

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩ September 2022

## Harvest - a time for generosity

September is the time of year when we celebrate Harvest, or Creationtide - a time to reflect on God's generous provision and an opportunity to consider how generosity is being cultivated within each of us.

This is particularly important right now, as we witness the growing needs in our churches and communities, so this is a timely opportunity to reflect on our own experience of that generosity and consider how we can help. To enable this, the national church has created an excellent resource for churches and individuals – Generosity Week.

Gary Watson, Lead Giving and Funding Adviser says, "Generosity Week is a fabulous opportunity



to reflect, either individually or together, on the generosity we've experienced from God and that which we see in ourselves and others. What we do in response to that has incredible power to change lives and situations because generosity is so contagious! I'd encourage all churches to run a Generosity Week each year but if your church isn't able to be involved you can still personally

join in with the national church week online."

Generosity Week kicks off on Sunday, 25 September with a national online Eucharist to celebrate generosity. Throughout the following week, daily reflections and podcasts will be available to help us consider the different facets of generosity and the week ends with a final Eucharist of thanksgiving on Sunday, 2 October. Church resources, including resources for children and young people and ideas of how to celebrate generosity in our wider community can be found at [churchofengland.org/generosity-week](https://www.churchofengland.org/generosity-week) or look out for #GenerosityWeek on your social media channels ■

## News in brief

### Lambeth 2022

Bishop Michael and Bishop Ruth were in Canterbury in August, attending the Lambeth Conference, the once-in-a-decade gathering of around 650 Anglican bishops from 150 countries. Bishop Michael took the opportunity to meet with the bishops attending from our link dioceses in Zambia, a number of whom visited Bath and Wells in the run up to the conference. In the conference's joyous closing service Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said, "Go in peace as God's church to love and serve God's world!" [bathandwells.org.uk/lambeth-2022](https://bathandwells.org.uk/lambeth-2022) ■



### A chaplain for older people

In July, Wendy Haslam was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain at Wells Cathedral.

As well as fulfilling her role of helping older people reflect on their spiritual journey, and to act as an advocate for the needs of older people in church and beyond, it is hoped she can help grow the ecumenical network of Anna Chaplains in Bath and Wells.

Anna Chaplaincy seeks to accompany and be with older people of all faiths, cultures and spiritualities in their later years. It is person-centred and offers spiritual care to all. Read more: [bathandwells.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy](https://bathandwells.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy) ■

### A fresh start

Approval has been given for new Church of England school to open on the Misterton School site, near Crewkerne, following its closure in July 2022.

The Bath and Wells Education team will work with Somerset County Council to support the development of therapeutic education provision at Misterton, where vulnerable children will be able to re-engage with education.

Bishop Ruth says, "We hope and pray that the care and education that the children receive at the centre will help them, and their loved ones, enjoy a much brighter future."

[bathandwells.org.uk/misterton](https://bathandwells.org.uk/misterton) ■



# The wonder of harvest

By Alistair Redfern, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Bath & Wells

In a simple sense harvest is about receiving – receiving the gifts provided from the fruits of the Earth on which our lives depend for survival. Harvest is also about giving – giving thanks for such wonderful and vital resources to provide us with what we need to live day by day.

But, of course, what we receive through the wonder of harvest does not just happen! Human beings who benefit from harvest have to contribute significantly to growing, pruning, fertilising, collecting and distributing the produce. We share in the creation as well as in the fruits.

This deep truth should remind us of a number of important factors around receiving and giving:

- each human life is received

from the miracle of Creation, and is called to play a part in enabling this creation to produce the fruits that sustain us all – food, fellowship, dreams and hopes.

- we receive guidance in how to fulfil this primary purpose in our lives through the teaching and example of Jesus Christ.

- the key is partnership and participation - we are part of one body, with one Head. This is my body: do this in remembrance of me.

- the fact of sin and selfishness means that millions of God's children don't receive a fair share of God's harvest and are left hungry and struggling.

Harvest is the time for giving:

- giving thanks to God for our creation, and for our calling to play

a part in the whole of the creation being fruitful.

- giving careful consideration to our failings to work harder for the inclusion of the excluded.

- giving priority to crafting actions which will enable a fairer sharing of the miracle of the harvest.

Harvest is a good time to go to church – let us join others in giving thanks, confessing our failings, and being joined in a universal body that seeks to include all God's children in the sharing of the fruits of the Earth. Give thanks, confess, commit to making a difference – and be part of our public witness for Harvest and Giving.

Every blessing  
Bishop Alistair

## With God's help

Revd Kevin Wright has witnessed generosity in action since he became Rector of The Benefice of Three Saints in 2019.

### How have you witnessed generosity in your church?

Having arrived here in March 2019, I was just getting my head round things when the pandemic hit. My predecessor and his then treasurer had the vision to encourage generosity and to encourage the church family to donate via standing order but unfortunately with limited success, now most give regularly by this method.

### What changed?

It was a combination of factors. A new face making the request can help get the message across and we also made clear that we were requesting donations to our Church Life Fund, that the money donated would be spent on keeping the



Revd Kevin and the church family going by supporting mission and ministry, and I think that helped. The pandemic also had an impact as people appreciated our online ministry and were mindful that they couldn't donate in person. The whole process was underpinned with prayer.

### So have people been more generous?

Yes. We have moved from being in a position of struggling to pay all our

parish share, the pot that all churches contribute into to pay for ministry and mission across the diocese as a whole, to being in a position to be able to pay for more than we were asked for which is wonderful.

### What about church buildings?

Unfortunately, it isn't all good news. Like many churches, we are still struggling to pay the bills for our church buildings, which rely on separate accounts. But I give thanks to God for the committed church family we have here, for their incredible generosity and for the position we are in.

If your church is looking for advice or support on giving go to: [bathandwells.org.uk/giving-and-funding](http://bathandwells.org.uk/giving-and-funding) ■

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