

# News and Prayer Update for 4<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Thanksgiving

## Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

[www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk](http://www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk)  
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**Do You Need to Talk To Someone?** Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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Link for this week's Service: <https://youtu.be/1WY4zRWpDw0>

The service begins with this Harvest Acclamation.

**All**            **The earth is yielding its harvest;  
the Lord, our God, has blessed us.**

Leader        You visit the earth and nourish it;  
**All**            **you make it very plenteous.**

Leader        You help us in our work;  
**All**            **and bless the increase of it.**

Leader        You crown the year with your goodness;  
**All**            **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

Leader        The meadows are clothed with sheep;  
**All**            **the valleys stand so thick with corn,  
they shout for joy and sing.**

**The earth is yielding its harvest;  
the Lord, our God, has blessed us.**

**HYMN: Come, ye thankful people come.**

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home:  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home!

We ourselves are God's own field,  
fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take his harvest home;  
From his field shall purge away all that doth offend, that day;  
Give his angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store, in the garner evermore.

Then, the Church triumphant come,  
raise the song of harvest-home!

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All is safely gathered in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified,  
in God's garner to abide:  
Come, ten thousand angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home!

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### READINGS FOR 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

#### **Psalm:** Psalm 65

- 1 Praise is due to you,  
    O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,
- 2 O you who answer prayer!  
To you all flesh shall come.
- 3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
    you forgive our transgressions.
- 4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
    to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
    your holy temple.
  
- 5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
    O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
    and of the farthest seas.
- 6 By your[a] strength you established the mountains;  
    you are girded with might.
- 7 You silence the roaring of the seas,  
    the roaring of their waves,  
    the tumult of the peoples.
- 8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.
  
- 9 You visit the earth and water it,  
    you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
    you provide the people with grain,  
    for so you have prepared it.
- 10 You water its furrows abundantly,  
    settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers
- 11 You crown the year with your bounty;  
    your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
- 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
    the hills gird themselves with joy,
- 13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
    the valleys deck themselves with grain,

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they shout and sing together for joy.,  
and blessing its growth.

### **First Reading:** 2 Corinthians 9: 6-end

<sup>6</sup> 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 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 for ever.’

<sup>10</sup> 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!

### **Gospel Reading:** Luke 12: 16-30

<sup>16</sup> 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 towards God.’

<sup>22</sup> 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.

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<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.

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### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**    Revd Patricia

The Parable of the rich fool isn't about death but about life although it can seem as if it is the other way round. The old saying 'you can't take it with you when you die' comes to mind. The parable shows us that it is only worth working for possessions which death cannot take from us and shows what a danger wealth can be to people who have an over-abundance. But wealth is also a real difficulty for those who have little or nothing, because worry can become the focus of peoples' lives, taking all their energy and distracting them from looking to God to supply their needs.

I am sure we are all aware of the rise in mental health issues during these months of pandemic. Some people have struggled financially and sometimes have not known where their next meal would come from and how they will be able to provide for their families and keep a roof over their heads. This situation is ongoing for many, many people. That is one reason why we have chosen to support the Food Banks and Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy this harvest time. These issues are very real as some people have lost their livelihoods altogether and some businesses including farmers and growers, have seen orders cancelled or reduced and stock go to waste.

I wonder whether you are familiar with the song "Don't worry. Be Happy" by Bobby Ferrin song written in the late 1980's. It is, apparently one of the most loved happiness songs of all time although possibly the only line in the song with an element of truth is that when you worry you make it worse or double it. The song has a soothing catchy tune and it is all done with voices – no instruments. But lines such as

"Ain't got no place to lay your head. Somebody came and took your bed. The landlord say your rent is late. He may have to litigate simply don't provide any help or remedy. And to compound it one line suggests that you shouldn't worry because it will cause you to frown and that will then negatively affect other people's mood."

Fortunately, we do not have to rely on human wisdom or platitudes to help us when we find ourselves in difficulty and prone to worry about our situation. Worrying will not change the situation, it just saps our energy. Jesus' teaching is reliable, reminding us of God's love and care for human beings who are the pinnacle of his creation. He is our Father and he provides for all his creation – even birds like ravens that were in the list of unclean things that Jewish people were not to eat. If

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God provides for his creation including the most humble creatures, he will surely provide for us.

The solution to the problem of worry, as Jesus points out, is to change our focus and get our priorities in order. That means, as the theologian G. B. Caird, puts it,

“to care more about God’s kingdom than about personal needs.”

