

Vicar's Blog

November 2016

Fruits of the Harvest

Early October brought with it a rich time of harvest, not least through the blessings of the presence of so many young people celebrating harvest with us at Holy Trinity. Longlevens Infant and Junior Schools each held their harvest celebration in church and the youngsters led the services with confidence and joy through songs and prayers. Children from Milestone School then joined us and drew us into a much more sensory experience of harvest, that was also full of joy and wonder for all involved. At our own harvest service representatives from Guides, Brownies and Rainbows shared, through words and pictures, prayers of thanks for the harvests of so many different parts of the world. We were reminded of harvests that bring us bananas, pineapples, coffee, tea, chocolate – all of which we take for granted as available through our local supermarkets.

Representatives of our local foodbank needed a trailer to carry the wondrously large load of harvest gifts we had gathered as church, schools, pre-school and uniformed groups working together. Through our own blessings and celebration, we have been able to help many families in Gloucestershire who are struggling to afford basic foods.

At the same time, through our commitment to the Traidcraft initiative, we continue to be reminded how we can share the fruits of our harvests of life with so many parts of the world where poverty and exploitation deny families the fruits of their harvests.

The Junior school children chose a bible reading for their harvest service: 'When you gather your crops and fail to bring in some of the corn that you have cut, do not go back for it; it is to be left for the foreigners, orphans, and widows, so that the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do. When you have picked your olives once, do not go back and get those that are left; they are for the foreigners and orphans and widows. When you gather the grapes once, do not go back for what is left; it shall be for the foreigners, the orphans, and widows. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore, I am commanding you to do this.' (Deuteronomy 24.19-22)

As we are bathed in the blessings of our ease and comfort, may we be guided by the example of our children as they remind us to be aware of and share our abundance with those in need.

Gwyneth