

A Message from: Revd Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser & Agricultural Chaplain

This time last year, farmers gathered in the cathedral for the annual County Harvest Festival. The service began with a procession of farmers carrying sheaves of corn from their farms. Behind the scenes there was some lively competition! Last year's harvest saw very good grain yields. The farmers were rightly proud of the sheaves they brought to the centre of our harvest worship.

This year's harvest is a very different story. A large gathering of farmers is out of the question at present. Also, the 2020 harvest has seen the worst yields for 40 years. The very wet planting season followed by an extremely dry growing season has produced very disappointing crops of wheat and barley across the diocese. Few farmers would carry a sheaf of corn with pride this year. Despite the work, care and investment of our farmers, the extreme weather has meant that less food has been produced.

The events of this year, whether it was disruption to global supply chains or our poor harvest, remind us that we should never take food supply for granted. 2020 has given rise to various slogans to remind us how to live responsibly in a pandemic. The UK agricultural industry has its own slogan, '*Buy British*'. Buying British food remains a key element of social action in support of the continuation of sustainable, ethical food production. Additionally, I'd like to suggest another, '***Eat Less, Share More, Waste None***'. If we take our harvest thanksgiving seriously, it draws us to truly value every forkful of food. As I picked my first ear of wheat in July, I realised that every grain would need to be cherished and treasured this year.

Ears of Harvest

This ear of wheat plucked from the farm
Now nestled and protected in gently cupped palm.
Prayer-poised hands roll this ear of unknown,
Kernels exposed, chaff softly blown.
Smaller and fewer, the grains of this harvest;
Each precious and treasured, not to be tarnished.
These tiny grains, what do they hold?
Feeding the body, nourishing the soul?
The Farmer of the world promised all would be gathered;
The smallest, the weakest; all to be treasured.
This wheat in my palm hides priceless creed;
With the faith of the Farmer, grain becomes seed.
As finger-grip loosens, where will the seed fall?
Amidst rocks or thorns or the good soil of the soul?

The Rev'd Canon Janet Nicholls
Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain

Cathedral Life Weekly

16th Sunday after Trinity Sunday 27th September 2020



Courses taking place this Autumn:



**Starting 1st October 8-9pm
and 8th, 15th, 22nd October;
12th, 19th and 26th Nov.**

Radical Presence: Green Christian

Hosted on Zoom
Email
imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk
to register for free.

Join Andy Griffiths and Imogen Nay in conversation about faith, scripture, Covid-19 and the environment.

Based on Green Christian's new course 'Radical Presence' you are invited to explore with them various Christian responses to some of the most fundamental questions of our time.

What does Christian hope look like in our current context?
What sort of action is God calling Christians to now?

Faith Seekers© COME, SEE, LEARN, KNOW



Ordinand Gary Fleming is running a new course for Faith Seekers. Starting in mid-October and taking place on a Wednesday evenings, via zoom, the course aims to help create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and reflect on how it can be lived out each day.

Please see the attachment with this email for more information. Could you invite someone you know to attend? Ideal for those thinking about confirmation.

Grappling with Mark's Gospel: a seminar by Zoom taking place on Tuesday, 29 September 2020 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

This is a morning for anyone interested in engaging at depth with Mark's Gospel. The seminar is led by the Dean of Chelmsford, Nicholas Henshall, and will be taking place by Zoom. It will feature a series of short presentations, group discussion and an opportunity for questions. Participants will be sent a link to the seminar and preparatory materials in advance. To register, please follow this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grappling-with-marks-gospel-seminar-by-zoom-tickets-118604572469>

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Pray with Us:

Give thanks for the work and ministries of our hospices who bring comfort and relief to patients and families in times of physical and spiritual need and stress.



Please pray for hospice chaplains.

Please pray for Renew Counselling, City Centre

Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, The Most Revd Ezekiel Kumir Kondo, Archbishop.

Please pray for those who are unwell including Jean Cooper, Rita James, Nicole Landon, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week and use in your prayers:

Monday: Luke 9.46-50

Thursday: Luke 10.1-12

Tuesday: John 1.47-51

Friday: Luke 10.13-16

Wednesday: Luke 9.57-62

Saturday: Luke 10.17-24

Study with Us:

Bible Notes for this Sunday, 27 September 2020

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Deuteronomy 28.1-14

Ps 65

Luke 12.16-30



“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field!”

