

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harry: Welcome to our harvest festival, a celebration of all the wonderful produce that has been grown, harvested or created from the land. From the apples and pears and the carrots and potatoes, to the bread from the wheat and the porridge from the oats, we join together to give thanks for all that we have and to recognise the hard work of so many people in ensuring that we don't go hungry.

Cian: But as we look around and see all that we have, whether fresh, tinned or in packets, let us also remember our good fortune, and think of others, in this country as well as throughout the world, who are hungry and often go without enough food.

Jack: Please join us in singing 'Harvest Samba'.

SONG – HARVEST SAMBA

Ethan: This reading is from 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' by Beatrix Potter.

Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries; But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!

First, he ate some lettuces and some French beans; and then he ate some radishes;

And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.

But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, "Stop thief."

Simran: Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.

After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.

George: Please join us in singing 'Conkers'.

SONG - CONKERS

Emi: This reading is from 'Anne of Green Gables' by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

The orchard, with its great sweeping boughs that bent to the ground with fruit, proved so delightful that the little girls spent most of the afternoon in it, sitting in a grassy corner where the frost had spared the green and the mellow autumn sunshine lingered warmly, eating apples and talking as hard as they could.

Haider: How often, when we sit down to eat, do we give any thought to where the food has come from? Whether from a farmer working hard on their crop, or from an animal, or from the sea, we rarely consider the process that leads the food to our plate. And yet, if we were to give it a little more thought, perhaps we might eat a little more slowly and considerately? Perhaps we might waste less, and be willing to try more?

Charlotte: We would like to share a poem with you.

AUTUMN BOUNTY – POEM

The fields that lay so cold and bare
Until the frosts withdrew,
That gave a home to tiny seed
And nurtured as it grew,
Through April showers, summer sun,
Across the dusty days,
Now overflow with ears of corn
And barley, wheat and maize.

And gardens up and down the land
Display for all to see
The due reward for hours spent
In soil on bended knee,
As from the ground we gather in
The upshot of our toil,
And marvel how it all began,
A seed within the soil.

Primrose: please join us in singing 'Cauliflower Fluffy'.

SONG – CAULIFLOWER FLUFFY

Aiden : We would like to tell you the story of Elijah and the widow.

Elijah was a man who knew God, talked to God and did what God told him to do. One day God told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath, and to stay with a lady and her son there.

When Elijah got to Zarephath he saw the woman coming towards him. She was collecting sticks to burn on her fire.

Jude: ‘Please give me a drink of water,’ said Elijah, ‘and some bread to eat.’

‘I have no bread,’ said the lady. ‘There is just enough flour in my bowl and oil in my jar to make one last meal for me and my son, and then we will die because we have no more food.’

There had been no rain there for a very long time and now there was very little food for everyone.

‘Don’t worry,’ said Elijah. ‘Just make your meal, but first make a small loaf for me. God says that until it rains again, there will always be enough flour in the bowl and oil in the jar.’

Lily: The lady did as Elijah said. She shared her meal by making some bread for him and then some for herself and her son.

Every time she made the bread, there was always enough flour and always enough oil. From the day until it rained again, they had just enough food to eat.

Valentina: It is important to remember that it is hard to share something when you have very little of it. The lady had almost nothing left, but she shared it with Elijah, and God was pleased with her.

Evie: This reading is from ‘The Secret Garden’ by Frances Hodgson Burnett’ .

The place was a wilderness of autumn gold and purple and violet blue and flaming scarlet and on every side were sheaves of late lilies standing together—lilies which were white or white and ruby. He remembered well when the first of them had been planted that just at this season of the year their late glories should reveal themselves. Late roses climbed and hung and clustered and the sunshine deepening the hue of the yellowing trees made one feel that one stood in an embowered temple of gold.

The choir will now sing a song for us.

SONG – SING A SONG FOR HARVEST

Ingrid: When we grow our own food, we witness first-hand its journey from the soil to our plate, or the farm to our plate. But for the most part, we have to imagine it. The days, weeks and months of preparation, sowing, weeding, watering and feeding: then the harvesting and the storing. And often that’s only the starting point: the flour has still to become our bread and pasta, the milk has still to become our butter, and it still needs to make its way to our supermarkets, shops and markets.

Lucy: When we help to buy the shopping, or put it away in the cupboards and fridge, we become another small link in a very long chain. Without the efforts of so many people, we wouldn't have a fraction of the wonderful food and drink that we are so lucky to have each and every day.

