



ST GILES HORSPATH PARISH MAGAZINE

September 2009

From Caroline King, Vicar of Holton, Waterperry, Albury and Waterstock:

As I write this in the middle of August it is hard to imagine that harvest is just around the corner. Harvest is an important time of the year, especially so in small rural communities such as our villages where we have the pleasure of being able to watch crops grow and follow their progress through the year. We can also see where they have suffered as a result of adverse weather, such as the spectacularly heavy thunderstorms we have had recently.



Harvest isn't, and certainly shouldn't be, allowed to be a festival that only has meaning in small, rural farming communities. It is important everywhere; we are all reliant on agriculture and also on the whole of the food industry for our survival. We are just as dependent upon good weather and harvest as any generation in the past.

Harvest touches something ancient and important and that is the desire to give thanks to God for his goodness to us. It is wonderful to be able to decorate our churches with produce and in the context of worship to give thanks to God for the gifts of creation. We are able in our services to give thanks to God for the harvest and for the food and drink we need for our survival.

It is also important in the context of our worship to offer our concern for others, both at home and abroad. The last few years have been difficult for farmers; the agricultural industry seems to have limped from one crisis to the next. We pay higher prices for our food, but farmers do not always benefit from these. The large supermarkets have huge buying power.

The harvest hymn *Come ye thankful people come* has a chorus saying: "all is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin". For many farmers and agricultural workers this has been at the cost of many sleepless nights.

In many ways we are the fortunate ones. In this country we still have real problems with poverty but most people have enough food to eat, some of us too much! Vast parts of the world are not as lucky as we are. Extremes of weather worldwide, possibly caused by the West's over consumption of food and resources, have had a devastating effect on some of the poorest and most desperate people in the world. Our harvest celebrations would be glib and lack depth if we didn't bring to our worship concern for those both at home and abroad who are not as privileged as we are.

We all need food and water to survive. We are fortunate to have these in abundance. Thanksgiving and concern for others are important parts of our Christian lives; we are especially aware of them at harvest. I hope you enjoy your harvest celebrations. Remember that when we give thanks to God for our harvest, our food and our health, we also pray for those who are hungry and do not know where their next meal is coming from.

With best wishes,
Caroline King

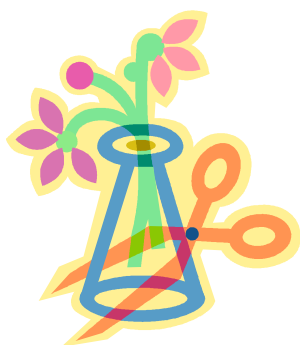
CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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| 6th | (The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity)
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion |
| 13th | (The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity)
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. United Service of Parish Communion |
| 20th | (The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity)
11.00 a.m. Family Service |
| 27th | (The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity)
11.00 a.m. United Service at the Methodist Chapel |



Choral Evensong. There will be a special service of Choral Evensong held at St Mary's Garsington on Sunday, 6th September at 5.00 p.m. to raise money for the churches of the Cluster. If you would like to sing in the choir please contact Jonathan on 361381; rehearsals begin at 2.00 p.m. Tea will be provided from 4.00 p.m.

Messy Church - on Sunday, 13th September from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m. in the Methodist Chapel in Horspath. For anyone who is under 18 or a child at heart, it is a must.



FLOWER ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

6 th	Gill Gray Carol Cuthbert	13 th	Nancy Llewelyn Muriel Walker
20 th	Nell Gray Penny Mercer	27 th	Nesta Long Friends of Horspath Churches

HORSPATH SENIOR RESIDENTS' CLUB

Wednesday, 2nd Sept: Mystery Tour. Coach leaves at 2.00 p.m. Fare is £5.00.

Wednesday, 16th Sept: A talk by Alan Copeland - *Tales of the Unexpected*. 2.00 p.m. in the village hall.

Wednesday, 7th October: Day trip to London. Coach leaves at 9.00 a.m. Fare is £8.00.



- Sheila Dandridge

HORSPATH GARDENING CLUB

The start of a new season ...

Horspath Gardening Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Methodist Chapel at 8.00 p.m. We welcome everybody so come and enjoy an interesting talk, followed by refreshments and a time to catch up on all the gardening news. The next event is:

Tuesday, 8th September - our summer visits are over so we'll be back inside to welcome David Macey who will talk about '*BBOWT Past, Present and Future*' and will be including the areas that surround Horspath, as well as other local sites.

Tuesday, 13th October - Gordon Demster will be bringing some special *Rural Tools* from his museum at Waterperry. He will be telling us the stories behind the tools and how they are used. Gordon makes the past come to life with his knowledge and enthusiasm.



There will be a charge to cover the costs of visiting speakers and the hire of the hall. For further information contact Sheila Frankum on 872793.

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Dates for your diary:

5th September - quiet day at Begbroke Priory.

10th September - coffee morning in Methodist Hall in aid of Churchill Hospital Cancer Research, 10.00 a.m.

