

CHURCH SERVICES during SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025

10.30 am Sunday 7 September **ANDREAS**
UNITED SERVICE OF
HOLY COMMUNION
Rev. Brian Evans Smith

10.30 am Sunday 14 September **BALLAUGH**
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Rev Brian Evans Smith

10.30 am Sunday 21 September **BALLAUGH**
MORNING PRAYER Elaine Aulton

10.30 am Sunday 28 September **BALLAUGH**
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Rev Brian Evans Smith



10.30 am Sunday 5 October **BALLAUGH**
UNITED SERVICE OF
HOLY COMMUNION & HARVEST
CELEBRATION
Rev Brian Evans Smith
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OF
THE HARVEST

10.30 am Sunday 12 October **BALLAUGH**
MORNING PRAYER Peter Shimmin

10.30 am Sunday 19 October **BALLAUGH**
MORNING PRAYER Gill Poole

10.30 am Sunday 25 October **BALLAUGH**
MORNING PRAYER Elaine Aulton

OUR HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN BALLAUGH ON SUNDAY, 5th OCTOBER 2025, at 10.30 am, AND YOU WILL BE WELCOME

Through September and October, British churches of most denominations have a Harvest Festival, but the modern Harvest Festival is mainly a Victorian development based on biblical themes.

Harvests Festivals in the Bible - Feasts connected to harvest are mentioned in the Bible. The Feast of Weeks (Shavout) marked the start of harvest when the first-fruits were gathered in, and the Feast of Ingathering (Sukkot) marked when all was gathered in at the end of harvest. In the Hebrew calendar, the Feast of Ingathering finished on the 21st day of the seventh month called Tishrei, which falls between late September and late October.

Exodus 23:16 says "You shall keep the feast of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labour" (NIV). It is described in Exodus 34:22, where it is called the "Festival of Ingathering at the year's end" in the traditional King James Version or the "Festival of the Final Harvest" by the New Living Translation. It marked the end of the harvest and thus the end of the agricultural year.

Thanksgiving Days The Book of Common Prayer, used by the Church of England, provides for special Thanksgiving prayers for specific occasions such as thanksgiving at times of rain after drought, times of peace, deliverance from plague, and for thanksgiving for plenty.

Thanksgiving Days were called nationally in England by the Privy Council and the Church of England, which set a special national Thanksgiving Day for England and Wales, and separate ones were also called in Scotland. A national Thanksgiving Day was like a public holiday, except in addition there was a special church service when a liturgical prayer of thanksgiving was read out. Sometimes it was the set prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, and sometimes it was one specially written for that year.

The first church to make the Harvest Thanksgiving an annual service is believed to be the church of St Mary and St Giles at Buckerell, near Honiton in Devon. The Revd Edwin Coleridge, held a Harvest Thanksgiving at Buckerell on Friday, 14 October 1840, and then held one every year when the parish church was decorated with fruits of the harvest.

Harvest Hymns As Harvest Festivals became more popular, more hymns were written for such occasions, drawing references from the Bible. Many of the ones still sung today date from the Victorian era. "All things bright and beautiful", based on Psalm 104:24-25, was published in 1848. "We plough the fields and scatter", where the chorus is based on James 1:17, was translated into English from German in 1861. "Bringing in the Sheaves", based on Psalm 126:5-6, was written in 1874. Another hymn called "Hear us, O Lord " or the Manx Fishermen's Hymn published in 1896, references the "silver harvest of the sea".

BALLAUGH CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch meets on the first Tuesday of the month, There are some places available. If you would like to be included or would like to suggest someone who might benefit from attending please contact June on 897424.