



Sunday 18 October 2026
Harvest

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Sunday Worship

8.00am Holy Communion
11.30am Holy Communion

Church Harvest celebration: Sunday 18 October – do bring fresh goods & packed/tinned goods. These will be donated to St. James Homeless hostel (if anybody can help in dropping the goods to the Homeless Centre speak to John).

Harvest Flowers – a big thank you to everybody who have been able to support the provision of harvest flowers. Deana and the Flower Team have again done a wonderful job.

Meditation Spa: the next session is Monday 19 October at 7. 00pm. Places booked with John. Booking is essential.

All Souls' Memorial: Sunday 1st November at 4.00pm when we remember by name loved ones who have died. The list of names used last year is

now in church – please either add names or tick a name currently on the list in readiness for this years' service.

Reading the Bible (evening): Tuesday 3 Nov 7.00pm St. Mary's Copythorne.

Café of Hope –The next Café is on Thursday 5 November 10.00am-12 noon.

MIDDLE EAST MATTERS We met this month to discuss our future plans for reflection and discussion. Over the coming months and using our Embrace Study Guide we shall be looking at exploring how we might navigate both stability and instability in life and faith. For further information on the group please see Ros or Pat.

Funding Church Hall: we are currently getting together a small Funding hub to locate grant making bodies and apply for relevant funds to ensure the hall is sufficiently funded for essential works. The hall Foyer floor and the ladies toilets have been replaced.

Flag-Pole in church car park: a big thank you to Trevor Wheeler for his extensive work in treating and refurbishing our flagpole. We are now looking to purchase a hard waring cloth St. George's flag for use in 2027.

DBS Administrator: we are now looking for a volunteer to be our DBS administrator (being the contact person in the sending of DBS applications through the diocese). It requires somebody who can keep record of those in the church community who have a DBS certificate, alerting these people when the DBS needs updating, and receiving relevant updates from the diocese. If you are interested, please contact either John or Patricia Pennicott (our current Safeguarding Officer).

Advent Sunday: 29 November – please pick up Clive's leaflet re the 11.30am service – your assistance is invited!

From John – our Vicar

There's a lot of human activity engaged in the health business! The Chemist is the busy hub of communities up and down our land – places where queues of people wait for the required medication. Hospitals are busy thoroughfares with treatments and diagnosis whispered and communicated in every direction. But what does it mean, I wonder, to be well?

Jesus enters a village on the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he is entering, ten lepers meet him. It seems they are the first to encounter Jesus in this place. It all happens at a distance because their cry is loud, 'Jesus help me!' Jesus sees them. Maybe they're not used to being 'seen'. When we are 'seen' there's much more going on than mere eyesight – there's understanding and perhaps appreciation. It is wonderful to be with somebody who really 'sees' us. Something resonates within, it's like a switch has been activated, and the sense of life begins to flow in the very centre of who we are. Yes, Jesus sees these ten lepers.

He tells them to go and show themselves to the priest. We assume this is the priest for nine Jewish lepers and a different priest for the Samaritan leper. The healing seems to happen when they begin to make that journey to the priest. They all have the confidence to embark on this journey back into the public world of the village – they have been 'seen' – and this has kindled within them the impetus to re-enter the world they had once known pre leprosy.

And yet, there's a real sadness in this narrative. Only one returns to give thanks. And this one is the Samaritan leper. Luke's gospel provides us with two Samaritans – one in the parable of the Good Samaritan – the one who demonstrates what it is to 'love your

neighbour'. And now this Samaritan leper, who demonstrates what it is to worship and give praise. We don't know whether this Samaritan leper ever got to his priest, but we know he returns to Jesus, the One who saw him, and falls at his feet in thanksgiving and praise.

The sadness in the narrative is for the nine who, yes were healed, but were not made well. They presumably made it to their priests. They did the part they were asked to do. And was it their preoccupation with their 'doing' which meant they looked over the healing work of Jesus. We all, in our own way, like to be the captain of our own ship. We like to 'do' things. We like to 'earn' rewards. If I run regularly then I have a health benefit – this makes 'me' feel good and in some way in control. But when we become immersed in our own 'doing' we can easily, ever so easily, slip into a sense of our own capability. We lose an understanding that we don't have all the answers. And then praise and thanksgiving can be left behind.

Praise and thanksgiving are not extras which we add into our lives. They are not the appendage to the beauty and intelligence of the natural world... rather they are already intrinsic to the created order. Praise and thanksgiving is the communication which resounds within the dynamics of the universe right at our fingertips. This is why our Scriptures reference the trees clapping their hands in acclamation, the seas roaring their praise, the heavens (the skies) declaring the glory of God. And when praise and thanksgiving happen in us, it is something which is utterly natural to who we really are.

When this thanksgiving is given permission, it is then we discover a 'wholeness' and a 'completion'. No wonder St. Paul enthuses, 'give thanks in all circumstances'... and not just when things turn out right!

Collect for Harvest

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 for ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-end

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness* endures for ever.'
¹⁰He 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.* ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through 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, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Luke 17: 11-19

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[a] met him. They stood at a

distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Prayers for Harvest

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Confession

Let us make an act of confession.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

We sing!

1 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.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us are sent from
heav'n above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for
all His love.

2 He only is the maker of all things near
and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights
the evening star.
The wind and waves obey Him, by Him
the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children, He gives
our daily bread. [Refrain]

3 We thank You, our Creator, for all things
bright and good:
The seedtime and the harvest, our life,
our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer for all Your love
imparts;
Accept what You most welcome: our
humble, thankful hearts! [Refrain]

Prayers of intercession

*We pray for the Church: for discernment
and patience... for unity and coming
together as family, as one;*

*We pray for peace in our world, where
there is conflict a lasting peace may be
found and formed;*

*We pray for all who hold positions of
leadership, praying that peace may be
pursued with wisdom and courage;*

*We pray for our community: for
neighbours and shared life together;*

*We pray for all who have gone before us,
remembering their example and the
privilege of what has been shared... we
pray for those who have recently died:*
**Barbara Smith, Vernon Birkett, Peter
Eldridge;**

*And we remember those whose
anniversary of death occurs this week:*
**Muriel Thompson (20th), Hilda Bradshaw
(20th), Margaret Butterfield (24th);**

*We pray for **Jacob**, to be baptized into the
church family, may he grow in grace and
mercy all the days of his life.*

*We pray for our families and all who
support and befriend us;*

*We pray for ourselves : that we may know
assurance and grace in all things;*

*Let us draw all these prayers together as
we say together:*

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for
the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We sing!

I Am a New Creation,
No more in Condemnation,
Here in the Grace of God, I stand. [\[1\]](#)
My Heart is Overflowing,
My Love just keeps on Growing,
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.

The Blessing

**The peace of God, which passes all
understanding, keep your hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and
the blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among
you, and remain with you always. Amen.**

