St. Philip's News



October 2026

Harvest: Gratitude in an Age of Plenty

October is traditionally the month when we celebrate our Harvest Festivals. However, it sometimes seems a bit odd to celebrate this ancient festival in a supermarket age. Our ancestors knew, in their bones, what it meant to depend on the weather, the soil, the turn of the seasons. A bad harvest wasn't an inconvenience - it was hunger. Real, close-to-home hunger. So, when they brought their sheaves and their first fruits to church, they weren't performing gratitude. They were living it.

We don't live like that anymore. Most of us could walk into a shop tomorrow and find strawberries in October, bread from three counties away, food from every corner of the globe stacked up under one roof. It's a genuine wonder, if you stop to think about it - and most of us don't stop to think about it, because we don't have to anymore.

And that's exactly the trouble. Abundance has a funny way of dulling our sense of wonder. When everything is available all the time, nothing feels like a gift. It just feels like what's there. We forget that every single thing on the shelf started somewhere - in soil, in weather, in the hands of someone who planted and tended and picked. We forget, too, how much of it we waste. Britain throws away something like 6.4 million tonnes of food a year that could have been eaten. That's not just a statistic to feel vaguely guilty about - it's a sign of how far we've drifted from the people who once knew, harvest by harvest, exactly what their food had cost.

So, what does Harvest mean now, in a world of plenty? I think it means choosing to notice again. Choosing gratitude on purpose, rather than waiting for scarcity to teach it to us the hard way. It means looking at a loaf of bread and remembering it didn't begin in a factory - it began in a field, under the same sky we stand under on a Sunday morning.

It might also mean asking harder questions. Who grew this? Who went without, so that it could reach us? What would it look like to hold our abundance more loosely, and share it more freely?

Harvest was never really about the food. It was about remembering where it all comes from - and who it all belongs to in the end. Jesus once said not to store up treasures that rust and rot, but to hold things with open hands. Perhaps that's the real Harvest gift: not just full barns, but open ones.

Revd Jonathan



Services in October

Friday 2 October

2.00pm **Communion**
Priest: ***Gordon Cooper***

Sunday 4 October

9.30am **Morning Worship - Trinity 18**

1st Reading: **Phil 3: 4b-14**
Jill Waddington

2nd Reading: **Matt 21: 33-end**
Maureen Martin

Intercessions: *Beckie Briggs*

Friday 9 October

2.00pm **Prayer Meeting**

Sunday 11 October

9.30am **Communion - Trinity 19**

1st Reading: **2 Cor 9: 6-end**
Sally Edward

Gospel: **Luke 12: 16-30 or Luke 17: 11-19**
Chris Prior

Intercessions: *John Edward*

Friday 16 October

2.00pm **Communion**
Priest: ***Robin Paterson***

Sunday 18 October

9.30am **All Together Worship - Trinity 20 / Harvest**

1st Reading: **1 Thess 1: 1-10**

2nd Reading: **Matt 22: 15-22**

Friday 23 October

2.00pm **Prayer Meeting**

Sunday 25 October

9.30am **Communion - Bible Sunday**

1st Reading: **Col 3:12-17**
Steve Aldwin

Gospel: **Matt 24: 30-35**
Christine Dagg

Intercessions: *Ann Riley*

6.30pm **Taizé Service @ Thorner**

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for entries into the November issue of this Newsletter is
Tuesday 27th October
Please send any items to admin@elmetetrinity.org
If you need anything advertising between editions of the Newsletter, please contact Diane who will send out information via email and Facebook.

Need prayer?

Got something on your heart and need a listening ear? Our Prayer Ministry Team are here every Sunday after the morning service, just come over to the Prayer Area on the right side of the church.
It's private, confidential, and you'll be with people who care.



No Trick, Our Treat

6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

This event has been running for over 10 years. Last year we could not do it due to the building work, but we had people come to church expecting the event. This year we can open the doors again and welcome people into the light!

But we need your help to plan, pray and prepare

Can you help?

plan and organise an activity

run a craft

cook hot dogs

invite someone

supervise a campfire idea

serve hot drinks

welcome people

give out treat boxes

run a prayer activity

organise a music playlist

buy sweets

bake

ideas for games outside

pray during the event

please contact
beckie@the-briggs.co.uk

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

This month we have Robin Paterson giving his talk, entitled "Rural Philippines".
This will be on Monday, 5th in St Philips at 7.30pm.

On 2nd November we will welcome Clare de Normanville to talk about "Robert Owen and the Rochdale Pioneers".

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Our members are active in 83 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities to build a future where everyone thrives.

Ending violence, ending poverty, ending injustice. We are a truly worldwide Christian movement. And a local one!

We usually meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at St Philip's church.

If you want to know more, please contact:

Sally Wray ~ 07484 152 886
Elizabeth Lawson ~ 07518 642 942



Sunday 18th October
All Together Worship

Once again our Harvest Festival will be to provide supplies for the Foodbank in Seacroft.
We'd like to provide a bumper harvest!!
Tins and long-life items are very much appreciated.

