



# The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338

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## Sunday 1st October 2023 Harvest

### Sunday 1st October Harvest Generosity Week

Rev'd Shannon Preston is giving today's online sermon.  
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#).

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
Please join the 11am service at Fernham  
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew  
Family Harvest Service  
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Harvest Service  
11:00am Fernham, St John  
Harvest Holy Communion Service  
3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)  
Harvest Songs of Praise  
followed by Holy Communion (BCP)  
5:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline and Benediction

### Monday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
12 noon Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Interment of Ashes – Phyllida Cook RIP

### Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)

### Wednesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Shrevenham Methodist Church  
10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom  
2:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
ASK Holy Communion  
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group  
St Andrew's Vicarage

### Thursday

9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's  
9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)  
9:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
School Harvest Service  
6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice and AGM  
in St Andrew's

### Friday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
1:30pm Longcot, St Mary  
School Harvest Services

### Saturday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Harvest Service  
11:30am Fernham, St John  
Interment of Ashes – Keith Russell RIP  
4:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas  
Wedding  
Claire Livingstone and Mark Mutlow

### Sunday 8th October

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
9:30am Longcot, St Mary & Facebook  
Holy Communion  
9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)  
Matins  
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion  
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Holy Communion

### **Generosity Week 1st – 8th October**

Harvest is a time when we celebrate God's generosity: traditionally in terms of the fruits and vegetables, which decorate our churches and are then shared with local foodbanks and the Swindon women's refuge.

But the idea of harvest is much wider than that and this is a good time of year to think about what we do with our personal fruits - the skills and talents we have been given and which we share with others. The harvest of a nurse, for instance, is a cared for patient or, of a teacher, a child engaged with learning. The harvest of a church is the impact it has on individuals and communities – be that online, on paper and face to face.

It is in our nature to be generous – just as we love because God loves us, we are generous because God is generous to us. And most people are - but the church has asked us to use this particular week, with its connection to harvest, to think about generosity in our own context. Who are we generous to? Who is generous to us? How do we show our gratitude? Should we review our giving – how much and to whom? Our church schools will also look at "Giving as God gives" as they continue to explore generosity as a Christian value.

The world needs more generosity, so every day this week we will look at aspects of generosity in our prayer and worship, including special services of Morning Prayer to start the day. Please, come and join us.

### **Harvest Fayre and Soup on Saturday**

7th October from 10am – 2pm  
St Andrews Church Shrevenham

As well as homemade soup, stalls will include cakes, cards, paintings, raffle and lots more!!

Donations of any of the following gratefully received.

**Soup:** Penny Hockley (783284)

**Cakes, tray bakes, cookies etc:** Pip Dudley (783481)  
or Brenda Garman (780725)

**Raffle Prizes:** Marilyn Jeans (782508)  
or Daphne Willmet (782926)

**Unwanted gifts, knitted items:** Lindsey Skelt (783735)

### Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work  
The Malthouses in Ashbury, and  
Roman Way and Alexander Way in Shrivenham.

### Watchfield Cream Teas – Thank You



Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising event in aid of St. Thomas' Church Watchfield. The cream teas were delicious, and we had been given some wonderful prizes for the raffle.

We raised nearly £640.



Shrivenham Primary School's Harvest display in St Andrew's



Making flowers out of paper plates, and pinecone bird feeders with peanut butter and seeds at Messy Church



Harvest displays in Longcot church

Harvest windows in Shrivenham church

## **The Lighthouse Bookshop, Highworth.**

The Lighthouse Bookshop has been on the High Street for almost 40 years, serving Highworth and the Swindon area. However, it is very likely that it will have to close before it reaches that milestone.

Unless the number of customers increase significantly over the next few months, closure is “on the cards”.

The Bookshop is very well stocked with cards for all occasions, Bibles, Christian books and a whole variety of gifts. The Christmas stock will arrive in September and will go on display in October. We will definitely be open for the Christmas period.

Please make the Lighthouse Bookshop your first port of call for everything that the Lighthouse stocks. Malcolm and Val can order for you any item that is not in stock.

Please do continue to pray for the managers and all the staff, volunteers and trustees as we continue to serve the churches of Highworth and the surrounding area.

