



## ***Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Harvest Festival Celebration***

Dear Friends, welcome to this week's Newsletter for all our friends and neighbours of Burchetts Green Parish.



Our Harvest Festival celebrations begin on Sunday with Harvest Festival Services at Littlewick at 9.15 and Stubbings at 11, and continue with a Harvest Festival Service at Hurley next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. We come before God in thanksgiving for all his gracious provision for us. We give thanks for things that we value – and so Harvest is a time to pause and consciously value the wonderful fruits of creation, the food that we enjoy but also the rich provision of the earth in providing the resources we need to enjoy shelter from the elements, meaningful employment, and –especially poignant again this year – the means of good healthcare.

If we value these things, we will also want to care for the creation that provides them; which means reducing wherever we can our adverse impact on the environment and on climate change, and praying for those issues; keeping our local environment clean and tidy, with green space for people to re-create themselves in the natural world and through enjoying nature. So harvest is a time to give thanks for the spiritual sustenance that we find in the natural world, consciously finding time to enjoy that and preserve it for others. If you happen to be someone with influence in what might be called 'place-making' – perhaps a local councillor or planner, or community representative – please remember that we need more than just bricks and mortar in order to live flourishing lives.

And so Harvest Festival time is also a time of remembering those around the world who don't enjoy these things, whose lives are blighted by hunger, lack of clean water, untreated illness, the savagery of war or the hopelessness of corrupt leadership, and natural disaster. God has provided us,

together, with the means of addressing these questions (I remember from schooldays the phrase 'may none of us have too much in order that we all may have enough' – the message being that there is enough food to go round, if only it were in the right places). These are not easy issues to address, but we can play our own part in this: we can support a favourite charity (perhaps Water Aid, or Marys Meals that provides a daily meal to over 2 million chronically hungry children every school day, encouraging education that can lift them out of poverty in later life. You probably already have your favourite aid charity to support) and we can pray for political leaders and the work of development organisations.

So this Harvest, give thanks to God for all the good things in life, and make time to enjoy them with friends and family; and rejoice that there are things you can do to help those who are more disadvantaged to live a better life, too.



**Services this Sunday – Do join us if you can !!**

**9.15am at Littlewick Green – Harvest Festival Family Eucharist with Harvest hymns.** Collection of produce and goods at the church for Yeldall Manor and Maidenhead Foodshare.

**11am at Stubbings – Harvest festival Communion Service (BCP) with Harvest hymns, followed by Coffee and Sandwiches in the Soltau Centre.** The church will be decorated with flowers and produce, which after the service will be taken to those we know who aren't able to come to church at the moment.

**Hurley Service this Sunday** will be a service of God in Quiet – our Hurley Harvest Festival is next weekend, with a Harvest Supper on Saturday and a Eucharist on Sunday morning.

The Sunday Readings for Harvest are available below / attached.

**Services next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> September will be:**

8am	Stubbings	BCP Holy Communion
10.30am	Hurley	Harvest Festival Eucharist

**Hurley Harvest Supper.** We missed this last year, but I'm told it is always a great and enjoyable occasion. The Hurley Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Priory Room. Tickets £10 from David Burfitt 07748-678990 [davidrburfitt@gmail.com](mailto:davidrburfitt@gmail.com) – space is limited, so if you would like to come, book as soon as you can!

**Something lovely to pass on to you.** Yesterday I came across this short video from Canterbury Cathedral, and absolutely loved it (and not just because of the beautiful dog which sits adorably throughout). The link: <https://youtu.be/JcC6f0gmUUE> will take you to a 15 minute evening reflection from Canon Emma which I found both beautiful and thought-provoking, about how we can find a little more quiet and stillness in our lives and in our hearts. Make time, sit down with a cup of tea or coffee, watch and be uplifted and encouraged. I continue to be impressed with the offerings from

Canterbury – on their website you will find links to a time of Morning Prayer, livestream Sung Evensong, and an evening reflection.

**Parish Office.** As readers of this Newsletter will already know, Sue Wilkins is now working as our Parish Administrator. The Parish Office is open for visitors and phone calls three mornings a week – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 12 noon. On other days, emails will be attended to on a daily basis.



**Our churches are open for private prayer this week:**

**St John's Littlewick Green** – open every day 11am – 4pm  
**St Mary the Virgin Hurley** – open every day 8am – 5pm  
**St James-the-Less Stubbings** – open Monday – Friday



**For our Prayers:**

For our Church and parish, and especially for the selection and appointment of a new Vicar.

Thanksgiving for all God's good gifts to us, and especially the fruits of the earth and the joys and refreshment we find in creation.

For those celebrating new beginnings – those recently married, those with a new baby, expectant mothers, those who have moved home or job. And for those whose circumstances have changed in ways they didn't wish for.

For a more just distribution of the world's resources, and an economic system that ensures that no one has too much in order that all may have enough.

For those struggling with poverty, malnutrition, lack of clean water, disease or natural disaster.

For aid and development agencies, and for the provision of education and healthcare in all countries.

For real and determined action to reduce our impact on the natural environment; for the UN Climate Change Conference COP-26 starting on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

For Yeldall Manor and Maidenhead Foodshare, and all other local organisations that serve those in any kind of need.

For those in our local community in any kind of need, sickness, or anxiety, and those who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time. For the recently departed and their families and loved ones.