

Dates for your diary

2nd Thursday 10.30am – Holy Communion at St. John's.
4th Saturday 12noon Holy Communion and shared lunch at Meadowbank, Newtonmore.

5th Harvest Festival 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.
9th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

12th Pentecost 18 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.
15th Wednesday Carrbridge Homegroup.
16th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

19th Pentecost 19 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.
23rd Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.



26th Pentecost 20 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.
28th Wednesday 7.15pm Vestry Meeting.
29th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

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October 2014

St. John the Baptist Rothiemurchus

Some thoughts on Harvest



'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' (Gen 8:22)

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*,

"Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread

the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

Some harvest prayers.



We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed. And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.

God of harvest, Gardener supreme, you place us at the centre, feed us, equip us and, having provided for us, look to a different harvest - a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us - that our lives might bring glory to you.



For the promise of harvest contained within a seed we thank you. For the oak tree within an acorn; the bread within a grain; the apple within a pip; the mystery of nature gift wrapped for us to sow, we thank you.

"We marvel at the Creator, not only as the one who made heaven and earth, sun and ocean, elephants, camels, horses, oxen, leopards, bears and lions, but also as the one who made the small creatures: ants, gnats, flies, worms and the like - things whose shape we know better than their names. And as in all creation we revere his skill, so the one whose mind is given to Christ is earnest in small things as in great, knowing that an account must be given even for an idle word."
Jerome (331-420) Church Father.

Harvest Festival Sunday October 5th Offerings of dried and canned goods for the Highland Food Bank.



Many thanks to those who helped before, during and after Roddy's funeral. It was a fitting tribute to a very special person. May his legacy of gentleness, encouragement and faith live on through us at St. John's.

Carrbridge Homegroup this month is on Wednesday 15th October.
Vestry Meeting – Wednesday October 28th at 7.15pm.
There will be a Joint Vestry Meeting with St. Columba's on November 12th.

Thankyou to all who organised and helped at the Hall Coffee Morning. The wonderful sum of £437.50 was raised for new Nativity figures.

Please pray for Patricia as she soon begins a course of chemotherapy treatment at Raigmore. Pray too for John and for their family as they support her.

Check out the new website for the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness at <http://moray.anglican.org/>

With a depleted Ministry Team for the time being, we are hoping that every member of St. John's will consider how they can help to make the church run smoothly over the next few months. There are lots of practical ways you can help ... as well as praying that we will all grow in faith and trust as a church family.