

**County Harvest  
Thanksgiving Service**



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*Sunday, 1 October 2017  
at 11.15 am*

*A very warm welcome to Chelmsford Cathedral for this special county harvest thanksgiving. The service is led by the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford, with the Diocesan Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain, the Revd Janet Nicholls and the Chaplain to Writtle University College, the Revd Andrew Merchant. All you need for the service is contained in this booklet.*

*Please give generously during the collection at the end of the service. This will be split between the Farming Community Network (FCN) and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI). Both charities provide support for farming families in Essex.*

*During the collection, it is very helpful if you use the yellow envelopes. Please fill in the details on the outside of the envelope. If you use the envelopes it enables us to reclaim tax from the government, at no cost to you.*

*In the north aisle there is a display by Tools with a Mission to which people are welcome to contribute tools. For further information please visit [www.twam.uk](http://www.twam.uk) There are also displays by a range of other rural and farming charities.*

*Today's celebration has been arranged with the generous co-operation of:*

- RABI
- NFU
- Essex Agricultural Society
- FCN
- Writtle University College
- R.C. Boreham & Co and Ernest Doe & Son

*In the event of the alarm sounding, please make your way out of the Cathedral via the nearest door and if it is safe to do so, assemble at the rear of the Shire Hall in the South East corner of the churchyard. Please do not go back for your belongings until you are told it is safe to do so.*

*The car park code  
for today is 5365*



*Please recycle this booklet  
after use.*



*If you would like to know more about the Christian faith and the life of the Christian community in this place please speak to one of the stewards on duty or contact us on 01245 294492 or visit us at [www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)*

# **The Gathering**

## **Anthem**

*Please remain seated as the choir sings*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our joyful hymn of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night.  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Lord of all, ...*

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Lord of all, ...*

For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

*Lord of all, ...*

*Words: F S Pierpoint (1835-1917)*

*Music: John Rutter (bn 1945)*

*The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service. He then invites the congregation to stand for the opening hymn and the procession of harvest gifts.*

## Opening Hymn

**Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home!  
all be safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come;  
raise the song of harvest-home!**

**All the world is God's own field,  
fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown,  
unto joy and sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall purge away  
all that doth offend, that day;  
give his angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in his garner evermore.**

### *Organ improvisation*

**Then, thou Church triumphant, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home;  
all be safely gathered in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there for ever purified  
in God's garner to abide:  
come, ten thousand angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

*Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871)*

*Tune: St George's Windsor*

## The Presentation of the Gifts

*At the end of the procession, farmers and producers present gifts representing the Essex harvest at the altar.*

### Prayer

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 our Lord.

*All*     **Amen.**

## The Presentation of Symbols of the Harvest

*Symbols of harvest, RAW MATERIALS, PRODUCE, HUMAN RESOURCES and TECHNOLOGY, are presented by members of Essex Agricultural Society.*

*THE RAW MATERIALS: earth, water and seeds are presented.  
Revd Andrew Merchant says*

As we receive this earth, this water and these seeds, let God, the source of all things, be praised. Let us glorify him that he has given us both instinct and the need to join in the work of creation. Let us praise him for the work of preparation for harvest in all its wonderful variety.

God will give us his good gifts  
and our land will yield its fruits.

*All*     **Lord, how various are your works;  
in wisdom you have made them all,  
and the earth is full of your creatures.**

*The gifts are placed on the table.*

*THE PRODUCE: harvest produce is presented.*

*Revd Andrew Merchant says*

As we receive this produce, let us rejoice in his abundant generosity. Let us be glad in beauty, satisfied in production and determined to see the relief of those in need.

The land has yielded its harvest:

God, our God, has blessed us.

*All*     **Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth;  
break into singing and make melody.**

*The gifts are placed on the table.*

*THE HUMAN RESOURCES: a Shepherd's Crook is presented. Revd Andrew Merchant says*

As we receive this shepherd's crook, let us give thanks for human care, labour and steadfastness. Let us give God praise that he invites us to be his co-workers and stewards of the creation.

The Lord is my shepherd,  
therefore can I lack nothing.

*All*     **The meadows are clothed with sheep;  
and the hills are girded with joy.**

*The shepherd's crook is placed on the table*

*THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE: a symbol of agricultural technology is presented. Revd Andrew Merchant says*

As we rejoice in the signs of the future within the farming industry, let us rejoice that God has shared with us his comprehension of that which is to come. Let us give thanks that in the giving of vision, of understanding and of skill, he continues his loving-kindness to us all.

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord all the earth.

*All* **For he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*All* **O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!**

You are clothed with majesty and honour,  
**wrapped in light as in a garment.**

*All*

The sun knows the hour of its setting.

