



# The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath October 2025



## From the vicar

Harvest Thanksgiving is a charming celebration – a joy because of all we have received and (if we allow ourselves the opportunity) a moment of sublime spiritual reflection in the midst of the natural cycle. In a traditional harvest celebration there is much for the senses: the sight of floral decorations, the smell of fruit and vegetables, the anticipated taste of home-grown produce and the sound of favourite hymns.

One hymn of olden days came to mind recently. It fails to appear in Common Praise although it is in the New English Hymnal, 'Fair waved the golden corn'. It is very much a children's hymn and is included in the children's section of Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised, but is none the worse for that.

Fair waved the golden corn,  
In Canaan's pleasant land,  
When full of joy, some shining morn,  
Went forth the reaper band.

2

To God so good and great  
Their cheerful thanks they pour;  
Then carry to His temple gate  
The choicest of their store.

3

Like Israel, Lord, we give  
Our earliest fruits to Thee,

And pray that, long as we shall live,  
We may Thy children be.

4

Thine is our youthful prime,  
And life and all its powers,  
Be with us in our morning time,  
And bless our evening hours.

5

In wisdom let us grow,  
As years and strength are given,  
That we may serve Thy Church below,  
And join Thy saints in Heaven.

The hymn was written by John Hampton Gurney (1802-1862) who was sometime Rector of St. Mary's, Marylebone and Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral. It is rich in sentiment, consonant with the romance of childhood and the teachings of the Sunday School, not for its own sake, but to emphasise the different elements of a faithful Christian life.

The first two verses emphasise the bounty of the harvest and the offering of the first fruits to God, but then the third verse uses the analogy of the harvest to express the sacrifices of our own lives and encourages them to be made even in youth so that we may be children of the Kingdom throughout our lives. A fourth verse refers to the daily round which is the foundation of the harvest of life. It is a theme found in other hymns – the more modern 'Lord of all hopefulness' comes to mind. The final verse asks that the offering of the faithful in the daily round may issue in a life of service to the Church and assure them that the final destination is heaven.

It is difficult to know whether such sentiments are still appreciated in today's church, not least because the writers of the majority of modern songs and hymns do not seem to have a liturgical background and so are unaware of or choose to ignore the seasons of the year as these apply to the life of the Church. That is a pity as hymns have been a principal vehicle for teaching the faith for many centuries. We tend to remember what we sing and even if we don't always fully understand the words in childhood, the remembrance of the hymn in subsequent years gives a second chance. The hymn is sung to the tune 'Holyrood' and can easily be found on the internet.

## PRAYER FOCUS

Please continue to pray for an end to conflict in the Near East, Ukraine and all countries beset by violence.

Remember the faithful suffering persecution, especially this month those in Nigeria.

## From the diary...

Usual Sunday services: 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Mass

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 10.00am

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7.00pm

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00pm

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

*In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.*

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 8.00pm

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October

8.00am *no service*

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Mike Still)

*No midweek services*

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October

8.00am *no service*

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Robert van der Weyer)

*No midweek services*

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00am

### Trinity 15

Licensing of Fr. Thomas Singh at St. Hugh's, Banbury

Mass (*St. Therese of Lisieux*)

Mass

### Trinity 16

Mass

Mass

### Harvest Thanksgiving

Deanery Synod at St. Peter's

Mass (*St. Teresa of Avila*)

### Trinity 18

### Trinity 19

### All Saints' Sunday

Mass

## REQUIEM FOR ALL SOULS

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm

*There will be a sheet at the back of church for the names of the departed to be remembered from 19<sup>th</sup> October.*

## Bushey Inter-faith Forum

### How can our faiths help the poor and vulnerable around the world?

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm at the London Spiritual Centre, Falconer Road, Bushey  
courtesy of the Jain community.

*Entrance free*

## Harvest Appeal 2025

Red Trust Bushey who run the local foodbank are asking for the following items this year in order to replenish their stocks:

*Tinned Vegetable*

*Baked beans*

*Pasta*

*Tinned fruit*

*Mashed potatoes*

*Tea bags*

*Rice pudding*

*Deodorant*

*Laundry pods/tablets*

*Baby wipes*

## See of Richborough Prayer Cycle

A new prayer diary for the Richborough area has been issued. It can be downloaded from the Resources section of the See of Richborough website or ask Father Andrew for a paper copy. Once you have a copy please use it assiduously!

## Summer Concert with the North London Military Wives Choir

You will be delighted to learn that the concert in June raised £500 towards the work of St. Peter's Church. Thank you to the ladies and to all who supported the event!

## Contact details:

Vicar: Fr. Andrew Burton SSC, a priest of the Society. (020 8950 1424). Usual day off Monday.

Churchwardens: Mr. Simon Farley (020 8950 4073) and Mr. Tony Quinn (07786 332654)

[www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk](http://www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk) / [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)