If you would prefer to made a monetary donation to the Foodbank, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Foodbank" in the collection.

HOME GROUP

Friendship & Fellowship

Prayer

Laughter

A traditional hymn or two

WHERE: John & Sally Edward's home
73 Nook Road, Scholes LS15 4AX

WHEN: First Wednesday of the Month
7:30pm - 9:00pm

Everyone is welcome!
Especially if you are not a regular at a home group — no need to book, just turn up.

I will once again be selling Christmas cards to support Martin House Children's Hospice. The cards are £3.95 for a pack of 10. I take cash or a cheque payable to "Martin House".
I will bring the cards to St Philips on 11th & 25th October and 15th & 22nd November.
Thanks Sally Wray (07484 152886)



Taizé

ST PETER'S, THORNER
25 OCTOBER @ 6:30pm

COME AND EXPERIENCE TAIZÉ WORSHIP

If you've never been to a Taizé worship service before, why not come along and discover something a little different?

Taizé worship offers a peaceful space to **slow down, be still and draw closer to God**. It includes simple, beautiful sung and chanted prayers, short liturgical readings, periods of silence and time for quiet reflection and prayer.

There's no pressure to say or do anything — simply come as you are, take a breath, and allow the music, silence and stillness to speak to you.

Come and rest awhile in God's presence.



FOOD BANKS NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

We are supporting the work of Seacroft Parish Foodbank.

Drop off points in Scholes:
. Church
. Four Pines, Elmete Croft

Elmete Trinity Benefice



ST. PHILIP'S FLOWERS

Week	Sponsor
4 October	Pat Ribsdale
11 October	Karen Lawson
18 October	Harvest
25 October	Pam Carlton

Thank you for the beautiful flowers we have in church each week which are sponsored by YOU as shown above.

There are some vacancies over the year, so if you would like to sponsor the flowers one week, please see Pat Ridsdale or Beryl Walker.

And Thank you!

Prayer Group

What is prayer?

And why do we do it?

Prayer is our way of communicating with God and, incidentally, with each other.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoon of every month to discuss and then pray for people and events within our local community and in the wider world.

If you want to know more, please speak to Ros Loach or email admin@elmetetrinity.org.
You would be very welcome to come along at any time, as and when you can, for a cup of tea and chat to find out what it is all about.

GIVING

SUPPORT THE WORK OF ST PHILIP'S

St Philip's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community and maintain its buildings and surroundings.

If you would like to support us, you can donate in the plate or use the contactless device at the entrance to church. If you would like to give regularly, you can set up a Standing Order or use a Giving Envelope.

More info from Tim South, the Treasurer or Revd Jonathan.



Standing Order

Giving Envelope





Collection Plate

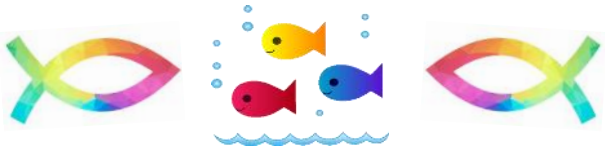
Contactless



giftaid it

If you pay UK Income Tax, we encourage you to Gift Aid all your giving to church. Gift Aid in the UK is a scheme enabling registered charities to reclaim the tax from the Government on a donation made by a UK taxpayer, increasing the donation by 25p for every £1 you give, without costing you any extra.

Little Fishes



Parent & Toddler Group

For ages 0 – 4

Every Tuesday
10.30am – 12.00pm



Drop in for friendly chats, craft activities and coffee & cakes

Find us on Facebook
www.stphilips-scholes.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Is there something you'd like us to pray about? You can send your prayer requests by using this QR Code and completing the form.

All prayer requests are confidential.

THORNER TUESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

meets at 7.30pm in the home of John and Jill Waddington: Beckfields, Station Lane, Thorner, LS14 3JF.

Many people from Scholes attend the group and you would be more than welcome to join us. If you are interested, please do speak to either John or Jill and they will give you more info.

CARING FOR EACH OTHER...



If you haven't seen someone for a while, please either try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try and make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the prayer list (using their full name or just first name). A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.

Help St Philip's to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Come along and enjoy a warm welcome!

Our Community Café is open **every Friday in October, 9.00am–12.00pm**, serving up:



- ☑ Great coffee & tea
- ☑ Irresistible homemade cakes
- ☑ Bacon butties
- ☑ Toasted teacakes
- ☑ Crumpets

And don't forget our **special Saturday opening** on **24th October, 10.00am–12.00pm**!

Good food · Great coffee · Friendly company

Everyone is welcome!
Come along, grab a cuppa and stay for a chat!

