

Sunday 6 October – Harvest Festival

Prayers written by Sue Lyne

Lord, we gather here today to give our praise and offer our thanks to you for your abundant gifts.

Lord, we give you thanks for the richness of autumn now approaching, for the distinctive smell and the brightness of the final flowers. For the extravagance of autumn leaves turning green to red, gold and bronze.

We thank you for the colour and beauty of life, in creation, in people, in bright imagination and the Spirits gifts. We confess that so often we take your colour and turn it into grainy black and white, with harsh words, bitter thoughts and spoiled relationships. With pollution, war and misused opportunity.

Lord relying on our own strength we have discovered our weaknesses, break through the mist of sin, evaporate the cloud of self-interest, so that we may stand again in the autumn sunshine and reflect your glory seen in Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Generous God, at this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us.

As we thank you for our food, we remember all those who do not have enough for even one proper meal each day.

Lord, Bless all those who suffer because of the greed of others.

We pray for the homeless, and those who depend on the charity of others.

We pray for the work of our local foodbanks, providing food for those in need.

Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly,
so, everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

At this harvest time, we thank you for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food; for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers.

Bless all those, Lord, who do not earn a fair day's pay for their hard work, both at home and in other countries.

Help us to want to buy local produce and fairly traded goods wherever we can so that everyone can work with dignity and there will be no more poverty.

At this harvest time we thank you for the world we see around us, For the flowers, the trees and the animals.

Bless all those who care for them, Lord.

Help us to protect your creation by being careful about how we use your resources, so that there will be clean water, clean air and plenty of wild birds, mammals and insects to maintain the ecological balance of our countryside.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

At this harvest time we ask for your blessing on our families, friends and neighbours, and on those who are sick especially we pray for Alfred Johnson, Daphne Hoare, Sue Copsey and Ken Hornett.

We pray for those whose lives have been gathered into your presence, whose work here is done for Betty Prime, Patricia Cottee, Margaret Ager, Janice Harvey and Rene Manners. We also ask for comforting arms around those who remember Christine Frost, Irene Malyan and Elizabeth Galler.

Help us to recognise the interdependence of all of life and the importance of relationships and community and help us become good stewards of all you continue to give us.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.