

## Harvest 2023

### *With thankful, generous hearts!*

This year we will be celebrating **our Harvest Festival on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>**. This comes at the end of Generosity week (a Diocesan wide project).

We are so pre-occupied with so many things – the news that constantly surrounds us, the challenges we face as individuals, communities and as a country; the busy ness of so much of our lives that we don't often stop to reflect and recognise what we have. We are all too often aware of what we don't have or what we think we need that we overlook the many things that we have each day. Our food, homes, family and friends and life itself are all things we take for granted, yet all of these and so much more are gifts generously given to us by God. Even the Church and its life and ministry can be taken for granted because it is 'there' all the time.



As we prepare for Harvest next week – **find some time and space to pause and reflect each day and recognise what God has given you that day and give thanks to him for it.** As the week progresses perhaps **use a card to note those things** and as the list

builds begin to consider how you can share some of those things with others, and how you can show your thanks to God. There are a number of ways you can do this:

- Donating some food at the Harvest Celebrations** (and perhaps throughout the year) for us to share through the Roberts Centre with those who do not have so much in their lives.
- Giving some of your time** to support some of our Church activities or to help us locally to set up a Pantry in Fratton.

- **Committing yourself to review your giving to the Church** and perhaps increase (although sometimes we may need to decrease) our regular giving.
- **Consider joining our Planned Giving Scheme** – either via online Parish Giving, setting up a Standing order or by using our giving envelopes.
- **Set aside some time each day to pause and pray** and recognise what God is doing for you and give thanks regularly.



The leaflet for Harvest enables you to identify some of these and **in offering it at the Altar with your Harvest gifts is a sign of you offering your response to God with ‘thankful, generous hearts’.**



We hope that you will join us over **Harvest Weekend** and share in our **celebrations.**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 10am Messy Harvest** at St Mary’s – come and explore our Harvest theme with craft, activity, and a free lunch.

**Sunday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Our Main Harvest Services** will be at **St Faith’s at 9.30am** and **St Mary’s at 10am.**

Please bring your items of food to donate at the Altar



Then at **Noon** we will meet as a Parish for our **Harvest Lunch** – a light lunch (**Please book a ticket in advance**) followed by some entertainment. (**Offers of entertainment**

**would be very welcome! Contact Fr Bob**)



After our Harvest weekend our thoughts will turn to **St Faith’s Day** (Oct 6<sup>th</sup>). On **Weds Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at 6.15pm Good Gym** will be at St Faith’s to have a working party on the garden.

**Could you come and join the team and welcome Good Gym – either gardening or making the Tea and Coffee?**



On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct at 6pm** we will gather for a Patronal Mass and welcome **Revd Wendy May** as she is licensed as **Associate Vicar of the Parish with special responsibility for St Faith's**. Bishop Jonathan will preside and preach. If you are hoping to come, please sign list in the Church or let us know so we can ensure we have enough cake (and seats!)



Then on **Oct 12<sup>th</sup>** we will be marking **St Wilfrid's Day with an 11.30am Mass at St Faith's** (please note time) **followed by a light lunch**. Please let Fr Bob or Maggie know if you would like to join us for lunch on that day.

Then at the end of the month it will be time for our **Parish Autumn Fair**. This will be on **Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October from 10am – Noon at St Mary's**. We need your help on the day – **can you help with running a stall?** We need your help **providing items for the stalls!** We need your help **baking cakes!** We need your help **ensuring everyone knows the Fair is on and encourage them to come**



Over the last few weeks, we have had some **good news** in partnership with Fratton Big Local. Those of you who visited the 'Ship of Gods' light installation 2 years ago will remember how impressive it was. We have been successful in an application to the Arts Council to commission the artists Heinrich and Palmer, who live in Fratton, to create a new light installation. This will use St Mary's Church as its focus and music from the Organ project, '**Once a sea**' will be ready for its premier in **November 2024** and we will keep you up to date with its development.



In the meantime, for this year's **Festival of Light** we are working on hosting **'The Sun' in the Church from Nov 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>** – following on from 'The Museum of the Moon' last year – this will be another amazing piece and there will be many opportunities to visit it and share in

various activities under the sun! Alongside this will be the lantern Parade and there will be a chance at the Autumn Fair to come and make some lanterns to use at it.

Other good news was that the long-awaited purchase of the Bridge Centre by the City Council has been approved. **This means St Mary's and Fratton Big Local will be able to have a unit on Fratton Road in which to run a Pantry** – more details of this will follow – and we hope some of our congregations will get involved as volunteers helping us to run this much needed community resource.

October will be a busy month for in addition to all the above there is also:

**Sunday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm St Mary's Panto Players – initial meeting** to plan 2024. If you fancy joining us for some fun and drama – with a bit of singing and dancing along the way, then please come along to St Mary's – also need help backstage ...

**Monday Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** A time for some quiet and reflection as the **Julian Prayer Group meets at St Faith's**

**Tuesday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm** **The PCC meets** at St Mary's

**Friday Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm** The Organ Project **Organ Recital** at St Mary's

**Sunday Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 4pm** **The Annual Music Foundation Concert** – come and support our young people and the Choir as they share some of the work of the Music Foundation.

**Tuesday Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm Tuesday Chaps** with Fr Rajiv  
at St Faith's

**Saturday Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 10am Coffee Morning** at St Faith's

**Sunday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am** Tizza (from the Choir) will be baptised  
at St Mary's

**5.30pm Young People meet** with Fr Rajiv  
at St Faith's

**Thursday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm Choral Requiem for All Souls Day**  
at St Mary's

### **And finally ...**

We are delighted to welcome our new Finance Officer – Tracy Vince – who is based in the Boniface space at St Mary's. She has taken over from Ali – thank you to her for her years of service as our bookkeeper. Also, Linsey Johnson will be joining the Parish Team as PCC Secretary and admin assistant for Fairs and other events., working a couple of hours or so a week.

To enable us to sustain all of this and so much more, as well as maintain two wonderful church buildings, we rely on the generosity of your giving as well as the generous giving of time and energy by so many who volunteer in so many ways. Thank you to you and all of them for all you do!