

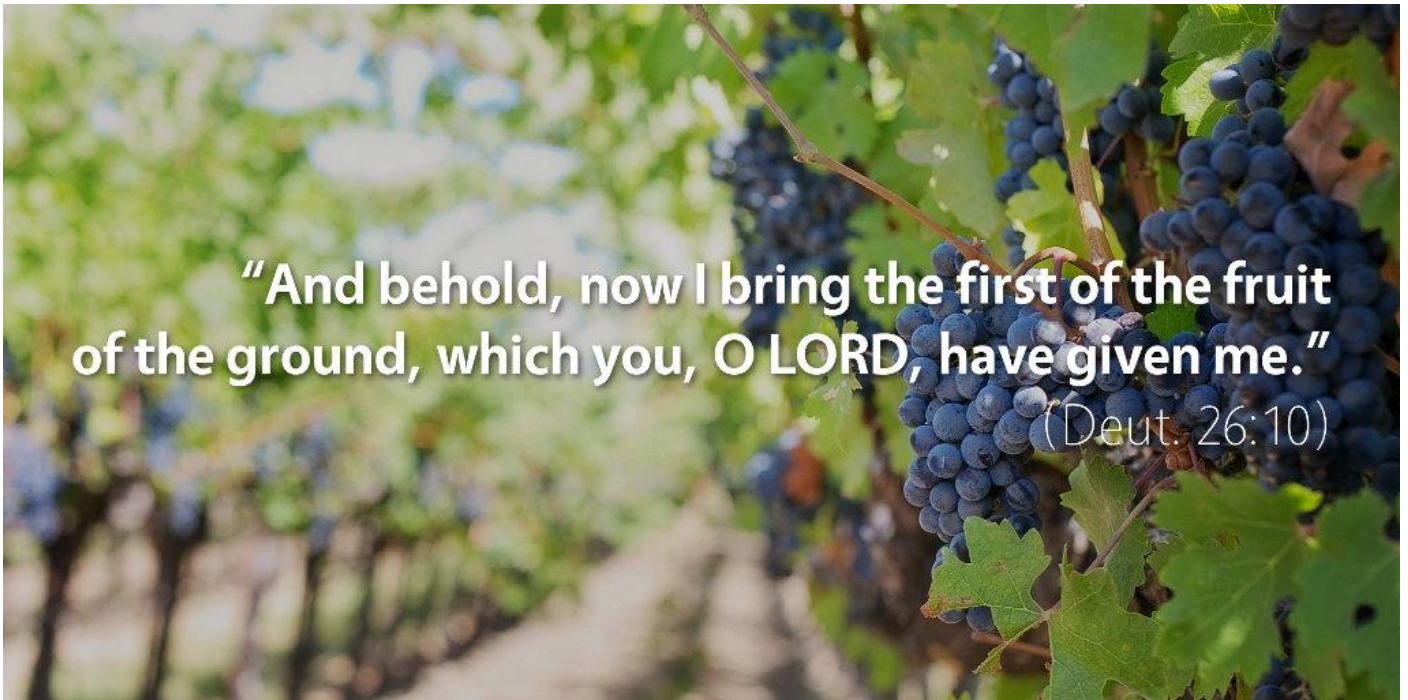


Good Shepherd with St John  
— WEST BROMWICH —



St. Andrew's Church  
— CARTERS GREEN —

Joint Parish  
newsletter  
October 2026



**"And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit  
of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me."**  
(Deut. 26:10)

### **Sunday services**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup><br>October  | 9:30am – Eucharist at St. Andrew's led by Rev. Peter Powers<br>11am – Harvest Holy Communion followed by Ploughman's lunch at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Rev. Peter Camody-Heaton |
| 11 <sup>th</sup><br>October | 9:30am – Harvest eucharist led by Rev. Peter Camody-Heaton<br>11am – Holy communion at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Rev. John Nightingale                                           |
| 18 <sup>th</sup><br>October | 9:30am – Eucharist at St. Andrew's led by Rev. Stuart Petty<br>11am – Holy communion at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Rev. Sue Phillips                                              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup><br>October | 9:30am – Eucharist at St. Andrew's led by Father Ron Farrell<br>11am – Holy communion at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Rev. Peter Camody-Heaton                                      |





During our interregnum, our vicar's message/sermon will be written by members of the congregation. If anyone would like to write one please contact Niamh Lees via email at [niamhbethanylees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:niamhbethanylees@hotmail.co.uk). Thanks in advance to anyone who contributes.

