



Heacham Parish Church

11th October 2020 Sunday Service Online

*Adrian plays **Jubilate** (O be Joyful) abr– Martin Fuggle (local conductor and composer – previously member of Westminster Abbey Choir - originally for his daughter’s wedding - in the style of William Walton)*

Greetings, it’s Sunday the 11th of October, we gather together in church, on line in, in our homes. We meet in the name of Jesus to celebrate the season of harvest.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our father and the lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Like everything else this year, harvest is going to be different. No bringing donations to church, or a harvest supper, instead we ask that donations are made to Tearfund.

One thing, however, does remain the same. We take time to bring our thanks to the Lord for his provision. We will also make space to give thanks for our farmers, for those who work the land. So as we begin, let’s hold silence and in our hearts welcome the Lord who is the creator. He created the land, and it was good.

We pray, Creator God we thank you for all the blessings of harvest. Thank you for all who work the land, for those who process the food and for those who work in the supply chain. Thank you that we live in a land where there is plenty to share. Amen.

Our harvest hymn is We plough the fields and scatter.

**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;
He fills the earth with beauty,
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 seed-time 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:**

We take time now to make our confession. In the silence of our hearts let us recognise our shortcomings. As well as personal confession let us also confess those times when we have enjoyed the fruits of harvest without gratitude. When we have not shared our plenty and when we have stored up goods for ourselves alone. We hold silence....

The Almighty and merciful Lord, grant us pardon and forgiveness for all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our bible reading today is John 2: 1-11.

Veronica will bring us some harvest reflections.

This year, many people have become aware – some of us for the first time – of the vital role UK farms play in feeding our nation, while the food shortages we experienced in the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown reminded us how fragile the supply chain can be. Unable to go out, many of us have been cooking and baking more than in the past, and some are growing fruit and vegetables at home for the first time. All of this has resulted in a more conscious appreciation of the food we eat and where it has come from.

So this Harvest time I want us to take the opportunity to thank the farmers across the UK who grow our food for us.

2020 has been a difficult year for many in the farming community which is negotiating a 'triple threat' of challenges from changeable weather, new agricultural policy and COVID-19. This year, perhaps more than ever, the farming community in the UK needs our support, and our prayers ! .

So I begin with huge THANK YOU TO OUR FARMERS !

You might have wondered why we have the story of the wedding at Cana, for this harvest service, it's not an obvious 'harvest' reading, but to me it is as it provides a picture of the staggering generosity of God's provision, which it seems to me to be very appropriate reading and theme for Harvest.

In the Bible reading, the host faces the humiliation of running out of wine, Jesus intervenes and the resulting wine is of the highest quality and there's plenty of it. Abundant generosity from Jesus, abundant generosity from God.. At Harvest we celebrate that abundance provision and generosity of God.. particularly in the natural world.

This year, when we are living through COVID – 19 and its effects, some of us have experienced the abundance of nature in a new way, during lockdown.. the bird song, the profusion of wildflowers, butterflies and insects, it's been wonderful, we here in heacham are blessed by our amazing coastline and stunning sunsets.. we are truly blessed by a generous and abundant God.

The sheer glory of creation is all around us, yet God calls us to work with him. At Cana, Jesus performed the miracle but he chose to work with others; the servants had to move and fill the

jars, then take them to the steward for him to taste.. Seemingly small acts but vital ones.

In much the same ways, farmers work with God in his creation to produce our food, they have to ' plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land' and so much more,

Jesus chose to depend on the work of others, something we do all the time, almost every time we eat we depend on the framers who produce our food. Framers themselves work with many others to grow our food and get it to our tables, we all need to eat and we are all dependent on a vast network to people to feed us.. at Harvest we recognise this interdependence and say Thank you to them all.

But ultimately, of course, we are all dependent on the gracious, generous and abundant provision of our creator God.. as we sing 'all good gifts around us are sent from heaven about, so thank the lord' ...

So this Harvest, this year, when life has been and continues to be so hard for some many .. we today pause and say Thank you to God.. for his beautiful creation, for the food we eat and the people that produce it and get it to our tables.

Creator God, the whole earth proclaims your glory. Field and forest, farm and garden all sing your praise! As we gaze at the world around us we see your handiwork; your fingerprint is everywhere. This is your world; help us to enjoy it gently. In Jesus name. Amen

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the father from whom every family in heaven and earth is named. We believe in God the son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God, father, son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Veronica W will lead us in prayer,

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above

Then thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all His love.

