

The Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sung Eucharist for Harvest Sunday



Welcome to our worship this morning. We rejoice to sing in church again. If you are in church, unless exempt please continue to wear a mask when moving around the building or singing hymns. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing – please respect those who have done so

The gathering

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognize his presence with us



Silence is kept

As God's people we have gathered; as God's people, we give Him our harvest:

Let us worship him together.

As we sing, our harvest offerings are brought to the front.

**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.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.**

All good gifts around us...

Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)

The greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

God of abundance, God of fruitfulness,
God of generosity, God of love beyond measure,
God of extravagance, God of celebration,
God of goodness, God of love beyond imagining
**We gather bringing the best that we can offer
to give thanks for the good things you give
us, to share your generosity with others
and to celebrate by feasting at your table.**

The Act of Penitence

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

Lord, you give justice to those who are suffering and bread to those who hunger.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**



Lord, you loose those who are bound and open the eyes of the blind.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you watch over the stranger in the land and uphold the orphan and the widow.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Words of forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon* and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Gloria



Our virtual choir sing the Gloria.

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

God of evolving diversity, made known in seed and soil, and the wonder of animal worlds: free our hearts from the anxiety which knows only domination; open our being to learn from the life with which we share this earth; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the word

First reading **Joel 2:21-27**

A reading from the prophet Joel

A text written in the apocalyptic genre, in which the prophet speaks a word of hope and salvation to the people in the midst of great suffering.



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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

The virtual choir sing the Alleluia



The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew *

Glory to you, O Lord.

6. 25-33

Jesus offers encouragement to His listeners – but his call to worry-free living is not a call to a life without worry, but a call to recognise that He remains with us during our worries – that we are not alone.

‘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 Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily



Affirmation of faith



With our Christian sisters, brothers and siblings throughout the world, let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the harvest, that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.



At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Lord of the harvest,
in your mercy hear us.

At the end, on behalf of us all, the intercessor gathers our individual prayers together into one, by saying on our behalf
Source of all life and giver of all that is good, hear our prayers and grant us all that is in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The liturgy of the sacrament

The Peace

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you



The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you bring forth bread from the earth.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you create the fruit of the vine.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

His spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lifegiving God, your word speaks in the void, calling into being things that are not, inviting us to share your work of creation. We thank you for the ages long of gathering stars and cooling earth, of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder. We thank you for the creatures with whom we share the world for their lives so different from our own and the richness they reveal. We thank you for the Son of Man, formed from Mary's flesh and nurtured by her faith; he walked the growing earth and proclaimed a fearless kingdom of bird and lily, child and stranger, the beggar and the blind. On the cross, he joined the labour of all creation's yearning; in his rising, he hallowed all flesh to bear the glory of God; he gives the brooding Spirit to bring to birth a living hope. Therefore, with all that has life through him with animals and angels and all who hope for a new creation, we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:

Our Virtual Choir will sing the Sanctus. The priest then continues the prayer, recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper during which our Virtual Choir will sing our Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer
At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, the assent to the prayer by saying....

Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with all of creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

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.

Breaking of the bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share your resurrection.

Live in us,

that we may live in you

The priest breaks the consecrated bread as our virtual choir sing the Agnus Dei

An act of Spiritual Communion

Those at home, as they look on to the consecrated elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present in the Bread and Wine, are invited to say

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

As those in church receive, a hymn will be sung

**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 sacrifice 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, to thee we raise...

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:
Lord of all, to thee we raise...

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, to thee we raise...

For thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise...
Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)
(alt.)

Prayer after 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**

The dismissal



**Where are the voices for the earth?
Where are the eyes to see her pain,
wasted by our consuming path,
weeping the tears of poisoned rain?**

**Sacred the soil that hugs the seed,
sacred the silent fall of snow,
sacred the world that God decreed,
water and sun and river flow.**

**Where shall we run who break this code,
where shall tomorrow's children be,
left with the ruined gifts of God,
death for the creatures, land, and sea?**

**We are the voices for the earth,
we who will care enough to cry,
cherish her beauty, clear her breath,
live that our planet may not die.**

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

The Blessing

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you

May God our creator, who clothes the lilies and
feeds the birds of the air, bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and
remain with you always. **Amen**

The earth has yielded its harvest;
God, our God, has blessed us.
You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.
You soften the ground with showers;
and bless the increase of it.
You crown the year with your goodness;
and your paths overflow with plenty.
The meadows are clothed with sheep;
**the valleys stand so thick with corn,
they shout for joy and sing.**
The earth has yielded its harvest;
God, our God, has blessed us

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen.

*Equipped to go out into our world, we leave in
silence*

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Wave of prayer for October from the



Lord, we pray for Mothers' Union worldwide.

1-3 Nzara in South Sudan; North Kigezi in Uganda; Kivu in Rwanda; Damataru in Nigeria; Auckland in New Zealand and Vanuatu and New Caledonia in Vanuatu

4 Mothers' Union worldwide

5-7 Mbhashe in South Africa; Kitgum in Uganda; Ukwa & Ilesa South-West in Nigeria; Tasmania in Australia and Central Melanesia in Solomon Islands

8-10 Ethiopia; Zanzibar in Tanzania; Awgu/Aninri in Nigeria; Freetown in Sierre Leone; Monmouth in Wales and Malaita in Solomon Islands

11 Mothers' Union worldwide

12-14 Ezo in South Sudan; Thika in Kenya; Jos & Akoko in Nigeria; in Europe and União de Mulheres Episcopais Anglicanas do Brasil (UMEAB) in Brazil

15-17 Terekeka in South Sudan; Nairobi in Kenya; Maiduguri & Osun North in Nigeria; Edinburgh in Scotland and Calcutta in India

18 Mothers' Union worldwide

19-21 High Veld in South Africa; Nambale in Kenya; Niger-Delta in Nigeria; in Guinea; Blackburn in England and Bhopal in India

22-24 Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa; Kitui in Kenya; Kano & Kwara in Nigeria; Armidale in Australia and Myitkyina in Myanmar

25 Mothers' Union worldwide

26-28 Malakal in South Sudan; All Saints Cathedral in Kenya; Kontagora & Osun North East in Nigeria; Glasgow & Galloway in Scotland and Pune in India

29-31 Luapula in Zambia; Nakuru in Kenya; South Rwenzori in Uganda; Ibadan- North in Nigeria; Connor in All Ireland and Pusan in South Korea

Final blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. Amen

Key Contacts...

