



*The Parish of St Mary, Portsea
With St Faith's and St Wilfrid's*



PORTSMOUTH'S
Citywide Harvest

'Together for our Planet' COP26



Harvest Thanksgiving 2021

1st - 3rd October

Over the coming weeks we will hear much of COP26. If you do not yet know what this is it is an international gathering in Glasgow to establish agreements on a response to climate justice and the need for all of us to work **'Together for our Planet'**. While the focus will be on Governments and other International Bodies and the commitments they can make – it is equally important that each of us are aware of the part we can play and how we can influence our stewardship of the gifts of Creation, There are a number of ways we can do this and over the Harvest Weekend this year we will be exploring how we can respond and raise awareness with others of the need to act now.

We can also show a very practical and local way of responding which is by sharing the food we have with those around us who may not be able to obtain food so easily. We do this **'With thankful hearts'**.

We hope that you will find a way to share in our Harvest and our reflecting and make a commitment yourself to become involved in seeking climate justice.

Harvest Celebrations 2021

Friday Oct 1st 10am – 4pm Quiet Day – St Faith's Church Sharing and participating in God's dream for creation



A Quiet day of reflection at St Faith's, Landport
Led by Cis Delmege

The day will start at 10am.

Coffee/tea will be served from 9.30am

Please bring a packed lunch.

The day will end with a Celtic Eucharist

To book a space contact Rev'd Sam.

Saturday Oct 2nd 10am – Noon ending with a hot lunch Messy Harvest at St Mary's



Activities for children,
focusing on God's creation and climate justice.

(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

The 'messy harvest' event will be led

by Lorraine Drinkwater and team.

To book a space contact Rev'd Sam

**Sunday Oct 3rd 9am at St Faith's and 10am at St Mary's
and 11am at St Wilfrid's**

Our Harvest Thanksgiving services –



We thank God for the gifts of creation and especially the food we have. **Please bring tinned good (preferably not in plastic bags!) and some nice things that you would like to receive to eat for us to share with the Roberts Centre and the families they support.** At the service you can also offer to God your thanks for gifts of creation, pray for all involved in COP26 and make a commitment to play your part in bringing about climate justice

Sunday Oct 3rd 4pm at St Mary's

The Parish Harvest Supper



There will be a presentation on COP26 and our stewardship of creation.

An act of worship, a light support and entertainment – including a **live performance of Panto 21** – previously only seen on Zoom! Please **book a seat (£3 per person) at Church** or via the Parish Office (023 92 81444) – it helps with catering to know in advance how many people hope to be there ...



PORTSMOUTH'S
Citywide Harvest

How can you show your response to God's presence in your life and how can you demonstrate your stewardship of His creation?

Over the last few years, we have used our Harvest to review and recommit ourselves to our level of giving to the Church. How much we give will vary from individual to individual; for some this amount may need to decrease as their available funds and income declines or becomes more stretched; while for others our income increases, and we often forget to review our level of giving to the Church.

The costs of running the Church – and providing all the services and activities etc – rises year on year – just like your household costs. So, if your 'fuel' bills have risen ... so have the Churches. Likewise, as the economy struggles and affect us – so it affects the life of the Church.

We have been overwhelmed by the generous response we have experienced through the last 18 months of COVID and want to thank everyone for all they have done to support the life of our churches and the work we do in our communities.

The last months have highlighted how we rely mainly on your personal giving to meet these costs so ask that you will find some time and space this Harvest to again review your level of giving and the way in which you do it. Or if you are not already a member of the 'envelope' or Parish Giving scheme– you might consider joining it.

How can I be a wise steward of my God given gifts?

- **Think about the things you value in your life and the things you regularly spend your money on.**
- **Think about how God has provided you with that and so much more – life itself – out of His love for you.**
- **Reflect on how much money – out of your love for Him – you can offer to support His Church.**

Complete the response form and place it in a sealed envelope and when you come to Church for Harvest – as well as bringing your gifts to share with those in need come to the Altar and make your response to God.

For some any increase (or decrease) may be significant, for others it may be 20p or 50p a week (*But even if the average increase was 50p a week from everyone regularly attending on a Sunday then the total increase for the Parish would be over £4000 a year which would help reduce the shortfall we face each year.*)

Whatever your response is it is important and valued (remember the widow's mite!) and we wish to thank you for giving this process your time and consideration.

You can help the Parish of St Mary's and its 3 Churches in a number of ways:

- ✓ **By using the weekly 'envelope' scheme** – you will be given a set of envelopes for the year – so making it possible for you to 'set aside' a sum of money each week, whether you are at Church or not.
- ✓ **By joining the Parish Giving Scheme** – your giving is done via the bank and the scheme automatically claims the Gift Aid and pays it to the Parish on a monthly basis. This also saves bank charges for the Parish and cuts down on the work for the Treasurer and others in the Parish.
- ✓ **Or give by a monthly standing order through your bank account.** These saves finding the right cash for the weekly envelope, as well as the cost of the envelopes and the time taken to count and bank the cash every week. This has been invaluable during COVID
- ✓ If you are a tax-payer, **make a Gift Aid declaration** (if you haven't already done so), as the church can reclaim an extra 25% from the taxman. For example, for every £10 you give we can claim a further £2.50 in addition from the Government.
- ✓ Consider making a **'bequest'** to the Parish in your will

Thank you for taking time to read this

*And thank you in advance for your
generous responses in prayer, time and gift
and your commitment to climate justice*

*If you want any further information
then please ask one of the Ministry Team*

Together for our Planet ...



Harvest 2021

*As I reflect on God's creation
I accept my responsibility as a steward of
creation and commit myself to ...*

*I would like more information about the Social justice Group and how I may
be involved*

*I pledge myself to support the life of the
Church and its work*

I will continue to make regular contributions (or increase my giving)

It would help me to have more information on

The Envelope scheme _____

Gift Aid declaration Form _____

Information on joining Parish Giving Scheme _____

Name _____

Contact by : (phone or email)

*Please fill in this form and bring to Church at Harvest
to offer to God with your gifts*

