can only be given 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.**

AN ANTHEM OR SONG IS SUNG DURING HOLY COMMUNION

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

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 nurture within us a reverence for all that you give us
and make us wise and generous 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 the whole of creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind,
let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God,
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 life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,
to reduce our waste,
to live sustainably,
and to value the diversity of created life.
May your wisdom guide us,
that life in all its forms may flourish
and all creation give praise.
May the commitment we make this day
be matched by faithful living. Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
All and also with you.

THE BLESSING

Priest May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessings upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may be wise stewards of his creation,
and use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples.
+ And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Freely you have received; freely you should give.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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.**

Chorus

**We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, and food;
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,
But what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

Chorus

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 have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently.*

