



Terry's wonderful Harvest Sheaf loaf for Westfield's Harvest

A Harvest Prayer

Father, as we celebrate this season of harvest and thanksgiving we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment.

Please grow in us a harvest for the world.

Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness. Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.

Amen

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THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 26th September 17th after Trinity

I'm writing this in the sun having just got back from Whitegates where we had a small Harvest celebration with the residents. I stayed on the decking and they sat inside the sitting room. Nik came with me to do the music and sound. We sang three harvest hymns, read Psalm 65 and said some prayers. There were about a dozen residents who joined in - some familiar faces from before lockdown and some who had moved in since. It was lovely to be with them again and I think they enjoyed it. We will go back again next month and I'll wrap up warmly for that one! This time it was really hot but by the time we got back to Hastings there were white horses on the sea and the wind was picking up.

I took a little bunch of golden wheat to Whitegates from our garden. It must have grown from some bird seed which has dropped from the bird feeders.

The garden is looking very autumnal suddenly. Our last pair of late roses shed their petals today but the verbena bonariensis is thriving as is the honeysuckle in the hedge.

There are still some geraniums in flower competing with those which are indoors on the kitchen window sill. My marigolds have finally gone to seed and I miss their cheerful sunny presence. We have some winter pansies to plant out and hopefully they will fill the gap.



Clem is busy outside scraping down our ground floor sitting room window and filling in all the holes in the windowsill and the missing window putty. She's doing a grand job and is very patient with all the passers by who enjoy making conversation so they can watch someone working. Her work on the window is inspiring me to hem the sitting room curtains which I'm ashamed to say have been up for at least ten years. Their ragged, uneven bottoms are generally hidden by house plants and my mother's dower chest but I know they are there needing attention so the time has definitely come! If there are things like my unhemmed curtains in your life, let's resolve to get them sorted before the days get even shorter and winter comes.

This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy

Westfield Church Services

Sunday 26th September HARVEST

- 8.30am BCP Communion
- 10am Morning Praise

Wednesday 29th September

- 9.30 Holy Communion - St Michael and All Angels
- 1.30-3pm Parents and Toddlers in Church

Sunday 3rd October Trinity 18

- 8.30am BCP Communion
- 10am Holy Communion

Guestling Church Services

Sunday 26th September Trinity 17

- 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd October Trinity 18 on line service only

Sunday 10th October HARVEST

- 11am Holy Communion**

Harvest Lunch afterwards—reserve your place today



Tom preparing the field at Rocks Farm for strewing with green hap plus some additional re-seeding



Ralph scything our green hay in the churchyard



Precious green hay!

Restoring species-rich grassland using green hay

Green hay, taken from a species-rich donor site and spread on a species-poor recipient site, is another method of restoring and recreating wildflower grasslands. Green hay is harvested wildflowers and grasses just as they are shedding seed and still 'green'. The hay is quickly transferred to the species-poor recipient site where it is spread allowing the seed to drop. Green hay can be relatively cheap; however the logistics of transferring the hay quickly need to be carefully planned. This means that the donor and recipient sites must be close together. Using green hay can be a very successful method of undertaking grassland restoration and recreation

This is a definition from the Magnificent Meadows project and this summer has seen our own home-grown Westfield example.

Sue Howard writes:

Ralph scythed about a third of the wildlife area this morning concentrating on the parts with lots of seeds. Ralph and Tom have taken that away already for green hay strewing at Rocks Farm.. We'll collect up what they didn't want during the week and cut and scythe some more next week. Now we've taken off what Tom wants we may do a bit ourselves during the week with the DR. The DR almost obliterates it and was no good for when we wanted to collect the seed but we will use it next week. Ralph found it quite hard to scythe as the grass was quite thick in places.

Trinity 17 Sunday 26th September 2021

Collect

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Guestling Lectionary Readings

James 5 :13-end Mark 9:38-end

Westfield Readings for Harvest

BCP Readings: for Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 4:1-6 Luke 14:1-11

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Current COVID Guidelines in Church

At the PCC last Monday we decided that we would keep our masks on until we sat down when we could remove them for the service and singing. Please replace them when Communion is distributed. If you would prefer to keep your mask on all the time please sit behind the font at the back of the church. Please continue to be mindful of other people who may be more nervous or vulnerable than you are. Plans for re-opening the church every day will be announced soon.

WE WILL SOON MOVE COFFEE INTO THE HALL SO PEOPLE CAN SIT DOWN AND BE MORE COMFORTABLE



Bishop Will pledged today that communities across the Diocese of Chichester "are committed to adding our voices to those of the national church and other faith communities around the world to encourage our leaders to use COP26 to address the urgent effects of climate change."

Plans are now in an advanced stage for the UK's hosting of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. Bishop Will said: "We have a clear obligation as stewards of the earth and its resources that calls us to be responsible in caring for our common home the earth."

Outlining ways in which parishes and communities can focus on the challenge ahead, the Bishop said that starting with prayers was crucial: "Reflecting deeply in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same."

At the same time, the Bishop said that practical action was needed: "Making transformational change in our

own lives and in the lives of our communities through individual and collective action" is crucial.

But with the network of parishes and communities representing the household of faith across the Diocese, Bishop Will said that voicing both our concerns and hopes was important at this time.

He added that we need to be "advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy resilient, zero emissions future."

Thought of the Day (From Guestling Bradshaw School)

Today, in assembly, we thought about the question: What helps us be good learners? Here are some of the children's ideas: "Helping other people to learn, helps me to understand even better." "Practice- practice makes perfect." "Concentrating."

We also thought about learning as a gift from God and one that we should not take for granted.

Luke in year 6 read our prayer of the day:

Dear Father,

Thank you for the gift of learning. There are many children in the world who cannot go to school; who do not have books or equipment to help them learn. Help us to not take learning for granted and help us to use our brains to do and be the very best we can.

Help us to become great learners.

Amen