Harvest Festival was created in the 19th century by a Cornish vicar who was looking for ways to reconnect the life of the church with the lives of the ordinary local people whom the church was there to serve. As he was in a rural context, that meant the farm labourers. So – alongside thanksgiving for the gifts of the earth (and therefore praying and acting for a fair distribution of those gifts in a world where some are full and many go hungry) harvest is also about re-connection. About how we seek and serve God and ask God’s blessing in the city and the field.

The Bible is full of rich imagery to help us.

Today’s first reading from Deuteronomy challenges us to relate the blessings we receive through God’s bounty to our response of obedience to God.

The Psalm is a great song of praise that invites us to celebrate that abundance, celebrating God’ “awesome deeds of deliverance”, reflected in the bounty of the earth.

And the Gospel is Jesus encouraging us to trust God without anxiety – quite challenging in our present circumstances.

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This year, as we celebrate harvest without the usual accompaniments, let's nevertheless offer up a shout of praise and thanksgiving in response to God's amazing generosity.

What will you give in thanks to God this Harvest?

Please considering making a donation to Foodbank at a time when even more families and households may encounter financial difficulty. Please take directly to Foodbank we cannot collect any items at the Cathedral.

Foodbank Warehouse
Vicarage Hall
450A Beehive Lane
Chelmsford, CM2 8RN

Mon to Fri
9:30 – 12:30

[07512 574542](tel:07512574542) or
info@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk

Sunday Services:

7.45am	Morning Prayer	Live streamed on the Facebook page	
10.30am	Cathedral Eucharist	In the Cathedral & live streamed on Facebook	President: Associate Priest Kate Moore Preacher: The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall
10.30am	Junior Church	In Guy Harlings Garden Harvest Agape Service	Canon Imogen Nay Jean Elliott
5.15pm	Evening Prayer	Live streamed on the Facebook page	
8.15	Compline	Live streamed on the Church at Home Cathedral Facebook page	Gary Fleming

Morning Prayer and the Cathedral Eucharist are available later on our YouTube channel – link from the Church at Home page of the Cathedral website.

News:

As of the 1st October the cathedral will be **open from 10am-4pm**. We are also adding in a **10.30am Eucharist every Thursday**. We look forward to welcoming you.

Cathedral Eucharist 10.30am on Sundays: Please note there is no longer a requirement to reserve a place/book a ticket. **However, if we reach capacity for any service and it would be unsafe to allow any more people into the building, it is with regret that we would have to close the doors and you would be unable to attend.** Following the latest Church of

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England guidance, it is now expected that all visitors to the Cathedral, for worship or private prayer, wear a facemask.

Junior Church is also back in Guy Harlings Garden. Please click on the link below to book in as numbers are currently limited in order to comply with government guidelines. You are very welcome to join Jean for some fun activities. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/junior-church-in-the-garden-tickets-121208551039>

Book Group – This month we are reading “Black Dogs” by Ian McEwan. We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday October 5th at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join us – email: sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk to receive the Zoom link.

Breakfast with the Bible: has started, meeting via zoom from 8.45am to 9.30am. If you would like to join the sessions, please email Canon Imogen Nay on imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk for the Zoom code each week. Breakfast with the Bible is led by various members of the Cathedral congregation, lay and ordained. It includes time for discussion as well as some teaching input from the leaders. See the Breakfast with the Bible page on the website for full details.

Chorister recruitment – the first open rehearsals for prospective choristers will be held on **Monday 28 September 4 pm – 5 pm** (boys in school years 3 – 5) and **Tuesday 29 September 4.15 pm – 5.15 pm** (girls in school years 6 – 8); due to Covid-19 restrictions, places are limited so early booking is advised – parents will be able to observe the rehearsals online and future dates will be made available. Please contact Elspeth Manders on elspeth.manders@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk to book a place or for further information.

REFUGEE ENGAGEMENT.