Example. An example of this is when I first found myself a single parent, I decided I would follow the practise of tithing from my income, small as it was. In the first week and a bit some friends gave me a gift of £25.00 which was quite a lot of money then, and with my allowances and child benefit I calculated that I needed to £5.00 in the offering that Sunday. But that was all I had left until the following week. When I put the money in the offering there was nothing left in my purse or bank account. But I was convinced I should do this. After the service that morning, while talking to people over coffee, someone came alongside me and slipped something into my pocket saying that God had prompted them to give this to me. When I looked later it was a £5.00 note. So I have always been completely confident that God will supply all I need.

In putting God’s kingdom first we will experience God’s provision for us and change our focus as we realise we do not need all the things we think we need and so also, perhaps, become less selfish and more willing to share what we have with others. This is another reason we have focused our Harvest giving on people who need help for everyday necessities.

Another aspect of putting God’s kingdom first is to see our love for him strengthen and our experience of him deepen as we spend time reading God’s word praying and learning how to follow him more closely. Becoming the wholesome pure grain our first hymn spoke of. This should lead us out into our communities (there is much to do in this pandemic year even for those who cannot leave their homes) where there will be opportunities to be busy planting seeds and helping others so that they will be aware of God’s love and care for them, thus changing their lives, bringing peace and the opportunity to experience true happiness as God’s kingdom grows.

Perhaps the main thing we need to remember from this parable is to make sure that we are storing the right sort of grain in the right type of barns.

### **Collect for 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity:**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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.

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## **The Earth is the Lord's (Graham Kendrick)**

The earth is the Lord's (Men)  
And everything in it, (Women)  
The earth is the Lord's (Men)  
The work of His hands. (Women)  
The earth is the Lord's (Men)  
And everything in it; (Women)  
And all things were made (All)  
For His glory.

*(Last time)*  
And all things were made,  
Yes all things were made,  
And all things were made,  
For His glory.

The mountains are His,  
The seas and the islands,  
The cities and towns,  
The houses and street.  
Let rebels bow down  
and worship before Him,  
For all things were made  
For His glory.

**Intercessions:** Lead by Chris Stanisstreet (Reader)

**Response:** Lord of the harvest: **hear our prayer.**

**All:**            **Our Father , which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that 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.**

**HYMN: We plough the fields and Scatter**

We plough the fields and scatter

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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;  
he fills the earth with beauty,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread.

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.

**PRAYER in the coming week:** (Rev'd Philip's intercessions from 27<sup>th</sup> September)  
**Monday** – Everlasting God, you do everything possible for our spiritual growth and well-being but yet we so often choose the path of hostility or rejection. Let us pray trustfully to the God who has loved us into being and cherished us all our lives. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Tuesday** – Almighty God, we pray for your Church: for Bishops, Priests and Deacons, for Readers and Lay Ministers, for Church Wardens and PCCs, that they will know how to strike the right balance between their work and family lives. We pray that you will give them courage when they need it, to resist being controlled by others, and will teach them to take control with understanding, always reflecting the love of your son Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Wednesday** – Creator God, refugees continue to flee from crises throughout the world and over half of them are children. Lord God we pray for all those who have willingly invested their time and energy in serving the most vulnerable in the world so that they will find opportunities to rest and will be strengthened for their work. We also remember Aid workers throughout the rest of the world working in places and situations that are no longer newsworthy because of the pandemic; give them the

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encouragement to continue their invaluable contribution of love and care for those people rebuilding their lives, after manmade or natural disasters.  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Thursday** – Father God we pray for all those working on the land in the United Benefice. Help them in their labours, especially in these times of climate change and enable them all to get a fair price for the tremendously hard work they undertake. We pray also for the world's supermarket chains asking that they put the welfare of the farming community before massive profits achieved through exploitation.  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Friday** – Loving God we pray for abundant life for anyone we know who has recently been given bad news about their health or the health of a loved one. Lord help us to know what to say and when to speak, may we always be ready to give practical help wherever we can and to assure that those on their own are able to manage and cope with the day to day life.  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Saturday** – Merciful God when death separates from us those we love and we find it hard to live without them, take from us all the bitterness and resentment and help us to remember that death has no power at all over the peace you give; and the love we shared with the departed goes beyond the grave.  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God as we prepare for the week to come, help us to know Christ and the power of his resurrection day by day and in the sharing of his sufferings will become more like him in his death.

