

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 25th September 2022



15th Sunday after Trinity

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings for: 15th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 6: 1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Luke 16: 19-end

Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Psalm 100

Philippians 4: 4-9

John 6: 25-35



Harvest ...past, present and future.....

Over the past few weeks in the Hempnall Group we've been holding various Harvest Thanksgiving services, a traditional feature of our church year.

But although we might think of these celebrations as dating from 'time immemorial', in fact, as the Church of England's website tells us:

*'Harvest Thanksgiving is a more modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day [a much older festival celebrating in early August the first fruits of the wheat harvest] by the Revd R. S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the traditional but largely secular 'harvest home' celebration, [though] there is some evidence to suggest that a thanksgiving for the harvest was already a relatively widespread practice. An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognised officially in the Church of England in 1862.'**



So, it's only 160 years since the practice was formally endorsed in our Anglican churches.

Since then – especially but not solely in rural parishes – it's become an established feature of our worship. It's a popular festival. We decorate our churches and sing joyful songs. A Harvest Thanksgiving is a chance each year to acknowledge our good fortune and be thankful, especially living where we do.

But we shouldn't be complacent. It's also an occasion to challenge ourselves about the use we make of the world's resources – how we can distribute them more fairly, and, even more fundamentally, given the impact of climate change, how we can safeguard and secure them for everyone's future. Harvest Thanksgiving is not just about the past year or the local setting, the 'here and now', important as they are to us – it's an opportunity to look forward and outward, to reflect and pray about the future and the universal.

These themes are further reflected in an even more modern addition to the church calendar, i.e., Creationtide, a period from 1st September to 4th October dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Originally an Easter Orthodox initiative in the late C20th, it has increasingly been adopted by most Christian churches in this country over the past two decades.

However we badge our church seasons, let's join, especially at this time of year, in giving thanks for God's gift of creation and let's renew our commitment to caring for our planet.

~Liam Pilgrim ~

*See <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/church-year/times-and-seasons-4>

Picture by Blue Magic Photography via <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/gardening-by-zone/zone-3/cold-hardy-apples-in-zone-3.htm>

Let us continue to support and strengthen each other

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord’s Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

Our Services:

Sunday 25th Sep 2022 15th Sunday after Trinity Harvest	9:30am Harvest Thanksgiving	Woodton Church
	9:30 am Harvest Thanksgiving	Shelton Church
	9:30 am Harvest Thanksgiving	Hempnall Church
	11:00 am Harvest Thanksgiving	Morningthorpe Church
	6:00pm Evening Service in the Methodist Tradition	Via Zoom
Sunday 2nd Oct 2022 Celebrating with all the Animals	10:00am Group Service ‘Celebrating with the Animals’	Bedingham Church
	4:00pm Family Praise	Hempnall Church

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ Our homes, families, friends and all whom we love
- ◇ Those whose time is spent caring for others
- ◇ Those who are close to death
- ◇ Those who have lost hope
- ◇ The worship of the church
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

Food Bank

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

Sunday 2nd October 2022. Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm.

Please phone before arrival - 01508 498157

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

SUGAR, UHT FRUIT JUICE, INSTANT MASH

NO PEANUT BUTTER PLEASE

HYGIENE—MALE & FEMALE DEODORANT

ANIMALS—DOG, RABBIT & GUINEA PIG FOOD
(NOT CAT)

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Dennis, Ian

Hempnall: Lesley and family,
Phillip, Sophie

Bedingham/Woodton:
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris,

Topcroft: Gerald

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Myrtle, Rudolph
Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



Please ring us if you need:

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