Freddie: Have you ever thought about how many different types of vegetables there are in the world? And how many different types of fruits, grains, herbs and meats there are? It's mind boggling! Here's our harvest alphabet which shows some of them.

Alex: A is for apple, aubergine, apricot, asparagus and avocado. (Aiden)

B is for banana, beetroot, beef, broccoli, barley and Brussels sprouts. (Bethany)

C is for carrot, cauliflower, cinnamon, cabbage, corn, chicken, cheese and cucumber. (Cian)

D is for dill, damson, date and dairy. (Charlotte)

E is for egg, elderberry and eggplant. (Emi)

F is for fig, fennel, fish and flour. (Freddie)

Talia: G is for grape, green bean, grapefruit and ginger. (George)

H is for ham, honey, herbs, hot peppers and honeydew melon. (Haider)

I is for iceberg lettuce, icing sugar and... ice cream! YUM-YUM! (Ingrid)

J is for juice, jasmine, juniper berry, jam and... jelly! YUM-YUM-YUM! (Jack)

K is for kiwi, ketchup, kale and kidney beans. (Kavi)

L is for leek, lentil, liver, lettuce, lemon and lime. (Lucy)

Jacob: M is for mandarin, mustard, mushroom, milk, melon, mango and maple syrup. (Max)

N is for nectarine, nutmeg and nut. (Ethan)

O is for orange, onion, olive, oregano and oats. (Jude)

P is for potato, pork, parsley, passion fruit, pomegranate, papaya, pumpkin, parsnip, peach, pear, plum, peppermint, peas, prunes, peppers and peanuts... phew! (Phoebe)

Q is for quail, quail's egg, quince and Quorn. (Harry)

R is for rhubarb, runner bean, red cabbage, rye, raspberry, raisin and rice. (Rachel)

Lois: S is for sugar, sultana, satsuma, strawberry, spinach, salmon, sage, sweet potato, sunflower oil and sunflower seeds. (Simran)

T is for tomato, thyme, turnip, turkey, tuna and tangerine. (Tom)

U is for uglifruit and unpasteurised milk. (Purdi)

V is for venison, veal, vinegar, vanilla, vine leaves and virgin olive oil. (Valentina)

W is for wheat, watercress, watermelon, walnut, water and wild rice. (Evie)

X is for xigua fruit (which is a type of water melon from China)! (Lilian)

Y is for yam, yucca, yoghurt, yolk, yellow beans and yellow mustard. (Lily)

Z is for zucchini! WOW, what a list! (Primrose)

Please join us in singing 'Joy of the Lord'.

SONG – JOY OF THE LORD

Bethany: This reading is from 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame.

Casually, then, and with seeming indifference, the Mole turned his talk to the harvest that was being gathered in, the towering wagons and their straining teams, the growing ricks, and the large moon rising over bare acres dotted with sheaves. He talked of the reddening apples around, of the browning nuts, of jams and preserves and the distilling of cordials; till by easy stages such as these he reached midwinter, its hearty joys and its snug home life, and then he became simply lyrical.

Rachel: Let us remember all that we have, the wonderful variety of food and drink that we enjoy each day. May we do our best to avoid wasting it, only taking what we need, and do our best to eat whatever we get given and to be thankful for it.

Let us give thanks to all those people involved in the production of our food: from those who grow the crops or rear the animals to those who transport it, process it and distribute it.

Kavi: Let us be grateful to our parents and grandparents for all the time they take in buying and making our food for us, day after day, week after week, year after year. May we not take them for granted, and always remember to thank them for looking after us.

Tom: Let us remember all those people, children and adults alike, in countries throughout the world who are hungry as we speak. In particular, help us to support the charities and organisations which provide food for those who need it most, often in very difficult or dangerous situations.

Lilian: Please sit with your hands comfortably and if you would like to make this prayer your own say 'Amen'.

Dear God,

Thank you for all the lovely food we eat day after day.

Thank you that we don't often feel very hungry

And that when we are hungry we quickly get something to eat.

Please help the children who are hungry today.

Please help the leaders in countries all over the world to work hard

So that people get enough to eat.

Amen.

Purdi: Please join use in the Lord's Prayer. 'Our Father....'

Max: The Harvest Festival has been a key feature within our schools, our churches, our communities and our country for hundreds of years. As summer turns to autumn, as the leaves turn from green to yellow, as the days shorten and the nights draw in, it is right that we come together in celebration and thanksgiving, reflecting on all that our wonderful Earth gives us, and remembering to look after it as well as we can for another year.

Phoebe: Thank you for coming to our harvest festival.