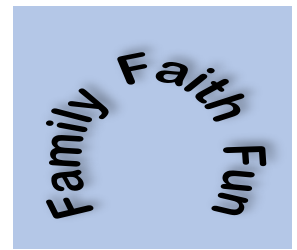




Registered Charity No 251394

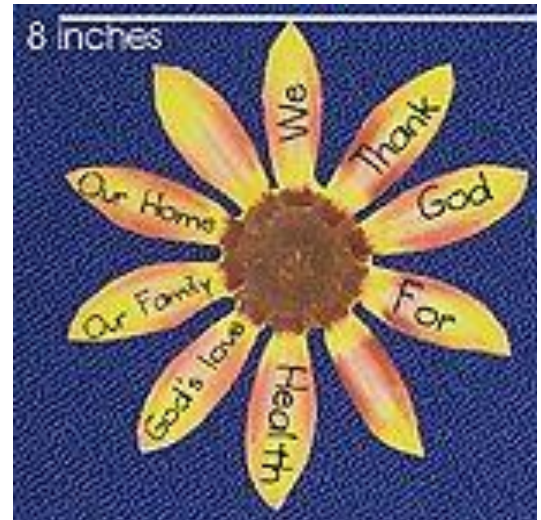
September 2023



All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above...

In the annual church calendar, the time from 1st September to 4th October is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, and is called Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, when we remember and thank God for this world that we live in.

To help you think about what we should be thanking God for you could make yourself a flower picture like the one on the right (it could be a sunflower or any coloured flower). On each petal write something that you want to thank God for. Like the one in the picture that can be for our families, homes, plus food that comes from many different parts of the world for us to eat, and for the world itself. Hang it where it will remind you and your family of God's great love for us all. Thinking about food that we love, you might like to recite the prayer below at the start of a meal:



Thank you God for yummy meals,
For fruit and bread and cheese.
Thank you God for this great world,
For trees and fields and bees.
Thank you Lord for families,
For laughter and for fun,
Thank you now for this fine food,
Please bless it to our tum!



www.lords

Through the summer you may have been able to hear lovely birdsong in our parks and gardens. But the weather will soon be getting colder and our summer visitors, the swallows, swifts and many others, will be making their long journeys back to warmer countries. But many stay with us, blackbirds, robins, wrens, greenfinches etc. At the moment there is food for them, but soon they would welcome a little help which we can give them by providing feeding stations. If we start putting food out now – if you haven't been doing it all summer anyway, they will learn where to look for it through the colder weather. Fat balls are always popular. The ingredients: for seeds you could mix together dried cranberry, pumpkin seeds, muesli and mealworm, but you can also buy bird seed from many garden centres.



Don't use desiccated coconut or cooked oats, as these can be harmful to birds. Melt lard, suet or solid vegetable fat, enough to be able to mix in your seeds. Once the fat and dry ingredients are thoroughly mixed, leave them to cool for a short while. This will reduce leakage, and also make the mixture safer to handle. When the mix is cool enough to handle, mould it into a ball round a piece of string (for hanging). Leave to cool and set completely before hanging in the garden.

When Jesus talked to the people that came to listen to him, he would talk about things that they understood. They knew what shepherds were and how food was grown so when he used those ideas in his talks it helped them to understand what he was trying to teach them. Once he was asked what this Kingdom of God that he talked about, was like.

Jesus said: “ the farmer sows a seed in the ground. Then he can take his rest. Meanwhile the seed will sprout, become a shoot and then grow into a plant with seeds, ready for harvest. When the harvest is ripe and ready, the farmer will reap, cutting and collecting the good grain. What is not good he will leave behind.”

We are the grain in God’s harvest.

Will we be ready to be the good grain?

This time of year that we have traditionally called Harvest Time is now noted in the church calendar as “Creationtide” – a time to remember all that God created for us.

Below is a representation of a wall chart that could be made by a group or on your own. You could use circles of paper rather than paper plates so it could be made a little smaller. The pictures could make one large wall chart or each picture could be hung separately. As you make each picture, offer up a prayer of thanks to God for what he created.



You could design your own pictures to illustrate each day.



CREATION WORDSEARCH

- ANIMALS
- BEGINNING
- BIRDS
- CREATED DAY
- EARTH
- FISH
- GOD
- HEAVENS
- LIGHT
- MANKIND
- MOON
- NIGHT
- OCEANS
- RESTED
- SUN