

Harvest 2024

God's Generosity and our Gratitude



Last week we invited everyone to reflect each day on **God's generosity** by reading the first story of creation in the Book of Genesis. This reminds us of how everything we have, all that is around us and all that we are is a gift to us from God. **In your reflections we wonder what was on your list of things that are signs to you of God's generosity?**



As we move closer to **Harvest (Sunday Sept 29th)** we invite you this week to **pause each day and consider how you express and show your gratitude? What can you do to offer to God signs of your thanks** and how can you best use the gifts and time he has given you?



The tradition of Harvest stretches back far into history – in the Old Testament the people of God were encouraged to offer to God thanks at the safe gathering of the Harvest and to share the 'first fruits' with him. This was done by tithing - placing a 10th of the best of the crop before the altar. Over the years this has been expressed in a variety of ways, but in more recent history has become focused on sharing food – tins etc – with those in need in our communities.



This year we invite you to continue in that tradition, but **to also consider how you may show your gratitude to God's generosity throughout the year and not just at Harvest.**

So please pause day for 5 mins or so, light a candle, look at the list of signs of God's generosity and consider what you will offer to God this Harvest.



There is a **response sheet with this leaflet** for you to use **to bring to the Altar at the main service at both Churches on Sunday 29th** and place before God, alongside your tins and food.

The ways you can respond to God could include :

- **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 with the 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.

We also hope you will share in **our Harvest Celebrations** :



Saturday 28th 10am – Noon Messy Harvest at St Mary's – art, craft, activities reflecting on the feeding of the 5000 and ending with a free lunch for all.



Sunday 29th Noon – This year rather than a Harvest Supper will have a Parish BBQ lunch at St Mary's – tickets are available – **please buy in advance**, if possible, from either Church or phone 023 92 814444.

Parish Autumn Fair



We had a good conversation earlier in September which explored how we might refresh the Autumn Fair. There were some great ideas and suggestions, and we would welcome more.

The Fair will be **at St Mary's on Saturday Oct 26th from 10am – Noon**

There is a **list in Churches of possible stalls and helpers** – please do add to it and offer your help. Also consider if you can help with donations of any of the following

- Items with a **Christmas theme for a Christmas Stall** – see Revd Sue
- Items for a **Tombola Stall**

- **Cakes**
- **'International Snacks'** for the Refreshment Stall – what could you provide as a finer snack from your culture?
- **Toys, Books and Bric a Brac**

Please help us make this a fun event and one that we can attract people to.

Patronal Festival St Faith's



As a Parish we will be **giving thanks for St Faith's Church and the community it serves** starting on **Saturday October 5th** with a **Coffee Morning from 10am** at St Faith's Church



Sunday Oct 6th There will be a **Patronal Mass at St Faith's at 6pm** – with Revd Julie Jackson preaching. **There will not be a morning service at St Faith's that day.**

Parish Quiet Day



A chance to pause and be still and step back from the rush and tear with others from the Parish. Revd Wendy May will be leading the Quiet Day at **St Peter's Church on Hayling Island 10 am – 4pm**. To book a

space please sign list in Church

Panto Season



Yes, it is that time of year again – come along and join the fun of putting on a Pantomime – all ages welcome! – there will be a gathering on **Sunday Oct 13th at 4pm** at **St Mary's** to see who is interested

Farewell to Joy and Arthur Tagg



Joy and Arthur Tagg who have been very active members of our Parish community over the years will be moving to be nearer their family. **You are invited to join them for some afternoon Tea and a short**

service of prayer, thanks and safe travels at St Faith's on Sunday Oct 20th. The Tea will be at 3pm and will end with the service at 4pm.

'Once a Sea' and Lantern workshops



We are looking forward to hosting the We Shine celebrations and the premiere of **'Once a Sea'** light installation that we have commissioned with an Arts Council Grant. It is created by local Artists Henrich and Palmer – and uses the Church as a focus for its projection. We will need volunteers to enable us to be open and welcome visitors from **21st – 26th Nov.** Details will follow.



To help prepare you are invited to help with lantern workshops to make a lantern for the Festival of Light parade in Fratton Road on Nov 22nd. **There will be a workshop at St Mary's during the Autumn Fair** and that afternoon – see posters for details of other opportunities.

Welcomers at St Mary's

We are looking to set up a small rota for people to be at the Church Door to welcome people and hand our books etc on a Sunday morning (Thank you to Audrey who has covered this over the Summer since Jackie's death). **Please add name to list or let Fr Bob know** if you would be happy to do this occasionally.

Other dates in October

- Weds Oct 9th** **7pm PCC meets at St Faith's Church**
- Monday Oct 14th** **7.30pm Julian Prayer Group** – a time of stillness and quiet at St Faith's.
- Tuesday Oct 15th** **6pm Social Justice Group at St Faith's** – if you would like to be involved and support our social justice activity come along – or contact Revd Wendy May
- Weds Oct 16th** **1pm Hope into Action Group** at St Faith's. If you would like to join the team supporting our Hope into Action House, come along or contact Mandy Hollingsworth
- Then Nov 2nd** **6pm All Souls Day Faure Requiem** at St Mary's

Best wishes

Fr Bob

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