

**St Martin's Church
Barholm-with-Stowe**

Village Harvest Festival



Church in our Seven Villages

St Martin of Tours, Barholm with Stowe | St Margaret of Antioch, Braceborough

St Thomas of Canterbury, Greatford | St Lawrence of Rome, Tallington

St Michael and All Angels, Uffington | St Andrew the Apostle, West Deeping

St Faith of Aquitaine, Wilsthorpe

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone in church this evening for our village celebration of Harvest Festival.

The Church has long played a role in bringing communities together to give thanks for the abundance of food we enjoy from Britain's beautiful countryside.

As we at St Martin's seek to find God's will for our church in the 21st century, we hope that today's celebration of Harvest, will encourage people to take delight in this joyous tradition.

During our final hymn a collection plate will be passed around. If you are able, then please do help us by leaving a donation today. To hear more about, and to support the work of the PCC in maintaining the village church building as well as our local chosen charity, please speak to our Parish Priest, Fr Aran who will lead the service this evening.

Everyone expects the church to be there when they want it, but the truth is that our building will quickly fall into decay if not properly maintained. The work carried out by the PCC is entirely on a voluntary basis, carefully managed and keeping expenses to an absolute minimum.

We give you our pledge that any help you give will be put to the best possible use in maintaining our Church building for generations to come.

Monies raised via the Auction today will be split 50/50 between the work of the church and a local chosen charity.

Please join in with all the words in BOLD.

Please stay for refreshments and the Auction after the service.

Order of Service for Evensong

All please STAND to sing the Opening Hymn

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest-home!**

**We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home,
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.**

**Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

*Please remain **STANDING**, as Fr Aran welcomes the
Congregation and offers our Opening Prayer of Thanksgiving
and Praise for this year's Harvest.*

GOD our Father, you have created all things, and we praise you
for the harvest.

We thank you for your love for us, for these gifts which the sun
and rain have nurtured, for the care and skill of our farmers, and
for the food and drink we enjoy.

Make us always thankful, and give us generous hearts to share
what we have with those who have little;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All. **Amen.***

*Please **SIT** for our Readings taken from Scripture, relating
to the Harvest Season*

The First Reading

A Reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

As it is written,

‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.’

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-10

The Second Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of St Luke

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"

Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.

For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them.

Of how much more value are you than the birds!

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying.

For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

+Luke 12: 16-30

Fr Aran introduces the second Hymn:

Please STAND as we sing together

**To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
in hymns of adoration,
to thee bring sacrifice of praise
with shouts of exultation:
bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
the hills with joy are ringing,
the valleys stand so thick with corn
that even they are singing.**

**And now, on this our festal day,
thy bounteous hand confessing,
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay
the first-fruits of thy blessing:
by thee the hungry soul is fed
with gifts of grace supernal;
thou who dost give us earthly bread,
give us the bread eternal.**

**We bear the burden of the day,
and often toil seems dreary;
but labour ends with sunset ray,
and rest comes for the weary:
may we, the angel-reaping o'er,
stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
to garners bright elected.**

**O blessed is that land of God,
where saints abide for ever;
where golden fields spread far and broad,
where flows the crystal river:
the strains of all its holy throng
with ours today are blending;
thrice blessed is that harvest-song
which never hath an ending.**

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)

*Please remain **STANDING** until Fr Aran invites you to be **SEATED**.*



Harvest Reflection by Fr Aran



*Please remain SEATED or if you prefer KNEEL
as Fr Aran leads us in Prayer.*

The Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord and giver of life.

LORD, we praise you for the harvest; for food and drink; for the richness and beauty of creation; and for all your gifts. Keep us thankful, and inspire us to care for those who have less than us.

Lord of the harvest,

All. hear our prayer.

LORD, we praise you for those who have nurtured creation so that we might have food: for farmers, fishermen, shepherds, and herdsmen. Bless their work, and give them joy in their lives.

Lord of the harvest,

All. hear our prayer.

LORD, we pray for those who care for our natural environment, for the quality of our food, and for the welfare of our animals. Free us from greed, and make us good stewards of creation.

Lord of the harvest,

All. hear our prayer.

LORD, we pray for people in countries where the harvest has failed, and where there is little food or clean water. Give them abundant life and hope, that all people might benefit from the abundance you have given us.

Lord of the harvest,

All. hear our prayer.

GOD of grace, you are ever at work in your creation. We pray for those who hunger and thirst as a result of warfare or injustice. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and grant wholeness and plenty to all who call upon you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

We conclude the Prayers with the Lords Prayer:

Please STAND as we pray together

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Offertory / Final Hymn

*Please STAND, a collection will be received during this hymn.
A collection plate will be passed around, or please use the
QR Code on the back cover.*

**We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.**

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

**He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
he fills the earth with beauty,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.**

***All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
for all his love.***

**We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good:
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.**

***All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
for all his love.***

*German, Matthias Claudius (1740–1815)
trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817–78)*

*Please remain **STANDING**
and bow your head for God's Blessing*

The Blessing

*You may choose to make the sign of the cross as indicated
by ✙*

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty, ✙ the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Ghost be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

*Please remain **STANDING** as Fr Aran departs*

After the Service, as we enjoy a glass or two of wine and some harvest nibbles, Felix will play his guitar prior to helping with the Auction.



We are grateful to David, Oliver and Felix for helping with the Auction and anyone who helped provide and serve the refreshments this evening.

St Martin's Church, Barholm-with-Stowe is supported entirely by our gifts of time, money and our prayers.

If you are able then please do help us by leaving a donation today.

You may scan this code to make a donation electronically to the upkeep of the church.

Thank you.



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