## **Offering our firstfruits to God**

Deuteronomy 26 gives us a striking image: a worshipper standing before God with the very first produce of the land cupped in their hands. "Now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." It is a moment filled with gratitude, memory, and trust. The people of Israel were taught to begin their harvest not with consumption, but with offering—a deliberate act of placing God first.

The firstfruits were never about size or perfection. They were about priority. God asked His people to bring the first portion, not the leftovers. It was a way of saying, "Before I enjoy the blessings You have given, I acknowledge that they come from You." This practice shaped their hearts, reminding them that everything they possessed was ultimately a gift.

Harvest invites us to adopt that same posture.

Most of us no longer work the land, yet we all know what it is to sow and to wait. We invest ourselves in our families, our work, our friendships, our communities. We pour energy into projects, prayers into hopes, and patience into situations that take time to grow. When the fruits of those efforts finally appear—moments of joy, achievements, restored relationships, new opportunities—Harvest encourages us to pause and recognise God's presence in them.

Bringing our "firstfruits" today might mean giving God the first part of our time rather than what's left over at the end of a busy week. It might mean sharing our resources generously, even when it requires sacrifice. It might mean offering our talents in service, trusting that God can multiply what we place in His hands. Firstfruits are not about what we give, but about who we trust.

In Deuteronomy, the act of offering was accompanied by a story. The worshipper recited the history of God's faithfulness—from the wandering ancestors to the deliverance from Egypt, to the gift of the Promised Land. Thanksgiving was rooted in memory. They remembered that God had been faithful before, and so they could trust Him again.

Harvest encourages us to tell our own stories of God's goodness. To remember the prayers answered quietly, the strength given unexpectedly, the comfort offered in difficult seasons, the blessings that arrived just when we needed them. Gratitude grows when we remember.

As we celebrate Harvest this year, may we bring our own firstfruits—whatever they may be—with the same spirit of humility and joy. May we recognise God's generosity in both the ordinary and the extraordinary. And may our offering, however small it seems, become a sign of hope, compassion, and faith in the God who continues to give abundantly.

May our hearts, like the fields around us, be open to God's renewing work. And may this Harvest season remind us that every good gift begins with Him.





