

CHURCH News

October 2025



Newsletter no: 115

Harvest: A Season of God's Faithfulness

As we step into October, the air grows crisper, the colours around us deepen, and the fields reveal the fruit of months of labour. The harvest season is a beautiful reminder that God is at work both in creation and in our lives, quietly nurturing, sustaining, and bringing things to fruition in His perfect time.

Harvest has always carried deep spiritual meaning. The crops gathered from the fields remind us that God is the giver of every good gift, both physical and spiritual. The fruits of the earth mirror the fruits of our lives: moments of kindness, answered prayers, relationships strengthened, and grace received in ways large and small. This season invites us to pause, look back, and ask, what has God grown in me this year? where have I seen His hand guiding, blessing, or even gently pruning me?

Paul's words remind us: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude is not just for when life feels plentiful; it is a posture of the heart that anchors us in God's goodness no matter what we face. Even in seasons of struggle, thanksgiving lifts our eyes to see His faithfulness, and our hearts are strengthened when we cultivate thankfulness.

As we turn our hearts toward the end of the year and the joyful celebrations of Advent and Christmas, harvest offers an opportunity to practise gratitude. It is a time to notice the provision we might overlook in daily life: the food that sustains us, the small mercies that carry us through, and the friendships and fellowship that enrich our days. Like the farmer who trusts the land to yield its crop,

we too can trust God to provide what we need in the months ahead.

But gratitude is not something we are meant to keep to ourselves. When we share our stories of God's grace, we strengthen one another. Perhaps you have seen an answered prayer, received an unexpected kindness, or felt God's presence in a difficult time. Speaking these stories aloud can inspire and encourage others in our parish family. I warmly encourage you to share them, whether in conversation over coffee or in a small group, so that together we can celebrate the goodness of God at work among us.

This October, I invite you to reflect on the harvest in your own life. What are you thankful for? Where have you seen God's hand at work? We are surrounded by blessings - our daily nourishment, the love of family and friends, the strength of community, and above all, the assurance of God's unfailing love.

May this harvest season remind us that every good gift comes from above, and may our thankfulness overflow into acts of kindness, generosity, and joy as we continue our journey toward the year's end.

A Prayer:

Lord of the harvest, we thank you for your goodness and provision. Open our eyes to your blessings each day and help us to share them generously with others. Amen.

Yolande Palmer (Licenced Lay Minister)



Church Services in October

Sunday 5th October

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Sunday, 12th October

9.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00 a.m Morning Worship, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 14th October

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Bulcote

Sunday, 19th October

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 21st October

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Luke's, Stoke Bardolph

Sunday 26th October

9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

6.00p.m. Memorial Service, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

*Please note there is no Tuesday Holy Communion
at St. John's, Gunthorpe or St. Aidan's, Caythorpe this
month*

Yolande will be officially
licenced as a Lay Minister (or
Reader) at Southwell Minster,
11.00a.m on 4th October after
two years of training.

If you'd like to come and
support her, you are very
welcome to attend the service.

Please hold Yolande in your
prayers.

*Loving God,
may these your servants be
men and women of peace,
prayer, strength and
gentleness.*

*Make them transparent with
your love, and always open to
your grace, in which alone lies
their hope and joy.*

Amen

Angela Ashwin

What's On...

Our churches are living communities at the centre of village life, offering help, fellowship and welcome to

Coffee Chit Chat

Mondays 9.15a.m—11.30a.m

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce

Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter!

Parents & Toddlers

Monday 9.30 –11.00a.m. (term time only).

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce.

Everyone is welcome. With refreshments

The Tea Shop at St. John's

Tuesdays 9.30a.m. –12 noon at St. John's,
Gunthorpe. *Join us for coffee, cake and chat.*

'Churches Together' Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesday 9.15 –11.00a.m. (term time only)

Methodist Chapel, Lowdham. Coffee & snacks, crafts & songs.

£2.50/family to cover costs.

Home Groups

Come and join us as we share prayers, explore the bible and grow together in faith and friendship . *For more details, please contact Tracey, the Vicar's P.A.*

St. Mary's Church invite you to



An Afternoon Tea Party

2.00-4.00p.m. Saturday, 29th November

Lowdham WI Hall

Tickets: £15 per person (adults only)

*selection of savoury and sweet culinary goodies,
tea or coffee, a glass of fizz or non-alcoholic alternative*

Booking is essential

Contact Fran: frances@lowdhamstation.me.uk /0115 966 4938



Raising funds for St. Mary's Church

The Parish of Lowdham with Caythorpe and Gunthorpe

The Great Notts Christmas Toy & Gift Appeal 2025



We are collecting toys and gifts to give as Christmas presents for children in need in Nottinghamshire. These can include baby toys & clothes, gift tokens (for teenagers), toiletries, gift sets, selection boxes, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, plus personal care items & toiletries for mums.

Please bring your donations (brand new and unwrapped) to St. Mary's Church, Lowdham on

**Saturday, 29th November
between 10.00a.m –12 noon**

(outside drop off only)

For more details go to: www.christmastoyshomesteadcloud.com



Autumn Fires

In the other gardens
and all up the vale,
from autumn bonfires
see the smoke trails!

Pleasant summer over,
and all the summer flowers,
the red fire blazes
the grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

Robert Louis Stevenson

Contact us...

Revd Anna Alls
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reverend.anna.alls@gmail.com

For enquiries, including church bookings, weddings, baptisms and funerals please contact:

Tracey Akehurst
Vicar's P.A. & Benefice
Administrator:
0115 965 2114/ 0780 516 2088

administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk

We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have any questions please contact:

Heather Brown
BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer
sgbj@united-benefice.org

Zena Cameron
LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer
zenabramall@hotmail.com

Find us...

Facebook at Revd Anna & Friends or
the United Benefice of Burton Joyce &
Lowdham

A Church Near You:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Each church has its own individual web
pages where you can find further
information

The Lord is near to the
broken hearted, and saves
the crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34.18