

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE

OCTOBER 2018



SAYING THANK YOU TO GOD AT HARVEST FESTIVAL.

Dear All,

With the weather we've had this year, harvest seems a long time ago. But harvest festivals take place this month, and are important.

Harvest Festival is a big thank you time: a time of year when for years, those who relied on local farming were thankful for the food that the earth provided and to God for taking care of them.

Today, for most of us, food comes already picked and packed from a supermarket or the delivery van, not our own fields – so perhaps it's even more important now to remember that our food comes from God's creation, and to thank God and everyone who harvests and prepares it for us.

Saying thank you to God at Harvest Festival.

Harvest is a great way to talk about thankfulness and to pray for farmers.

Do get involved this year and come along to the **Harvest service at St John's on Sunday 7th October at 11am.** All are welcome – young and old. Do get involved with our food collection – tinned and packer food which goes to help local families in need.

Lots of fruit and veg at the supermarket now has the name of the farmer printed on the container. You can put a sheet of paper up in your home, with "Thank you, God, for our food" at the top, and then you or your child can cut and stick the names of all the farmers onto the rest of the sheet every time you go shopping. When you eat, you can say, "thank you, God, and (all the names) for our food!" (And then finish by thanking those who cooked and will clean up the meal.)

Thanking God and those who make our food can help us remember to be grateful for the other good things in life. Maybe at bedtime you could have fun thinking of things to be grateful to God for – from the profound to the very silly!

Or maybe you can finish each day by thinking about all the people you met that day and thanking God for how they help you: the bin man who clears up your rubbish, the lady at the shop who helps you find what you need, the toddler group leaders who sing and cut up bananas, the young man on the bus who offered you his seat, the doctors looking after a family member

There's a lot to be thankful for every day.

God bless,

Vivien

NOTICE - REVD SUE BRADLEY: Team Vicar in the Woodfield Team

Sue has announced her retirement as from January 2019. Sue is based in Appleby and looks after that part of the Team area. She has decided to retire as her mum is getting older and she wants to spend time with her, and a recent legacy has made that financially possible for her. She will be greatly missed but more can be said next year when she actually goes!

in case of misunderstanding Vivien continues as Team Rector covering Donisthorpe, Moira, Acresford and Oakthorpe as well as the wider team.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH AND BEYOND

IT'S HARVEST TIME! - LOTS TO DO.

Thursday 5th October at 9.30 am - Donisthorpe School are coming into church for their Harvest Service event.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Sunday October 7th at 11am.

A chance to rejoice in all the good things that God gives us every day.

Come and join in. **Harvest Songs of Praise** – a simple service with harvest hymns, new and old, Bible reading, and prayers, lasting just under the hour. in St John's Church. We will be receiving tinned and packet food for the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville. MRC distributes the food to those in need in the local area.

YOUR INVITATION TO A NEW STYLE FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday October 21st at 11 am: at St John's Church. There will be refreshments (from 10.45am), a few songs something to make, some fun and prayer -all within about 45 minutes.

Come along and give it a try. All are welcome.



LIGHTS OF LOVE: TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

A Tree of Remembrance will be part of our Lights of Love service again this year. It proved very popular last year.

It will be sited in St John's Church at the front of church. The church is open during the day-time and please do feel free to come in. There will be tags to hang on the tree, where, if you wish, you can write the name of your loved one. The tree will be there from 14th October. Even if you can't come to the service, then do use the tree.

LIGHTS OF LOVE - SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE:

Saturday 3rd November at 2pm at St John's Church, Donisthorpe

This is a simple service of hymns, prayers and readings, during which we can remember those whom we've lost and to whom we still want to say 'We love you'. There's a chance to light a candle and say a prayer for your loved one. Feel free to come along if this would be helpful to you.

If you can't make the one at St. Johns, do come to Measham or Appleby on **Saturday 20th October at 2pm at Measham Church and Sunday 28th October at 6pm at Appleby Church**

SUNDAY 28th OCTOBER at 4pm: is our 180th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Instead of a harvest supper this year, we're going to have a birthday party for the church. It's our 180th birthday party. Do you have any photos of family weddings/christenings or other events that have been held at St John's? We'd love to make a display of that history so if you have photos, please ring Florence Leonardt on 01530 270123.

There will be a special Songs of Praise service at 4pm followed by a birthday tea. Open to all – do come along





2-4pm

17th Oct. @ St Michaels Church Appleby Magna

23rd Oct. @ St Laurence Church Measham

25th Oct. @ Holy Rood Church Packington

£1.00 per child

For all children under 11 (under 5's must have an adult stay)

For more details: Ceriann (Childrens worker) 07946376500

Facebook: Woodfield Churches Childrens Work

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

**COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH. Tuesday 2nd October
9.30am -11-30 a.m.**

A chance to chat and to meet others socially over a cup of coffee (or tea) and a bite to eat.