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Fr Graham's usual day off is Monday

The Parish Office is situated behind Holy Trinity Church and is closed at the current time

Please send all items for next week's News from the Pews to Sue on ssnhatten@gmail.com (or 661767) by the end of Wednesday

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

HT = Holy Trinity Church
ST = St Thomas's Church **AS** = All Saints Church
V = Vicarage **CH** = Community Hall **OL** = Online

Sunday 3rd October – Harvest

0845	Sung Eucharist	AS
1045	Sung Eucharist	HT
1830	Evening Prayer	OL

Monday 4th October

Tuesday 5th October

1000-1200	Drop-in coffee morning	OL
1900	Prayer Meeting	OL

Wednesday 6th October

1000-1200	Private Prayer	AS
2000	Service of compline	OL

Thursday 7th October

1000	Private Prayer	ST
1030	Sung Eucharist	ST

Friday 8th October

Saturday 9th October

Sunday 10th October – Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity

0845	Sung Eucharist	AS
1045	Sung Eucharist	HT
1830	Evening Prayer	OL

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalms 85, 86 2 Kings 5 Acts 26.1-23
Tuesday	Psalms 89.19-end 2 Kings 6.1-23 Acts 26.24-end
Wed	Psalms 91, 93 2 Kings 9.1-16 Acts 27.1-26
Thursday	Psalms 94 2 Kings 9.17-end Acts 27.27-end
Friday	Psalms 102 2 Kings 12.1-19 Acts 28.1-16
Saturday	Psalms 104 2 Kings 17.1-23 Acts 28.17-end

Welcome!

Welcome to you all as we continue to try and meet at this unusual time in the history of our nation and world. We hope that you will join with us in prayer and worship, either in church, or via Zoom, Facebook or YouTube (details <http://www.berkswich.org.uk/coronavirus.html>)

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or see older issues here <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5991be44ea1b9738d6262c1e2&id=a28b74cddb>

If you wish to make a donation towards the life and work of the Parish, there is an opportunity to do so during the service. Please consider joining the Giving Direct scheme (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/finance/financegiftaid/financegivingdirect/>) or make a one-off donation via JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkswichparish>)

You can follow us on Facebook! To sign up for our weekly email newsletter, please email Fr Graham (graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk)

Points for Prayer

For the world... Pray for the Lumad people of Mindanao in the Philippines. Since 2016 their human rights have been systematically abused, indigenous schools closed, and teachers branded as “terrorists” by the authorities. Pray for all who work for peace, justice and an end to inter-community conflicts.

For the church... Pray for The Revd Dr Megan Smith as she begins her role as the Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent. May God richly bless her, that in her vocation and ministry she may be an instrument of God’s love in this Archdeaconry.

For our community... Lord Jesus, you ministered to women and children in your time on earth; look with mercy on those who have fled their homes in fear. Bring them to a place of refuge and renewal. Bless them and bless the ministry of Staffordshire Women’s Aid. Amen

For those known to us, near and far...

... who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

Jim, Phyllis, Alistair, Ann, Sally, Wendy, Brenda, Oscar, Terry, Justine, Carolyn, Ruth, Pauline, Alan, Marion, Euan, Amelie

... for the recently departed: Graham Sturgess;
Eleanore Anna Lever; Roy Follows; Percy White;
Frank Peter Wilks; Unie Riley; Leslie Moore;
Christopher Challinor; Bill White

+ *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

News & Events

Prayer requests - please send to david.clark@berkswich.org.uk or call 07999 596590

Leaving a legacy – Another way of leaving a lasting gift to the Parish is to consider leaving a legacy in your will. Information about why and how you can do that can be found at <https://www.churchlegacy.org.uk/>

Parish Summer Fete 2021 – Sunday 12th September. Many, many thanks to all who supported our Fete as visitors, helpers, donors etc. and produced such an enjoyable occasion. Your efforts have resulted in a profit of £8400. VERY WELL DONE!!

It has been a delight to hear from some different voices leading intercessions and reading our lessons during our online services. Thank you to everyone who has done so during either our live or pre-recorded services. We’d like to be able to keep hearing from those voices, and so will be starting afresh with our lists of readers and intercessors and drawing up new rotas from those lists. To help us continue to worship closely together, once a month our readers/intercessors will be ‘moving around’ to one of our other three buildings – so please be aware of that before you sign up. Sign up sheets will be available in the back of church for two more weeks

In grateful thanks to God for his provision, we bring our Harvest offerings, the first fruits of our endeavours, to Him. Our harvest offerings involve us bringing to God all that we do - in our work, in our hobbies, in all our lives. But at this time of the year, we also give thanks to God for the agricultural harvests. We acknowledge God’s provision of food to sustain human life, and our gratitude to Him for his goodness, while also recognising our responsibility in stewarding the resources of the earth. Thank you to everyone for your Harvest Offerings this week, which will be used to continue our support of Staffordshire Women’s Aid, a charity we and our Mothers’ Union have supported for a few years now.