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9th October 2020

Dear Friends

Here's wishing you every joy in celebrating Harvest in your own homes.

I always like the story of the vicar seeking to engage children during a Harvest Festival service in a church gloriously decorated. He asked them to call out what they could see in the displays that they enjoyed eating – carrots, potatoes, parsnips, onions. 'And what's a word to cover all those?' asked the vicar. 'Gravy!' came the enthusiastic reply. At the heart of Harvest Festival is not gravy, but gratitude to God for all his provision.

We are going to miss the church beautifully decorated – the porch display, the windows, the array of flowers and celebratory decorations. We'll miss the gifts being brought by creche age children (with help), Smiley, Jam, Pathfinders, CYFA, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rangers as well as adults. We'll miss singing, the sense of celebrating in story, in being fed together by God's word and in prayer and praise. Most of all we'll continue to miss the presence of one another.

So there's lament, like an autumn tree losing its leaves. How do God's Easter people react?! We lament, but we also rejoice! Here are some ideas ...

- Join our Harvest service of celebration online. If you're part of a young family, build a shelter, eat some snacks enjoying the taste. Read Psalm 65, say a prayer, write a prayer – get ideas from the online service. And ... if you're brave, post a picture on the church Instagram or Facebook page to add to the St Peter's Harvest celebrations, so we are celebrating together while apart.

Some more suggestions:

- Do a Harvest display at home, photograph it and post it  
*MAKE IT A HAPPY HARVEST TIME!*
- Go on a prayer walk, praising God for all the beauty of autumn.  
*MAKE IT A HAPPY HARVEST TIME!*
- Find the words of a Harvest hymn or song (you could find a video online) and sing! Some singing choices: For the beauty of the earth; Who put the colours in the rainbow? The Creation song (Fernando Ortega); the Harvest Samba.  
*MAKE IT A HAPPY HARVEST TIME!*

- Make a leaf card to post to someone wishing them a happy Harvest. Stick one leaf down, and write a lovely message or prayer. Make someone happy!  
*MAKE IT A HAPPY HARVEST TIME!*
- Cook or bake something. Thank God for the provision, the smell and the taste – and share what you’ve made.  
*MAKE IT A HAPPY HARVEST TIME!*

One of the ways to make us happy is by giving, so as part of our gratefulness to God, let’s give. This year we are keeping things simple and are encouraging everyone to give to the South Liverpool Foodbank. Rather than food, at present what they really need is a warehouse to rent. If you can please donate in one of two ways:

(1) by going online below and clicking on the red ‘donate’ button. You can state it’s ‘for warehousing from St Peter’s, Woolton’ <https://southliverpool.foodbank.org.uk>

(2) If you want to write a cheque please make it payable to South Liverpool Foodbank and post it through the Rectory door (no cash please).

Also please pray that a suitable warehouse becomes available soon.

Some events coming up:

- Next Sunday is St Luke’s Day and our online service will be focusing on healing. We’re praying that people will be touched by God in a special way.
- The church annual meeting (APCM) will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30 pm. Due to Covid we are holding the meeting via Zoom and hope many of us can join in. In order to be sent joining details please email Julia: [curate@stpeters-woolton.org.uk](mailto:curate@stpeters-woolton.org.uk)
- Light Party on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Details of this event will be on the website in due course, but please email Lorraine [youthworker@stpeters-woolton.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@stpeters-woolton.org.uk) if you would like to help.

Here’s wishing you all a Happy Harvest and hope you can enjoy celebrating!

God bless.

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