*All* **You make darkness that it may be night.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all;

*All* **the earth is full of your creatures.**

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
**and you renew the face of the earth.**

*All*

*Verses from Psalm 104*

### **The Opening Prayer**

Yours, O God, is the vineyard and its harvest,  
yours the kingdom of justice and peace.  
You call your people to tend its growth.  
Bless the work entrusted to our hands,  
that we may offer you an abundance of just works,  
a rich harvest of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

# ¶ **Listening to the Scriptures**

## **The First Reading**

*Joel 2.21-27*

*read by Mrs Belinda Young, Chair of Essex Agricultural Society*

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the word of the Lord

*All*     **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 67**

*Please remain seated as the choir sings*

God be merciful unto us, and bless us :  
and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us:  
That thy way may be known upon earth : thy saving health among all nations.  
Let the people praise thee, O God : yea, let all the people praise thee.  
O let the nations rejoice and be glad : for thou shalt judge the folk  
righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.  
Let the people praise thee, O God : let all the people praise thee.  
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase :  
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.  
God shall bless us : and all the ends of the world shall fear him



## The Second Reading

Matthew 6.25-33

*read by Mrs Julia Smith, Chair of Governors, Writtle University College*

Jesus said: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, 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, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the word of the Lord

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

### Hymn

**God whose hand is all creation,  
take the gratitude we give;  
take the finest of our harvest,  
crops we grow that we may live.**

**Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,  
hopes and fears of sun and rain,  
all our thinking, planning, waiting,  
ripened in this fruit and grain.**

**All our labour, all our watching,  
all our calendar of care  
in these crops of your creation,  
take, O God: they are our prayer.**

*Words: John Arlott (1914-1991)*

*Tune: Sussex*

## **The Essex Harvest Report**

*read by Adam Scott, Essex NFU County Adviser*

## **The Sermon**

*The Revd Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain.*

## **Anthem**

*The choir sings*

Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it,  
and crownest the year with thy goodness.

*Words: from Psalm 65*

*Music: Maurice Greene (1696–1755)*

## **The Prayers**

*The prayers are led by Peter Hickling (RABI Essex) and Keith Davis (FCN Eastern Counties Regional Director)*

## **Hymn**

*during which the collection is taken.*

*The collection is divided between RABI and FCN.*

**Together we gather to give thanks to our Lord  
for this planet rich, productive and diverse;  
your gift to us all for your people to feed,  
to serve and nourish all in need.**

***Bless us, your people, gathered here  
with all who work the land, far away and near.  
Bless this land and the crops as they grow  
into bread of life from the seeds we've sown.***

**We plant with hope and we tend with care  
we pray for weather and markets to be fair.  
God of compassion will you hear our prayer  
when life is harsh and our needs lay bare.**

*Bless us, your people...*

**If neighbours are in need, exhaustion and fear  
when loss abounds and poverty is near;  
may we hold and listen and care as you lead  
may we love as you've shown us to meet each need.**

*Bless us, your people...*

**Inspire us, O Lord, to walk with you  
to be people of light with hope and joy renewed;  
strengthen us, our Father, to be children of grace,  
to be holy servants in this place.**

*Bless us, your people...*

*Words: Janet Nicholls  
Tune: Lord of the Dance*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall leads the thanksgiving. Please remain standing.*

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
creator, redeemer and life-giver;  
you have spoken the world into being  
and filled it with wonder and beauty.

*All* For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for people of every language and culture  
and for the rich variety you give to life.

*All* For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
truly divine and truly human,  
living and dying for us,  
and going before us to heaven.  
For every blessing we have received  
*All* **we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for your Spirit,  
the fire of love burning in our hearts,  
bringing us to faith,  
and calling us to holiness  
in the Church and in the world.  
For every blessing we have received  
*All* **we give you thanks and praise.**

Therefore, we worship you  
with all the company of heaven.  
*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered you thanksgiving  
for your love in creation:  
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.  
*All* **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*All*      **Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the closing hymn.*

## Closing Hymn

**We plough the fields, and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand;  
he sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain:  
*All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.***

**He only is the Maker  
of all things near and far,  
he paints the wayside flower,  
he lights the evening star.  
The winds and waves obey him,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread:**

*All good gifts around us...*

**We thank thee then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good;  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
for all thy love imparts,  
but that which thou desirest,  
our humble, thankful hearts:**

*All good gifts around us...*

*Words: Matthias Claudius 1740 – 1815,  
tr. Jane Campbell 1817 – 78  
Tune: Wir Pflügen*



## **Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

*The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall blesses the congregation*

May God

who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,  
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,  
who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,  
lead us, feed us, multiply us,  
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator  
now and through all eternity;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you  
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

*Please remain standing as the procession moves through the Cathedral.*

*Everyone is warmly welcome to refreshments in the north transept – to the left of the main altar. And please visit the displays on the north side of the Cathedral.*



*visit us at*  
[www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)