

Reflection for Harvest Festival

by: Ian Totterdell, Churchwarden

The theme of thankfulness runs deep through today's readings: thankfulness for healing from leprosy, thankfulness for being brought out of Egypt to the Promised Land and the abundant crops growing there, and thankfulness for the many blessings and the grace that God had given the Christians in Corinth.

The Israelites had three annual festivals (Passover, Feast of Weeks and Feast of Tabernacles) and the last two of those were related to harvests. The Feast of Tabernacles, held around this time of year, coincided with the fruit and wine harvests and the end of the threshing season, but it also commemorated the 40 years they had spent in the wilderness. The people were commanded to be joyful and celebrate all that the Lord God had done for them and was continuing to do for them. They were to remain humble before God and not slip into thinking the harvest was all their own work; rather they should be thankful towards him for his bounteous provision.

The events of this year have caused many to question what they might have assumed were stable and enduring human institutions and structures providing for our needs. As Christians, we know that it is God on whom we fundamentally rely for all that we need, whether that is food, fellowship or forgiveness of sins. Let us be truly thankful to God for all he gives us, and may we be inspired to be generous in turn towards the needs around us, at this harvest-time and also throughout the year.



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 4th October to the end of November:

Meeting ID: 865 5823 0026

Passcode: 504187

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 11.10.20 Trinity 18

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church

READINGS



OT Isaiah 25: 1-9

NT Philippians 4: 1-9

Gospel Matthew 22: 1-14

CONTACT US

Fr. David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Curate 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd. Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 4th October 2020

Harvest Festival

The feast day of **St Francis of Assisi** is by happy coincidence on 4 October. This is part of the Friday Cross Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, who when the world was growing cold, to the inflaming of our hearts by the fire of your love, raised up blessed Francis bearing in his body the marks of your passion: mercifully grant to us your people true penitence and grace to bear the Cross for love of you; who live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit ...

This is the prayer which Fr Terry used last Sunday at the end of his talk

*Heavenly Father
help us to entrust the past to your mercy
the present to your love
and the future to your wisdom
in Jesus' name we pray Amen*

Advance warning of APCM by Zoom on 18 October. We will be having worship as usual but at 10 o'clock, followed by a very brief Annual Meeting. Papers will be sent in advance, with reports to be read in advance. We will cover only what is needed to keep us lawful!

Fr David



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 well-being; 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 for ever. **Amen**

Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For 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 re-

member 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.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

The point is this: 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!

Luke 17: 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, say-

ing, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Post Communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon **not** Thursdays. Please continue to be generous. Note that the collecting point will now be in the **church tower**, not in the hall.

Knit and Natter 30th September to Christmas

We shall be meeting, on Wednesdays at the usual time 10.30 to 12 midday in the Church Hall. Contact Jenny on 01392 498725 for details.

Audrey & Jack Wilson have some **raspberry canes** to dispose of . If anybody would like to have these and give a donation to the Church funds, please ring 01392 203945

Ian Totterdell is running the **Hospiscare Marathon in a Month** during October. Details to follow.