

Registered charity no 251394



Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good



October 2021

This is the time of the year when many churches will hold their annual Harvest Festival, giving thanks to God for all the gifts that he gives us, not just food, but the friendship and love of others plus all the things that we might have. It is also a time when many will be thinking about our world and what we are doing to it. I'm sure many of you will have been involved in ideas to help through your school or other groups. The easiest one we could all do is to be sure that we don't leave any litter behind when we go out and about. We can also look to see how we can add things to our gardens to encourage wildlife, again the simplest might be to think how we can provide food for the birds to help them through the winter. If you don't want to buy the bird food you could perhaps make your own **FAT BALLS**.



You will need: Lard, suet or solid vegetable fat (other fats may be harmful to birds)

Uncooked porridge oats, budget ones are fine, breadcrumbs, sultanas, raisins or currants, - best soaked overnight to plump them up, unsalted peanuts (crushed a little),

For variety you could add a few kitchen scraps - cheese, cake, bacon rinds (chopped up), cooked potato, cooked rice, fresh fruits but not dried coconut and nothing salted, wild birds cannot handle either of these.

Method

**** ADULT ALERT** – this part is a job for them. Melt the lard or suet but don't get it too hot! Put all the dried ingredients into a bowl and when the fat is cooled but not reset, use a large spoon to mix in whatever ingredients you have chosen until you think you have enough to be able to form into balls.

Cut some string for a hanger, make it into a loop and form the ball with your hands around the string. Leave to set completely then hang out in the garden and watch the birds come and dine.

The picture shows St Francis, surrounded by animals and birds. He was born in Italy in 1182 and his family was very wealthy. He became a soldier and was taken prisoner. After he was released he felt God was calling him to give up his privileged life and to work to help the sick and the poor. He was also known for his love of nature and animals and there are legends of animals and birds responding to him, which is why he is often painted surrounded by them.

The church remembers St Francis on October 4th, and in recent years many have begun to hold special services to bless pets and other animals to mark the day.

Planet Earth's future is now in human hands. God gave it to us and we now need to protect it. **PRAY** for all those trying to make a difference and save the planet.



If he was alive today, I'm sure St Francis would be joining the campaign to help to save our wonderful world.



Some Harvest Time Crafts using card tubes.

1 Windsock: Decorate the outside of a cardboard tube with pictures of leaves, acorns etc. Make two holes opposite each other at one end and thread a piece of string through each then tie the ends together to form a loop. Then cut some strips of coloured paper (crepe or tissue paper if possible) to form the tail of the windsock. Stick more leaves on the strips and attach them to the end away from the string. Then take your windsock and run about in the wind.

2 Scarecrow Puppets. Again, use a cardboard tube (from a toilet roll perhaps). Cover or colour in the bottom half of the tube in whatever colour you like. You could use fabric, paper or just felt tip pens. Add decorations that look like patches. Draw a scarecrow type face on the top half, leaving enough space to add hair made from bits of wool, paper or paper straw. Cut out a hat shape to stick over the hair and add a flower shape.

Autumn Wordsearch

Find and circle the words in the list.

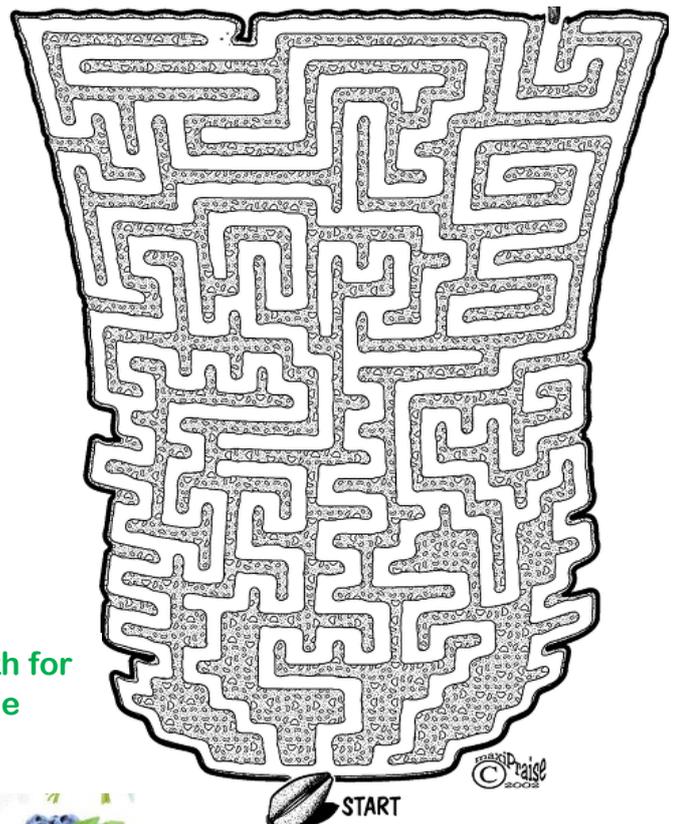
- Acorn Corn October
- Apple Frost Pumpkin
- Brisk Harvest Rake
- Chilly Jacket
- Cider Leaves
- Colours November

A D P R N H B F R T S S E A B C P U M P K I N
 B C H A R V E S T M K L Y U J G P H G A E S T
 T F C K M D Y I D M C H I L L Y M F V W F Z I
 E E L E A V E S Y H G R S I Q J Q H F P O E E
 R B I A G O O P N V C U D J K T T J A C K E T
 E P Y Y E W P I G C M N D B A G H L L B V E A
 F P P A V C G C D E K W I R E D T T L X X Z B
 E R J C S N Q E A A M Y U I Q N U K I D C B L
 N J K O I M P E V B D G G S Z U S Q J L G H E
 P K Y R T J C Q Q E T U R K E Y F G F A H U F
 A T L N S R I G G H T G R E A S F P H P C D D
 C A E N F L F C O L O R S A D C P L N P M I M
 C P R S T A K I W B F D V C T R D I N L O G J
 O J D Z P F Y D N V T C E O O C T O B E R R T
 R K I M V J C E Q Q U N B Y C R J S X Z O P H
 N O V E M B E R B N V E A C O H E R O S T Y ?

Jesus talked about what the Kingdom of God is like. He 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 in His Kingdom?



Can you find the path for the seed to reach the surface of the soil?