### **The normal opening hours are:**

Mon – Thurs 9am – 3pm

Friday and Saturday 9am – 1pm

Contact details:

The Lighthouse Bookshop, 40 High Street, Highworth  
01793 763337, email [info@lighthouse.books.plus.com](mailto:info@lighthouse.books.plus.com)



# Reading Sheet Harvest Festival [A]

## 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

7 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,<sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

11 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.<sup>12</sup> When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them,<sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied,<sup>14</sup> 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,<sup>15</sup> who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock,<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.”<sup>18</sup> But remember 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.<sup>1</sup>

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.<sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under

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1 *The New Revised Standard Version,*  
(Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers)  
1989.

compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

10 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.<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;<sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.<sup>13</sup> 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,<sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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## Luke 12:16-30

16 Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly.<sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’<sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’<sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’<sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

22 He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.<sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.<sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!<sup>25</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?<sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?<sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, 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.<sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!<sup>29</sup> And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying.<sup>30</sup> For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.<sup>3</sup>

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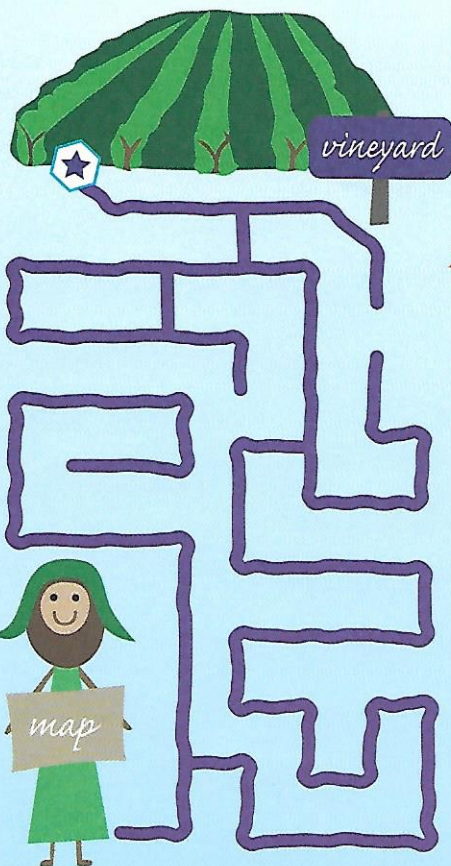
Sunday 1 October 2023  
 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Matthew 21:28-32

## In the GOSPEL TODAY

### ACTION NOT WORDS!

## Finding the vineyard

Help the son find his way to his father's vineyard.



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Please help me, Jesus, to help out when I am asked. Sometimes I don't do what I say I am going to. Help me to do what I know is right. Amen.

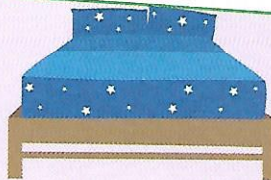
Who is doing what is right? A man has two sons. The first says he won't help, but then does what his dad asks. The second says he'll help, but then does nothing. Jesus says, the first son is doing what is right! Doing something is better than talking about it.

## Actions not words

### Helping out

The first son helped his father. Fill in the letters to find out some of the ways you can help out at home.

Make your \_\_\_\_ (deb).



Help \_\_\_\_ (kooC) meals.



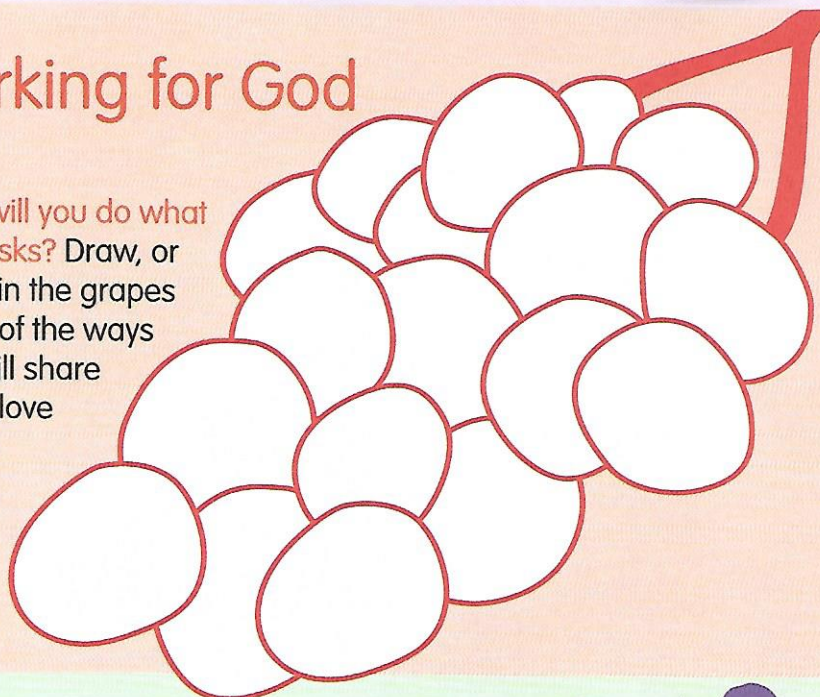
Clear away d \_\_\_\_ s (hsie).

Tidy up \_\_\_\_ (tyos).



## Working for God

How will you do what God asks? Draw, or write, in the grapes some of the ways you will share God's love today.



## Do what God wants

### Spot the difference

Can you find 5 differences between these two brothers?