Creator God, the whole earth proclaims your glory. Field and forest, farm and garden all sing your praise! As we gaze at the world around us we see your handiwork; your fingerprint is everywhere. This is your world; help us to enjoy it gently. In Jesus' name, Amen

Loving God, we praise you for harvest and all your gifts to us. We give thanks for those who produce our food: for farmers and fishermen, packers and processors, and those who work in factories and shops.

We pray Lord especially for our farmers for whom this has been a difficult year of extreme weather conditions, failed crops and grazing, unexpected demands because of panic buying, and the forthcoming uncertainty of Brexit tariffs. We pray that you will uphold farmers in their concerns for livestock, worries about income and management of bureaucracy.

We pray for the safety of workers in food factories, delivery drivers and shop workers as Covid infections continue to rise. We thank you Lord for their dedication. Lord, help us to value and support all those who produce our food.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Loving heavenly Father, many of us have been lucky enough to grow fruit and vegetables in our gardens this year and we praise you for the produce we have enjoyed. At this harvest time however, our thoughts must turn to those living in countries where climate changes are affecting land use, where harvests routinely fail, where war prevents crops from being grown and tended and where malnutrition is a fact of life.

We pray for the work of Tearfund and all relief and support agencies who strive to give advice and offer practical solutions to these problems.

We pray for the work of Water Aid. A clean and safe water supply means that people have more time and better health to be able to tend crops.

We pray that local farmers will learn to adopt sustainable practices and be open to new technology.

We pray Father that across the world, the rich will support the poor.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Heavenly Father, we hear daily of the rise in numbers of Covid infections, hospital admissions and deaths. We ask Lord that you will uphold all those in the health service, give wisdom to the scientists and advisors, give humility and understanding to those in government and give patience and common sense to all the general public. Calm our fears Father, guide our actions for the common good, teach us responsibility and help us to support one another as we face a long winter of restrictions and loneliness.

We pray Lord that the routine work of the NHS will be able to continue alongside Covid care. So much treatment has already been delayed this year, and we pray that those who continue to suffer will receive the treatment they need.

We ask you Father to bless our friends and our families, and keep them safe.

We pray for your guidance Lord, in how best to continue our work and service for you in this place in the light of on-going restrictions; how we can reach those who need to hear your Word and to know of your love and saving grace. We pray for Veronica and the ministry team and for the PCC as they all face difficult decisions in the months ahead.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**

And we pray for those who need the loving touch of our Lord at this time; those who are ill, who are lonely and who are troubled.

In a moment's silence, we name those we hold in our hearts.....

We praise you Lord for answered prayer and for the friends we know who have received renewed health and healing.

May the holy and life-giving God teach us to reverence all His works, to praise Him in all we do and to live in His image and to His glory.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our last harvest hymn is Come you thankful people come.

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, cloth 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.**

**For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall purge away
All that doth offend that day
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore.**

We conclude with a blessing.

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft upon your fields. Until we meet again may God hold you in the hollow of His hand. Amen.

***Trumpet Tune** (on Praise to the Lord, the Almighty) – Walter Webber (previously organist at Broadmead Baptist Church Bristol.)*

Please consider giving money to Tearfund this year as your harvest donation, as we are not able to have a church collection for them.

<https://www.tearfund.org/en/give/>

Church Open for private prayer

Saturday afternoons 2-4pm and Wed 10-12noon.

Please use this time for quiet reflective prayer. Thank you to our welcomers who allow this to take place.

HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service will be on

YouTube from 8am on Sunday am

Watch out for the email link.

Morning Prayer continues via Zoom Monday-Friday. Contact Penny Taylor for the link heacham.church@gmail.com.

The Prayer Course- Peter Greig- Via Zoom

John Whitbread and Gordon Taylor's homegroup continue via Zoom this Thurs at 7.00pm Please join us using this link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5124168831?pwd=dWVsR3EzTk01OEV3WUZUY1A4dUxJdz09>

Meeting ID: 512 416 8831

Passcode: 051396

Changes in Church jobs

Some of you may have heard Penny Taylor is leaving the job as Church Administrator to work at the Kings Lynn Winter Night Shelter. Val Fisher our book-keeper is also looking to leave in the near future. We are working hard to find a suitable person to take on these roles.

Podcast: 'Sunday Hope'

The Diocese of Norwich has a weekly audio podcast called 'Sunday Hope'.



It is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Overcast](#), and more.

The podcast can also be listened to from any landline telephone: call **01603 537577** (local rate) to hear the latest edition.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.