

## Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield

### Harvest 4<sup>th</sup> October 20

**WELCOME I was told this week that churches in our deanery are now sharing their Services on Social Media wider than ever, even as far as New Zealand and Holland. How good is that.**

#### Thought for the day

In 1843 the Revd R.S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall, adapted the Lammas Day Celebration to make it a Christian response to the traditional, but largely secular, 'harvest home'. He chose for his Harvest thanksgiving the first Sunday in October. It rapidly became very popular. Harvest Festival was first recognised officially by the Church of England in 1862. (Lammas – Loaf Mass *from the Anglo Saxon Hlafmaesse* is an English feast held on 1<sup>st</sup> August as a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest.)

#### Collect

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 wellbeing: 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 forever.  
Amen.



## The book of Deuteronomy. Ch 8.7–18

The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

## Psalm 65

**You crown the year with goodness.**

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power; they are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamour of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvellous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy. May the meadows cover themselves with flocks. and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

**The second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Ch 9.6–15**

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And 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.

As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

He 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. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through 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, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Ch 12.16–30**

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to

store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**PRAYERS** (please add your own prayers)

**Let us give thanks at this Harvest time to the God of all peoples on the Earth,**

For the colours and forms of His creation and our place within it .

**We bring our thanks good Lord.**

For our daily food and for those whose skills bring God's good gifts to us.

**We bring our thanks good Lord.**

For the skills of research that bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many.

**We bring our thanks good Lord.**

For new hope and strength in our communities and especially in our church and among all who you call to serve you.

**We bring our thanks good Lord.**

For the lights and shades of the changing seasons and their variety and dependability

**We bring our thanks good Lord...**

For all in whose lives we see goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility and all the fruits of the Spirit.

**We bring our thanks good Lord.**

For the life we have been given, and for all those whom you have given us to share it.

**We bring our thanks good Lord.**

**We join with Christians in many places and situations the world over as we say the Lord's Prayer.**

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**If you need a priest urgently please phone the Area Dean, Revd Clay Roundtree 01642 760171**