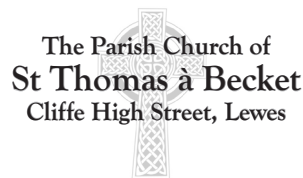


O ALMIGHTY God, and heavenly Father, we glorify thee that thou hast again fulfilled to us thy gracious promise, that, while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest shall not fail. We bless thee for the kindly fruits of the earth, which thou hast given to our use. Teach us, we beseech thee, to remember that it is not by bread alone that man doth live; and grant us evermore to feed on him who is the true Bread from heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen



Sunday 4th October 2020
Trinity XVII – Harvest Sunday



Welcome to our service of Holy Communion. Today's Celebrant and preacher is our Associate Vicar, Fr Herbert Bennett.

A reminder that Communion is in one kind only, the host, received in silence while standing at the foot of the chancel steps.

The Collect

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle -- Ephesians 4.1-6

I therefore the prisoner of the Lord beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

The Gospel -- St. Luke 14.1-11

It came to pass, as Jesus went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath-day, that they watched him. And behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the Lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath-day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; and answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass, or an ox, fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath-day? And they could not answer him again to these things. And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms, saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that, when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.



With thanks to Gerald O'Brien for this splendid image of a recent rainbow over St Thomas' at Cliffe.

CLIFFE HALL

The Hall toilets are now usable. Please speak to the sidesman for access. Sadly we are still not able to meet for coffee after church.

CHRISTMAS

At its next meeting, the PCC will discuss arrangements for Christmas services. Sadly, the Christmas Fair this year has been CANCELLED due to Covid restrictions.

FACE MASKS

Face coverings are now mandatory in churches and should be worn at all times except when receiving Communion, apart from those who have any of the exemptions.

HOMELINK

Don't miss their online craft auction. Over 80 locally-made items on offer. To view or bid, visit leweshomelink.org.uk Auction closes 9pm, on 10th October.

PRAYERS

We pray for all those who cannot be with us this morning, including: Pam Swabey, Joan Bishop and Ken Allbon.

CHOIR

We are pleased to be able to assist St Michael's organist, Nick Houghton, and our own Mary Burke by accommodating East Sussex Community Choir on Monday evenings, to practise while they are without their usual venue.

BR. GEORGE

We are delighted to present dear Br. George with gifts from the parish today, to acknowledge his forty-years of ministry in Lewes.

MARY BENNETT

We remember Mary, mother to Fr Herbert and to John, whose funeral was held in church on Friday.



Requiescat in pace.

EVENING PRAYER

A reminder that Evening Prayer will be said tonight at 6pm. All welcome.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests may be left in the offertory plate.



PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY WITH YOU



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WELCOME to our service of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer. It is lovely to have you with us this morning.

Unfortunately, we are still not permitted to sing, and Communion can be in one-kind only: received in silence

while standing at the chancel steps. Please follow the one-way system: down the centre aisle and back to your pew via the side aisles.

This pew sheet contains the weekly Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading, as well as notices. Please keep it for

reference. The service is as per our usual White Booklets, with the exception of hymns, which are omitted currently.

Please do not congregate in the church after the service but make your way outside where Fr Herbert and Br George will be waiting to greet you.

HARVEST a view by Rev Neil Summers of Richmond Team Ministry

HARVEST in this country is not the life-and-death issue it once was. After all, even if the weather were to ruin things and the British harvest were to fail completely, the shops would no doubt still be full of produce brought in from all around the world. It's just that things would cost us more, and our carbon footprint would be even bigger than it is now. Furthermore, given the fact that many things can be grown both in and out of season, has the idea of a harvest festival become redundant? Are we clinging on to an age long gone, when it was more meaningful, and a good harvest meant that the family had a reasonable chance of surviving the coming winter?

As you walk round a supermarket – at any time of year – you can all too easily assume that harvest is now a year-long, rather than a seasonal, event. With the choice and abundance of food that marks our modern urban lifestyle in the Western world, not to mention the amount of food we throw away, the traditional harvest can seem little more than a distant, quaint folk-memory. We have largely lost touch with the rhythm of the seasons and their fruits. Now we are the hunter-gatherers of the shopping mall or the mega-food chain – just as tenacious as our ancestors, but more attuned to shopping hours than to light and darkness, or sun and rain

As time goes on, we seem to get even further removed from the experiences of earlier faith communities who, for centuries, offered the first fruits of their harvests to their gods in gratitude for all they had received. So, the Harvest Festival today, can – if nothing else – serve as a reminder of our dependence upon the earth and its produce, and those who labour to bring it to our shops and homes. But a modern Harvest Festival can do more than that.

In recent decades we have become increasingly aware of the fragility of the environment. On Harvest Festival day, we come to give thanks for flowers, fruit and vegetables, and for all life's blessings. As the mediaeval mystic, Meister Eckhart, once said, 'If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'thank you', it will be enough.' It's the shortest and simplest prayer imaginable, but one we perhaps too often forget. But this thanksgiving will find real meaning in an attitude towards life and a response to life that can have many practical outcomes.

One of these might be the recognition that we, and our interests and needs, do not lie at the centre of the universe, but that we have responsibilities towards our planet and those we share it with, not least those who have little or no harvest – of any description – to celebrate. The

gratitude we offer today cannot complacently thank God that we are well provided for, when we know that vast numbers of people around our world struggle to survive, suffering and dying each day because of hunger, thirst, injustice and inequality. Also, as the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (today) reminds us, neither can our gratitude ignore the animals, birds, fish and all aspects of the environment which are also part of this intricate and interdependent network of life on planet earth.

In the words of the *Book of Common Prayer*, let us thank God today and every day for the goodness and loving kindness shown towards us, and bless God for our creation, preservation and all the benefits of this life. Because living a life based on gratitude, rather than one which constantly complains that nothing is ever right, can make all the difference. But let our gratitude be more than just words. Instead, let it move our consciences, our wills, our actions and the choices we make, and take seriously the challenge to live more simply, more fairly, more sustainably and more harmoniously with both creator and created. Amen.



NEXT SUNDAY: As we are still in interregnum, and until a new Rector is appointed, we welcome Canon Richard Moatt as our guest preacher and celebrant on Fr Herbert's Sundays off.

With thanks to everyone who donated harvest flowers and to all those who arranged them so beautifully.

Sunday 4th October 2020
 TRINITY XVII