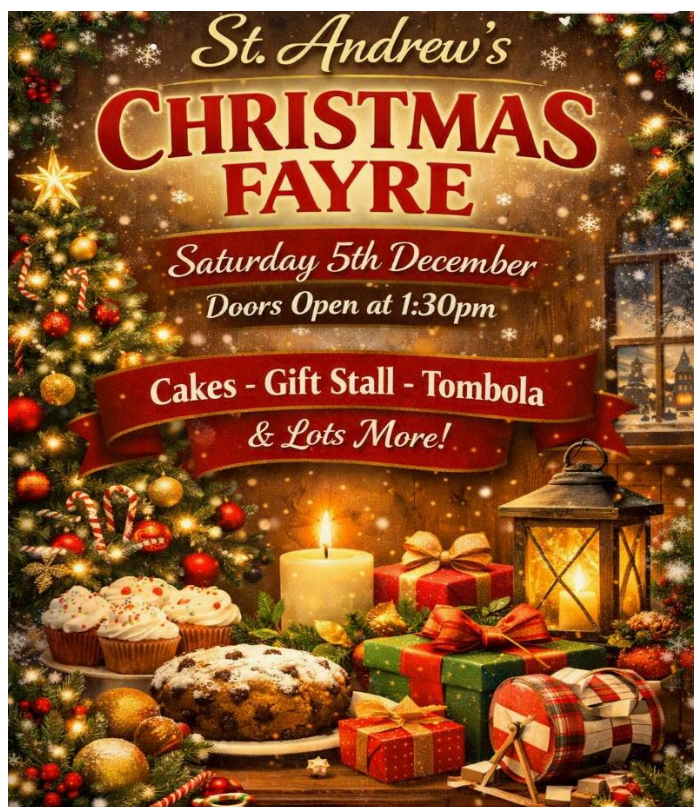
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                                                                                           | Thursday             | Friday                                                                                          | Saturday                                                                                            | Sunday                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |         |                                                                                                                                                     | 1<br>Scouts– 6:30pm  | 2<br>Place of<br>Welcome;<br>Coffee and<br>Craft –<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Beavers –<br>6:30pm  | 3<br>Slimming World<br>– 8:30am                                                                     | 4<br>9:30am –<br>Eucharist led<br>by Rev Peter<br>Powers<br>11am – Harvest<br>Holy<br>Communion<br>led followed by<br>Ploughmann's<br>by Rev. John<br>Nightingale |
| 5      | 6       | 7<br>Coffee<br>Morning and<br>Bring and Buy –<br>10am – 12pm<br>Place of<br>Welcome with<br>Extend Exercise<br>– 10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Cubs – 6:30pm | 8<br>Scouts– 6:30pm  | 9<br>Place of<br>Welcome;<br>Coffee and<br>Craft –<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Beavers –<br>6:30pm  | 10<br>Slimming World<br>– 8:30am                                                                    | 11<br>9:30am –<br>Eucharist led<br>by Rev. Peter<br>Camody-<br>Heaton<br>11am – Holy<br>Communion<br>led by Rev.<br>John<br>Nightingale                           |
| 12     | 13      | 14<br>Place of<br>Welcome<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Place of<br>Welcome with<br>Extend Exercise<br>– 10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Cubs – 6:30pm               | 15<br>Scouts– 6:30pm | 16<br>Place of<br>Welcome;<br>Coffee and<br>Craft –<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Beavers –<br>6:30pm | 17<br>Slimming World<br>– 8:30am<br>Bible Study –<br>Refreshments<br>at 10:30am for<br>a 11am start | 18<br>9:30am –<br>Eucharist led<br>by Rev. Sue<br>Boyce<br>11am – Holy<br>Communion<br>led by Rev. Sue<br>Phillips                                                |
| 19     | 20      | 21<br>Place of<br>Welcome<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Place of<br>Welcome with<br>Extend Exercise<br>– 10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Cubs – 6:30pm               | 22<br>Scouts– 6:30pm | 23<br>Place of<br>Welcome;<br>Coffee and<br>Craft –<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Beavers –<br>6:30pm | 24<br>Slimming World<br>– 8:30am                                                                    | 25<br>9:30am –<br>Eucharist by Fr<br>Ron Farrell<br>11am – Holy<br>Communion<br>by Rev. Peter<br>Camody-<br>Heaton                                                |
| 26     | 27      | 28<br>Place of<br>Welcome<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Place of<br>Welcome with<br>Extend Exercise<br>– 10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Cubs – 6:30pm               | 29<br>Scouts– 6:30pm | 30<br>Place of<br>Welcome;<br>Coffee and<br>Craft –<br>10:30am –<br>12pm<br>Beavers –<br>6:30pm | 31<br>Slimming World<br>– 8:30am                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                   |

#### Key

Good Shepherd with St John

St. Andrew's Church

Joint events



**DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD**  
Many Cultures | One Church | Building God's Kingdom Together

**Cultural Festival**  
Organised by the UKME, Lichfield Diocese

**Theme:**  
**Living Stones:**  
Building God's house together  
1 Peter 2:5 "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house..."

**Speakers:**

|                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Revd Preb. Jim Trood | <br>Rt Revd. Dr Tim Wambunga<br>Bishop of Wolverhampton | <br>Revd. Canon Dr Carlton Turner | <br>Revd. Dr Israel Olofinjana | <br>Ven. Liz Jackson<br>Archdeacon of Walsall |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Saturday 17 October 2026**

**Holy Trinity Church, Heath Town, Wolverhampton WV10 0LY**

**11:00am - 4:00 pm**

Join us for a day of music, dance, art, meditation and delicious food. A chance to connect, celebrate and build a stronger, more inclusive church together.

- Music
- Dance
- Art
- Meditation
- Delicious Food
- A celebration of Your diverse community

Scan here to register on [Eventbrite](#)

**DIFFERENT PEOPLE | SHARED FAITH | BRIGHTER TOGETHER**



## **May God grant you courage - message of solidarity with the people of Ukraine**

The Bishop of Worcester, Hugh Nelson, who is the C of E's Bishop to the Armed Forces, recently went to Kyiv to join Ukrainian church leaders, other religious leaders and government officials at the National Prayer Breakfast in Kyiv. Bishop Hugh also met with the leader of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany.

Bishop Hugh brought a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally. She promised that the Anglican Church would continue to "stand in prayerful solidarity" with Ukraine, and she acknowledged the "immense sacrifices" which the Ukrainians are making "in defence of your country, its people and the values of freedom and human dignity".

Archbishop Sarah also commended Ukraine's constitutional commitments to freedom of religion and conscience. She rejected the language of "holy war" used to justify the attempts to occupy and subjugate Ukraine by the current regime in Moscow.

