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Harvest Festival, also known as the harvest home, is traditionally celebrated on a Sunday towards the end of September, or early October. Although today we can plan a fixed day for this celebration, in the past the harvest festival differed, based on when all the crops had been brought in. The whole community, including children, needed to help right up until the end, as soon as the harvest had been completed and the final cartload triumphantly returned to the farm the Harvest Supper would take place.

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Dear Friends,

Harvest thanksgiving, as we know it, is a fairly recent tradition unique to the Church of England. In celebrating the agricultural year, the Church invites us to make our own its willingness to affirm all that is good and true in human culture and tradition from beyond its visible boundaries. Harvest is a perfect time for us to, as St Paul says in the today's epistle, "Rejoice in the Lord always". It is a time to rejoice with all people over how God's creative action shows itself in the unexpected beauty and diversity of creation and the fragile abundance of its produce. It is a time for us to renew our commitment to turn such thanksgiving into concrete acts of justice and compassion to ensure the resources of the earth are shared equitably and sustainably.

In its authorised service book, *Times and Seasons*, the Church of England says this about harvest: 'The Jewish and Christian Scriptures give eloquent expression to the creative power and wisdom of God. It is therefore a natural instinct for worshipping communities to develop patterns of worship and prayer around the agricultural year.... Ancient society lived close to the land, and it is no surprise that the ancient Jewish festivals of Passover and Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles all have agrarian roots. The Christian tradition, too, has assimilated, but with differing emphases and in different times and places, particular agricultural festivals. Much of this is bound up with the need to provide food to sustain human life, and the accompanying sense of a proper humility before God as source of all things, gratitude for his goodness, and responsibility in stewarding the resources of the earth.' Even when our modern lives are increasingly cut off from the agricultural world around us, this harvest spirit of humility, gratitude and responsibility can find creative expression. On a global scale, we see this in the passionate witness of young people against environmental destruction. Closer to home in our parish and community, there are countless people and organisations, like the Foodbank, Heart and the Pop-up Pantry, working together in the face of increasing austerity to gather and distribute food and other vital support to those in need.

As Christians we too are called to contribute, as many of us have done by giving food donations today. But this cannot simply be about handing out food. Harvest is also about affirming how every human being, in order to flourish, needs a sense of purpose and dignity; a place to belong; to have a home and meaningful relationships; access to education, healthcare, clean air and water, culture, nature and leisure pursuits; to be engaged in well-paid and meaningful work; to be able to contribute to wider society; to have a voice, a say; to have their hearts, minds and spirits fed; to exercise freedom of conscience and religion; to be governed by those who seek not their own interests but serve truth, goodness and peace. Harvest time is when we as a church need to redouble our efforts in nurturing these things in our community, nation and world. How concretely might we do this? Let us look to the gifts we have that we can share with others and help build up our common life. And today especially, in our Eucharist, when we gather as young and old, from all walks of life, let us unite our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving for all God's gifts so that we may all be replenished and strengthened to go out into our world to share God's plentiful harvest and to do so, as St Paul again says, with 'a gentleness...known to everyone...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.'

With my prayers and blessings,  
Fr Angus

**Dates - October**

Monday 10th – St George's Tots

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> – WRAP Community Choir - 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Said Mass - 11.30am in the Lady Chapel.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – Said Mass - 9.30am in the Lady Chapel

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Pet Blessing Service - 2.00pm

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> All-Age Eucharist 10.00am

**Pet Blessing Service** - All God's creatures are welcome to join us for a family-friendly Pet Blessing Service on Saturday 15th October at 2 PM. Donations of pet food will be greatly appreciated and sent to Mount Noddy Rescue and the Chichester Food Bank. We ask that all pets are accompanied by their owners. Dogs must be kept on leads and other pets in suitable carrying containers.

**All Souls Day Service** – this annual service commemorating the faithful departed will be held on Tuesday 1st November – a list is available in church to add names or if you cannot get to church they can be sent by email [stgeorges@whyke.info] or leave a message on the office before Friday 28 October 2022

**Our Harvest Festival** is being celebrated today and we are having a Ploughman's Lunch after the morning service at about 12.00. The cost will be £5.00 for adults, to include coffee and cream - children free. After the lunch Fr Bill is going to amuse and entertain us with tales about Harvest & Food in Africa during which games will be provided for the children in the Church.  
Everyone welcome. The Harvest Festival gifts will be given to the foodbank.

**Our Christmas Fair** will be taking place on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Please put the date in your diary. Sue Bainbridge is appealing for items for the always popular craft table. If you are into craft making, of whatever type or perhaps you have items to donate already Sue would love to hear from you. Perhaps you have an idea for running a stall, please do have a word with Sue. Tel. 784424 or in church. Ask one of the greeters if you would like an introduction.

**WRAP-CHAT-** Thank you to Fr Angus for taking our very first monthly social meeting. I am sure the editors speak on behalf of everyone who was in attendance, whether members of the church or visitors from the wider parish when we express very sincere thanks for such an interesting talk, his long and hugely varied journey from his school days in Sweden to arriving at St George's as our parish priest kept us spellbound. Thank you!

**September's Last Friday in the Month Concert** -Although a miserable wet evening it did not deter people from attending what was a delightful evening of organ playing by Richard McVeigh and soprano singing by Caroline Balfour who sang so beautifully Handel's *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* (from The Messiah) amongst other performances. A wonderful evening not to be forgotten. One attendee had travelled all the way from Eastbourne specifically not to miss the evening. Thank you to Sue HE for organising this memorable evening.

Did you know that the **Chichester Cathedral Library** is open to the public on the first Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Besides books dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century the Library also has some intriguing stained-glass windows and unusually well-preserved stone corbels. You can find the entrance to the Library within the Cathedral Treasury and Shop, located in the North Transept. It is well worth a visit, but please note that access to the Library requires ascending a narrow spiral staircase. Then, pop out for lunch and return in time to attend the Cathedral's lunchtime concert which takes place on Tuesdays during term time at 1.10pm, in the Cathedral Nave. They are free and last approximately 50 minutes. There is a retiring collection.

If you have suspicions about a website that you may have been referred to it might be useful to first check on <https://check.getsafeonline.org/> This is an easy-to-use site recommended by the *Neighbourhood Watch Network* which helps you to determine whether a website is likely to be legitimate or a scam. The site checks on thousands of reports of malicious websites from law enforcement agencies, regulators and consumer brands every week.

Simply type in the address of the website you want to check, and your results will appear within seconds

### **Repairs and advice from specialist repairers**

What do you do with a wonky kettle, a handle-less jug, holes in a jumper, a broken bike chain or a glitchy laptop? Repair Café repairs broken items together with offering advice and inspiration.

Not forgetting the Fairtrade café. Cost? - A voluntary contribution

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, 2pm – 5pm

At Jubilee Hall, New Park Centre, Chichester, PO19 7XY

More details on - <https://www.transitionchichester.org/repair-cafe/>

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