

CHURCH News

October 2026



Newsletter no: 128

Why not forever?

I first heard the phrase 'Harvest Festival' at Manor Field County Primary School in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. It was forty years ago, so my memories are hazy, but I remember a letter asking parents to send their kids into school with food to donate to a local charity. Fresh food wasn't recommended because it would perish too quickly, so most of us brought in tins, apart from the kids whose parents hadn't read the letter properly.

I think there was fruit in my tins. Maybe peaches, or fruit cocktail (whatever 'fruit cocktail' was) made by someone called Del Monte whose full name I imagined to be Derek Monte because 'Del' meant 'Derek' in that *Only Fools And Horses* thing on the telly.

I was briefly confused by how mum got hold of the peaches because I thought peaches didn't grow in our country, and certainly not in tins. Mum told me they got the peaches in from abroad and there were factories where 'peach stuffers' put the peaches in the tins. I wanted to be a policeman or an architect at the time, but hearing about 'peach stuffers' suddenly gave me a third career option.

I had no idea how they sealed the tins. And tins were inconsistent. Why did tins of peaches not come with the little metal keys used to open tins of corned beef? That said, there were some tins of corned beef in the big pile of food we assembled in the school hall where the keys were missing. It was all very well giving this food away, but how were people supposed to get at it? Someone

explained tin openers to me at this point, and it completely blew my mind.

I suppose I remember the big, bright colours most. We'd given up a whole corner of the hall to this stack of food. It wasn't just fruit; there were vegetables and soups too. And there was a heap of fresh stuff: bananas, apples and satsumas (which I thought only came out at Christmas). I think there may even have been a sack of potatoes there.

I also remember how lucky I felt that between us we were able to just give this stuff away. We had so many things going spare. It meant there must be people who didn't have enough, and wasn't it brilliant that we could share with others who had less than us? But why only at Harvest Festival? Why not all year round? And why not forever?

We celebrate many things at Harvest: God's provision and abundance, and the fruits of our labours here on his earth. But it can feel bittersweet in a world where inequality means so many people must rely on what we are able to give away.

Father, at Harvest time, may we have a spirit of provision and abundance too. May we serve and provide for those who need us most in our neighbourhoods and communities. Not just now. All year round. And forever.

Simon



Church Services in October

Sunday 4th October

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

11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Sunday, 11th October

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

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

Tuesday 13th October

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

Sunday, 18th October

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

11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 20th October

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

Sunday 25th October

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

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

Please note, there is no mid-week Holy Communion service at St. John's, Gunthorpe this month



Huge congratulations to Simon Carter, who was officially licenced as a Lay Minister at Southwell Minster on

26th September after two years of training.

May the Lord bless your ministry, grant you wisdom for every responsibility and fill your heart with peace as you serve your parishes and communities.

Please hold Simon in your prayers in his continuing ministry.

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

Make them transparent with your love, and always be 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 everyone. Do come and join us. We'd be delighted to see you.

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.



Charity Christmas Card Sale & Coffee Morning

Saturday, 3rd October

10.00a.m—12 noon

St. Helen's Church Centre,
Burton Joyce

So let's not get tired of doing
what is good. At just the right
time, we will reap a harvest of
blessing if we don't give up.
Therefore, every chance we get,
let us work to the benefit of all,
starting with the
people closest to us.

Galatians 6.9

Are you sure?

Faith is not certainty,
precluding debate, forbidding doubt.
That is faith's opposite.

Faith invites discussion,
requires our exploration,
embraces doubt, and
sets all in the context of
the faithfulness of God
known in the past.

Faith keeps us looking
forward, takes us deeper
into the mysteries of God,
encourages hope.

Ann Lewin

Contact us...

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

Tracey Akehurst

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

Heather Brown

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Zena Cameron

LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer

zenabramall@hotmail.com Mary's Church

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

*We are the wire, God is
the current. Our only
power is to let the
current pass through
us.*

Carlo Carretto