"We pray for those who have lost their lives, for those who mourn, for the wounded, the displaced, and all who live under the daily shadow of violence and fear. May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the days ahead."

**PRAYER FOR PEACE  
AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE**

God of peace and justice,  
who change the hardened heart  
and break the power of violence,  
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;  
let them know not death but life,  
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;  
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength  
to live that truth in love,  
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

 Australian Catholic  
Bishops Conference



## Easy sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   | 4 |   |   |
| 4 | 8 |   | 7 |   | 9 | 5 |   | 6 |
| 6 |   |   | 3 |   |   | 9 | 2 |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 2 | 6 | 9 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|   | 9 | 6 | 1 |   |   |   |   | 2 |
|   | 2 | 8 |   |   | 5 |   |   | 9 |
| 5 |   | 1 | 2 |   | 6 |   | 8 | 7 |
|   |   | 3 |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |

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## Intermediate sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 1 |   | 6 |   | 7 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   |   | 5 |   | 9 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 5 |   |
| 5 |   |   |   | 1 |   | 7 |   | 8 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   | 6 |   | 7 |   |   |   | 4 |
|   | 2 |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 6 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 9 |   | 3 |   | 2 |   |

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*Solutions found on the back page.*



## Wordsearch for St. Luke

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

### Words to find

- Luke
- Day
- Written
- Gospel
- Feast
- Acts
- Greek
- Physician
- Travelling
- Faithful
- Paul
- Compassion
- Parables
- Prodigal
- Son
- Good
- Samaritan
- Women
- Poor
- Lepers
- Sinners
- Jerusalem
- Pagan
- Rome
- Early
- Christians



*Solutions found on the back page.*

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always  
ready for his return at the end of time  
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said

This is the difference between those who follow me and those who only say they do.



Readings are subject to change depending on celebrant. If you scan the QR code, it will take you to a webpage with the readings.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 5: 1-7

**New Testament:** Philippians 3: 4-12

**Gospel:** Matthew 21: 33-41, 43



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 25: 6-9

**New Testament:** Philippians 4: 4-9

**Gospel:** Matthew 22: 1-14



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 44: 28-45, 4, 13a

**New Testament:** 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-9

**Gospel:** Matthew 21: 45, 22: 15-22



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**Old Testament:** Leviticus 19: 2b, 15-18

**New Testament:** 1 Thessalonians 2: 1, 7b, 12-13

**Gospel:** Matthew 22: 35-40



# Harvest Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for the abundance of the earth,  
for the beauty of the harvest, and the blessings You provide.

