

Sunday 5 October – Harvest festival

Prayers written by Jenny Cass

Loving Heavenly Father, at this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us. We thank you for creating this beautiful earth for us to enjoy. Forgive us when we have failed to be wise stewards of this world.

We are very fortunate to live in a rural area, where we benefit from local producers of fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs and honey. We give thanks for them all and for the produce we have grown in our own gardens.

We also give thanks for our supermarkets and shops who serve us each week.

We pray for the work of our local Foodbank and the Community Hub. Help us to be generous in our giving to help those who are reliant on food aid.

May we daily give thanks for the food and shelter we enjoy, acknowledging our food as a gift from God, brought to us by the hard work of so many.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord of the Harvest we pray for our world. A world full of conflict, greed, starvation and despair. Our hearts cry out for those caught up in wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, for the recent earthquake in the Philippines, for innocent lives lost and buildings and livelihoods destroyed. We pray for peace, that those in authority will have compassion, integrity and wisdom.

Lord of the Harvest, we pray for the Church throughout the world. We give thanks for all who are sharing the Gospel message. The harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few but you make your Church fruitful with many ministries. We pray for discernment as the Church of England look to appoint a new Archbishop of Canterbury.

We pray for our local churches that we may grasp the opportunities of the present time. We thank you for our Ministry Team, our Church Wardens and all who give of their time and talents.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for our community, our neighbours, friends and families. For those who are lonely and sad, those struggling with work or relationships or financial difficulties.

Let us spend a moment in silence bringing to mind those who are on our hearts today.

From our community, we pray for June Dennis, Jericho Hasieber, John & Elizabeth Firman.

Let them all know the presence of the Holy Spirit bringing them hope, comfort and healing and giving them strength to manage each day.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Today we remember that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. So we commend with confidence to your everlasting love those who have died recently, especially Derek Franklin and Dorothy Hammersley.

From our Remembrance book we give thanks for the life of Queenie Barnes.

Give comfort Lord to all who grieve and help us to share in each others sorrow.

Finally we pray for ourselves, that we will ready and willing to show God's love through words and actions in our daily lives.

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