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

### **SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES:**

**FACE COVERINGS – These are now mandatory in places of worship. Please come prepared.**

**Please inform the clergy if you are exempt from wearing a face covering and do let the service leader know if you lip read.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October:** (Please note that booking is essential)

10.00 Harvest Holy Communion – St John High Legh

10.30 Harvest Holy Communion – St Mary Rostherne\*\*

18.30 Harvest Thanksgiving – Holy Trinity Little Bollington\*\*

There will be a Harvest Thanksgiving online service as well.

\*\*If you are going to attend either of these services please will you let Revd Patricia know in advance (by first thing Saturday if possible). This is because numbers are limited so we need to allocate seats in the best possible way with the Covid-19 rules in mind, making sure we can safely seat all who wish to attend. Please let Patricia know how many are in your party and which Church you will be attending.

Call her on 01565 830595; call or text on 07854 418 488 or

email: [pmrobinson51@gmail.com](mailto:pmrobinson51@gmail.com) Thank you.

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*Please understand that there is a possibility that if you come without letting us know, we may not be able to accommodate you.*

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October:**

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity Little Bollington

### **Wednesday Mornings**

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St John High Legh

*We regret that we are unable to open St Paul's just yet because of building work taking place.*

**It is important that no one feels they must come to services if they are reluctant to.**

We stream a service each Sunday which is often recorded at St Paul's. Some services from St Mary Rostherne will be live streamed.

### **NOTICES**

#### **❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81665747066?pwd=ckdZd2N3a0VZTUZYV2dwQzVvbGplZz09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meetings please contact Patricia.  
Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

*Please note: there is no Coffee and Chat meeting on Wednesday 14 October 2020.*

#### **HARVEST FESTIVALS Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

For service times please see information above and please note that places need to be booked in advance because numbers in Church buildings need to be limited.

#### **Harvest Gifts:**

We would like to support two local food banks and alternatively, as we are a rural area we also want to support the farming community, some of whom are facing difficulties because of the pandemic. Gifts of money are welcome, and these will be passed on to the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy. Please bring any donations in an envelope if possible.

Please bring gifts to church if you are coming to one of the services.

If you would like to give and are not planning to come to a service you may bring your gift (whether food items for the food bank or money for the Farming charity) on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Holy Trinity between 10.00 and 12.00. or St Mary's between 14.00 and 16.00 or Holy Trinity between 10.00 and 12.00. You can bring gifts to St Paul's on Monday or Wednesday during the day. Alternatively, you can drop gifts in at the Vicarage at any time this week.

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### Remembering Services:

We will be holding two Remembering Services on Sunday 1st November 16.00 at Holy Trinity Little Bollington and 16.00 at St John High Legh

People who have been bereaved over the past year will be invited to come to these Services. We may be able to accommodate other people as well, so please get in touch if you would like to attend.

We are also providing an online Remembering Service details of which will be on the websites and weekly News & Prayer Updates nearer the time. Among other things we will be offering candles and prayer cards for those who attend in person and for those who access the online service.

If you would like more details, please contact:

Rev'd Trish Cope 01925 754787 or Rev'd Patricia Robinson 01565 830595

### Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; [stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk)

### Offering and Fund Raising – Please continue to give if you can

**The best and safest way to give is** by monthly Standing Order or direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. You may also send a cheque – please contact the relevant Treasurer.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

*If your income has been adversely affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.*

### Homemade Jams For Sale:

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size, either from St Mary's or by telephoning the Vicarage- we will deliver them to you.

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson or Strawberry, Greengage and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade. Yellow Raspberry.

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### **Morning and Night Prayer**

*If anyone does not yet have access to the “Worship at Home” booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.*

### **Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.**

*Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:*

These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Psalm 71; 1 Kings Chapter 21; Acts 21: 37 – 22: 21

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Psalm 73; 1 Kings 22: 1-28; Acts 22: 22-23:11

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Psalm 77; 1 Kings 22: 29 -45; Acts 23: 12 - end

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Psalm 78: 1-39; 2 Kings 1: 2-17; Acts 24: 1-23

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Psalm 55; 2 Kings 2: 1-18; Acts 24: 24 – 25:12

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Psalm 76; 2 Kings 4: 1-37; Acts 25: 13 - end

### **Night Prayer from the Day of Pentecost to All Saints Day**

*This Collect can be used at Night Prayer on any day throughout the year.*

Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Psalms:

Sunday: Psalm 104: 1, 21-33; 134

Monday: Psalm 4

Tuesday: Psalm 143

Wednesday: Psalm 31: 1-5 [19-end]

Thursday: Psalm 16

Friday: Psalm 139: 1-18

Saturday: Psalm 91 (this is the one in the Worship at Home Booklet)