3T'S - TABLE, TALK AND TEA

A much appreciated informal, friendly get together. Anyone is welcome to come along, we meet in church on the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm - 3.45pm. Stay for the whole of the time or just drop in arrive when you can and leave as you wish. If you enjoy stimulating conversation, good company over a cup of tea or coffee and cake, then 3Ts is for you! Join in with the discussion as you wish or just enjoy a cuppa amongst friends.

We round our conversations off with a song and a prayer. If you would like to join us, our meeting this month will take place on **Tuesday 17th October at 2.30pm in the Church.**

LUNCH LIGHT - If you are feeling the pain of bereavement and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in to St. Johns on **Friday 26th October between 12.30pm – 2.30pm.** There is a charge of £2. Telephone Janet 01283 215000, if you would like to come along, or if you wish to help out.

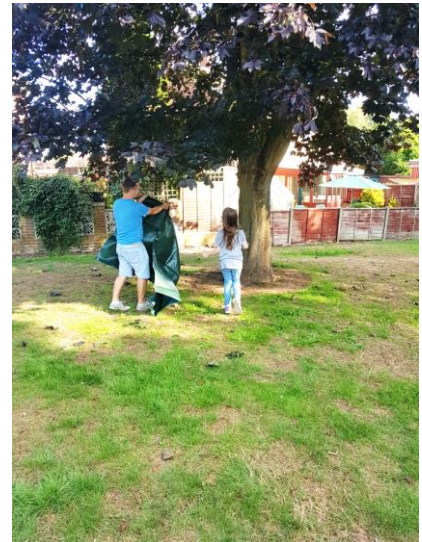
FOREST CHURCH met again on Sunday 2nd September at 4pm



Theme: 'you are my hiding place'

Lots of fun was had as families gathered together to explore creation on our door steps: spiders, ladybirds, a lone ant as well as leaves and branches and even some safe mushrooms. Creation is so diverse and it's amazing what you can find armed with a

magnifying glass. Our gathering definitely reminded us that we are moving from summer to autumn. And just like the insects looking for shelter children and parents took to the wooded areas and made dens and shelters where they shared tea, juice and a biscuit. For those of us that preferred something a little more sedate we had a prayer labyrinth to walk through whilst thinking about



what was important to them, but being reminded that the earth is full of Gods loving kindness.

Keep your eyes open for our next forest church later in the year, as Autumn turns to winter, you will need to dress up warm.



REFLECTION

Mark 4:26-34 *The Parable of the Growing Seed*

26 Jesus went on to say, "The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. 27 He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. 28 The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain. 29 When the grain is ripe, the man starts cutting it with his sickle, because harvest time has come.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

30 "What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it? 31 It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. 32 After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade."

33 Jesus preached his message to the people, using many other parables like these; he told them as much as they could understand. 34 He would not speak to them without using parables, but when he was alone with his disciples, he would explain everything to them.

COMMENTS ON THE GOSPEL

The Parables of Jesus are often stories which take time to tell, building up anticipation, raising questions as they unfold, bringing in different characters and emotions – like *The Good Samaritan* or *The Prodigal Son*. However, there are many which are little more than one-liners, perhaps told on particular circumstances, and although not lengthy often get to the point Jesus wanted to make.

These seemingly off-the-cuff comments on life raise a mood of eagerness and delight as they speak of the nature of the kingdom not as a remote event, but something we can experience everywhere, all around us, in events that may seem humdrum and commonplace. It is in the small things we often see incredible love, generosity, even miracles take place. Even something as small as a mustard seed or a wheat seed or an apple seed ... unseen at first, small and inconsequential, what they produce is so much more.

Our lives, the little things we do and say, and all those oft-forgotten seemingly inconsequential and unseen by others, can be the little thing that change someone's life.

Think on the little things you do remember which someone said or did which made a world of difference. Think then, on the little things you have done and do which brought light and love to someone just at the right moment.

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ST JOHNS		OCTOBER 2018
Tuesday 2 nd Tuesday 2 nd 9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th	9-30 – 11.30am 10.30am	Coffee & Chat (In Church) Tuesday Prayer Group
Sunday 7 th	11.00am	Family Service Harvest Festival
Wednesday 10 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	11.00am	Holy Communion/Healing Prayer
Tuesday 16 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	3T's
Sunday 21 st	11.00am (Refreshments 10.45am)	Family Service / Baptism
Friday 26 th	12.30pm – 2.00pm	Lunch Light
Sunday 28 th	11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise 'Happy Birthday St. Johns