The new Chelmsford refugee support group have now got Home Office approval and are beginning their important work, enabling a refugee family to settle in Chelmsford. They are currently writing welcoming materials in English and Arabic for the family. The group originated from the Catholic Diocese of Brentwood and is being supported by the Cathedral Fellowship Group run by Brian Cooper. £10,000 has already been raised and the group have found an appropriate house. Inevitably further progress is being hampered by Covid-19. The group has a wide network of contacts, including they have developed wide contacts, including Chelmsford mosque and ‘Citizens UK’. Corporately we have invited them to submit an application for support from the Cathedral’s annual charitable donations, but if you would like to know more or support the work in any way, please contact Chris Thompson; thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk or speak to **Gervase Vernon**.

Heritage Tours 2020

In September we normally see a series of tours and events around the national heritage weekend, and the Cathedral always takes part. This year, thanks to the hard work of the Civic Society, this is still going ahead – and everyone is welcome to join in on line! You can find details of the whole series by going to <http://www.chelmsfordcivicsociety.co.uk/heritage-open-days.html>

The virtual tour of the Cathedral went live yesterday at 10 am and is now available for everyone to watch. You can find the link to that by scrolling down the page to the 19th September.

SARAH MOSS

We especially welcome Sarah Moss. Sarah lives in Romford but has just starting training for ordained ministry at Trinity College, Bristol. She will be on placement here at the Cathedral for around 16 hours a week for the next two years. Inevitably Sarah begins here placement at the Cathedral in very
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unusual circumstances and we will be pioneering something new – not least as the wider context continues to change rapidly and in unexpected ways!

On-Line Giving: if you would like to donate to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral through these challenging times, please visit the Cathedral website. Towards the bottom of the opening page you will see a heading “Supporting your Cathedral”. Simply click the link in the paragraph below to make your donation.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, 27 September (this Sunday) straight after the 10.30 Sunday Eucharist. We are encouraged to make this as short as possible and it will finish by 12 noon. The papers are available on the Cathedral website and do please submit questions in advance of the meeting by emailing Dean@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk. The meeting will be live in the Cathedral and will also be live on Facebook.

This Sunday is also **Harvest**. Given our context, this will be very different this year with no presentation of harvest gifts and no Essex Farmers Harvest Celebration at the Cathedral. However, the worship will still focus on the harvest and the Dean’s address for the AGM will use those themes as we reflect together on the last year and on what lies ahead.

Stewarding at Sunday Services: Since we have returned to public worship at Sunday Services the roles of the Welcome Stewards and Wardens have changed considerably. We are seeking to expand the team of Welcome Stewards for the future as a number of our current team are still shielding or are cautious about returning to the rota at the moment. Is this something that you would consider? We don’t know yet what worship will be like as we progress towards Christmas but if we can expand our team, we will be ready when we need to step into action. Please speak to Elizabeth Marshall or Maureen Benson (or email ej.marshall@blueyonder.co.uk) if you are interested. New stewards need to be appointed at the Annual Meeting on September 27th. All volunteers must complete a Diocesan Confidential Declaration Form and online safeguarding training

On Sunday 11 October there will be a special Evensong at which the 50th anniversary of **Paul Beasley-Murray’s** ordination will be celebrated. Paul’s original intention was to invite all Cathedral friends to a party following the service, when there would be food and wine and a jazz band to boot. Unfortunately Covid-19 now makes that impossible – indeed, because of social distancing numbers at the service have had to be seriously limited. However, the service will be streamed (for the link see under ‘Church at Home’ on the Cathedral website). Paul had hoped there would have been a book-signing for his latest book, *50 Lessons in Ministry: Reflections on 50 Years of Ministry*, but that too has had to go. However, do not despair because copies are available at a specially reduced price of £8.99 (including post and packing): email paulbeasleymurray@gmail.com or write to Paul at 3 Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY.

PS. **Stephen Cottrell**, now Archbishop of York, writes: “John Henry Newman famously said that to grow is to change, and to have become perfect is to have changed often. Paul Beasley-Murray may not be perfect, but he has changed; and he is gloriously open to change. It is this constant learning and probing that makes his reflections on a lifetime of ministry so encouraging and helpful. He is currently a Baptist minister worshipping in an Anglican cathedral. He reflects generously on what he has received from the Church of England. This book returns the favour, giving Anglican clergy – and others – the opportunity to learn a lot from him. We need each other’s wisdom to expand the scope and vision of Christian ministry. These 50 lessons from 50 years of ministry are a very good place to start.”

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