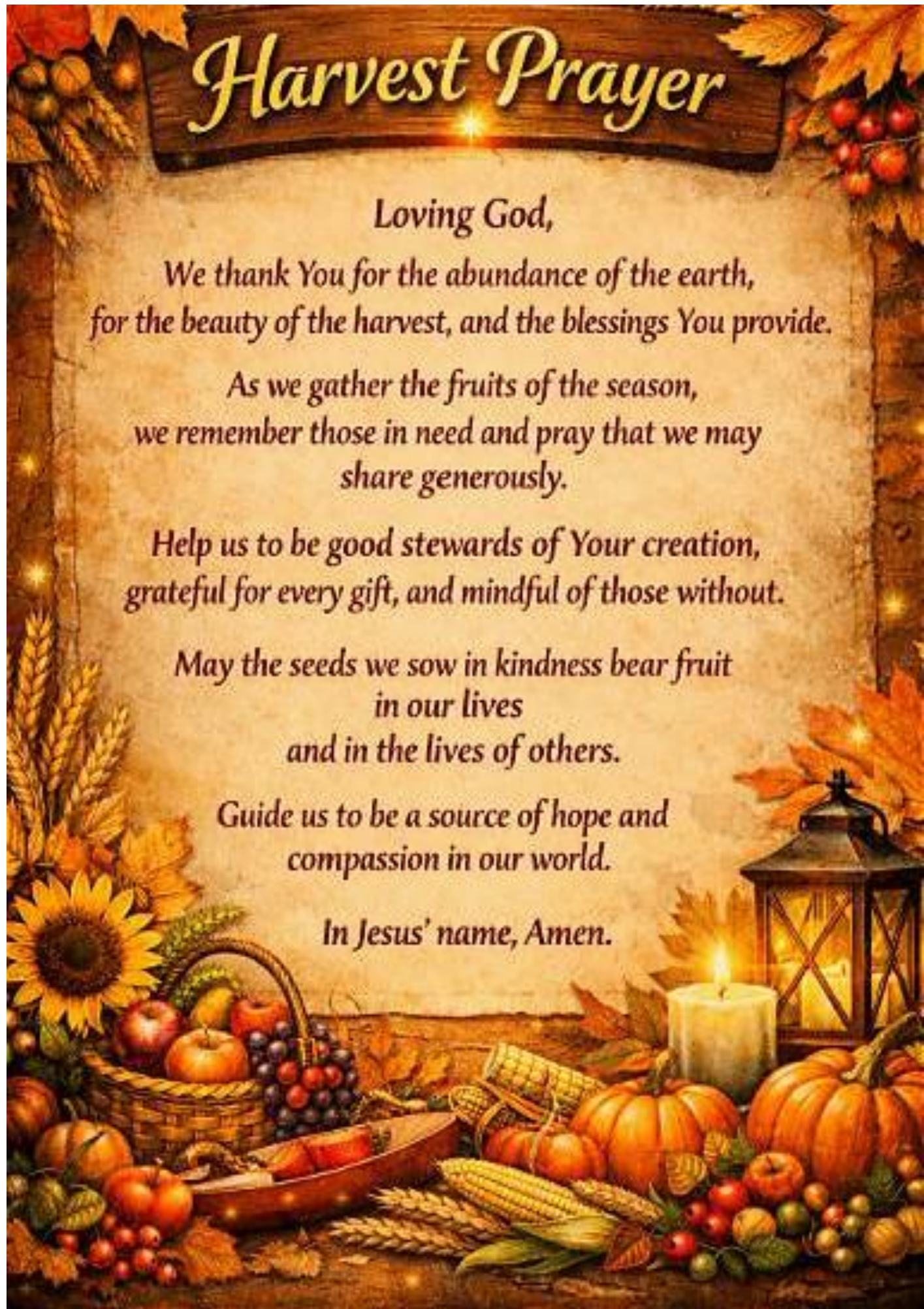
As we gather the fruits of the season,  
we remember those in need and pray that we may  
share generously.

Help us to be good stewards of Your creation,  
grateful for every gift, and mindful of those without.

May the seeds we sow in kindness bear fruit  
in our lives  
and in the lives of others.

Guide us to be a source of hope and  
compassion in our world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



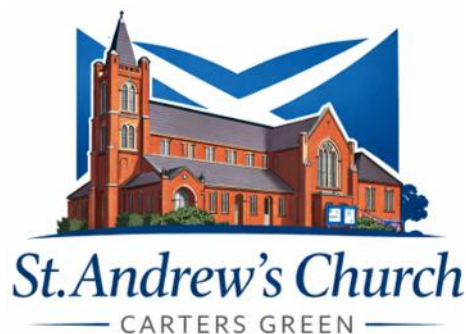


**For all enquiries, please contact our Churchwarden during our vacancy;**

**Churchwarden:** Sue Hardcastle  
**Contact number:** 07817204597

**If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact our PSO:**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Sue Hardcastle  
**Contact number:** 07817240597



**For all enquiries, please contact our Churchwarden during our vacancy;**

**Churchwarden:** June Davies  
**Contact number:** 01922632186

**If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact our PSO;**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Elizabeth Lees  
**Contact number:** 07950778403

## Puzzle solutions

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 |

**Easy**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

**Intermediate**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | P | F | Y | A | A | M | P | O | P | G | I | M | Y |
| P | P | A | R | A | B | L | E | S | O | J | A | A | I |
| N | T | I | G | T | G | O | S | P | E | L | P | N | N |
| C | C | T | S | A | E | F | R | R | L | U | E | H | I |
| C | I | H | S | G | N | O | U | I | E | A | L | E | K |
| L | O | F | R | N | D | S | P | R | R | P | I | E | L |
| E | G | U | E | I | A | A | H | L | P | S | E | U | M |
| E | A | L | G | L | S | O | Y | O | G | R | K | L | N |
| N | S | A | E | L | R | T | S | G | G | E | O | C | P |
| S | L | M | N | E | T | T | I | R | W | N | A | O | E |
| R | T | N | C | V | C | G | C | A | N | N | A | G | P |
| C | O | M | P | A | S | S | I | O | N | I | P | O | W |
| S | A | M | A | R | I | T | A | N | N | S | H | O | R |
| E | L | C | E | T | L | A | N | E | M | O | W | D | A |