Elmete Elderberries

Every Monday 1pm - 3pm
(except Bank Holidays)

Each week we offer:

*Gentle, chair-based, exercise
*Help with family history research
*Crafting & card-making
*Games, Bridge, Jigsaws & Dominoes
*Drawing & Painting
*Brass Band & Folk Singing
*Knitting, Crochet & Needlework
*Computer & Camera assistance
*Refreshments & a warm welcome

Drop in to learn new things, make new friends and enjoy a cuppa

For Everyone: body, mind and spirit

Service of Light



The Service of Light at All Saints', Barwick in Elmet is on Sunday 25th October 2026 at 4pm. This is a special memorial service where we will give thanks for the lives of those we have loved and lost. Through readings, music, prayer, and the lighting of candles, we will together honour their memory and remind one another of the light that shines in the darkness, a light that the darkness has not overcome. If you would like to add the name of a loved one to the list, please include complete the form online at http://tiny.cc/serviceoflight2026 *or scan this QR code.*

And a good time was had by all!

"I had a wonderful time of fellowship with my church family!"

"Really getting to know you better, God, alongside my church family."



"Getting to know some people far better – thank you"

Walking in the lovely grounds, appreciating nature & God's wonderful world."

"Having fellowship + fun with everyone especially with the young people. Thank you Lord."

"I feel like I have received a big hug from Jesus through all my church family interactions. Thank you Jesus."

"Great to get to know everybody a little bit more in such lovely surroundings."

I was looking forward to the weekend away to find time to re-connect with Jesus and I came away feeling that God had given me a big hug through sharing, praying and conversations and laughter with my church family. Just what I needed.

"Excellent fellowship, learning & reflection"











I'd like to say that my children were reminded that they are still very much part of the church family but also a big thank you to Tim and Ann for playing games with them - hearing all the laughter was so lovely!

In the Sunday morning Bible Study about the Good Samaritan someone remarked about the priest and the Levite walking past the injured man, that perhaps they did so because they were afraid that they too might be attacked if they stopped, even though they knew they should have helped him. A thought: How often do we fail to do what we know The Lord would have us do, because we are afraid of the possible consequences?

"Wonderful Fellowship, especially with getting to know new friends better."







The labyrinth which was something I really wanted to see. It makes you slow down and think about what you are doing in your life.

The grounds were lovely and I enjoyed walking round and finding the prayer/activity stations. It was very peaceful and there were some lovely trees, plants and flowers.







Colossians 3 vs 15 spoke to both of us, as we were thankful for a lovely weekend.

Very enjoyable weekend - it was particularly pleasant to spend time with members of the church family and away from the church environment.

Good fellowship with like minded people and reflecting on what we had experienced, from Morning Prayer to catching biscuits from noses to mouths.

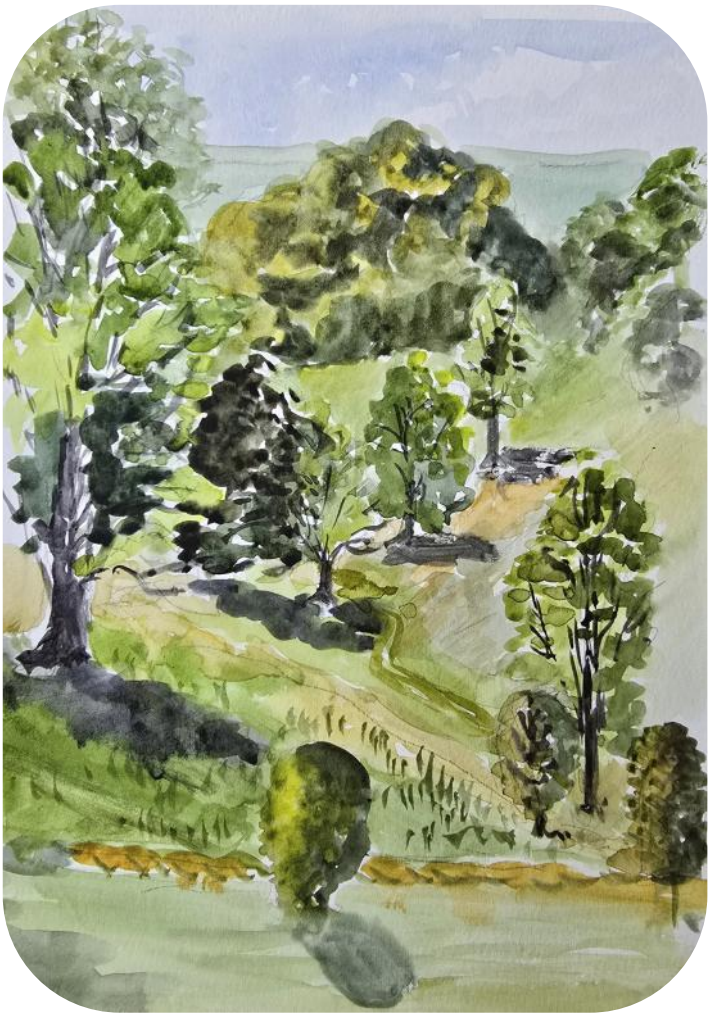
It was wonderful to be with my church family in such beautiful surroundings. I particularly loved spending a very peaceful and creative afternoon making a fish for one of the banners. I was sat in a warm, sunny room, chatting occasionally with whoever came in. Perfect!

What a small world! Seeing the unusual surname of manager, I discovered that we had been in the same tutor group at Boston Spa School from 1975–1980, and we spent a lovely few minutes reminiscing about our school days.



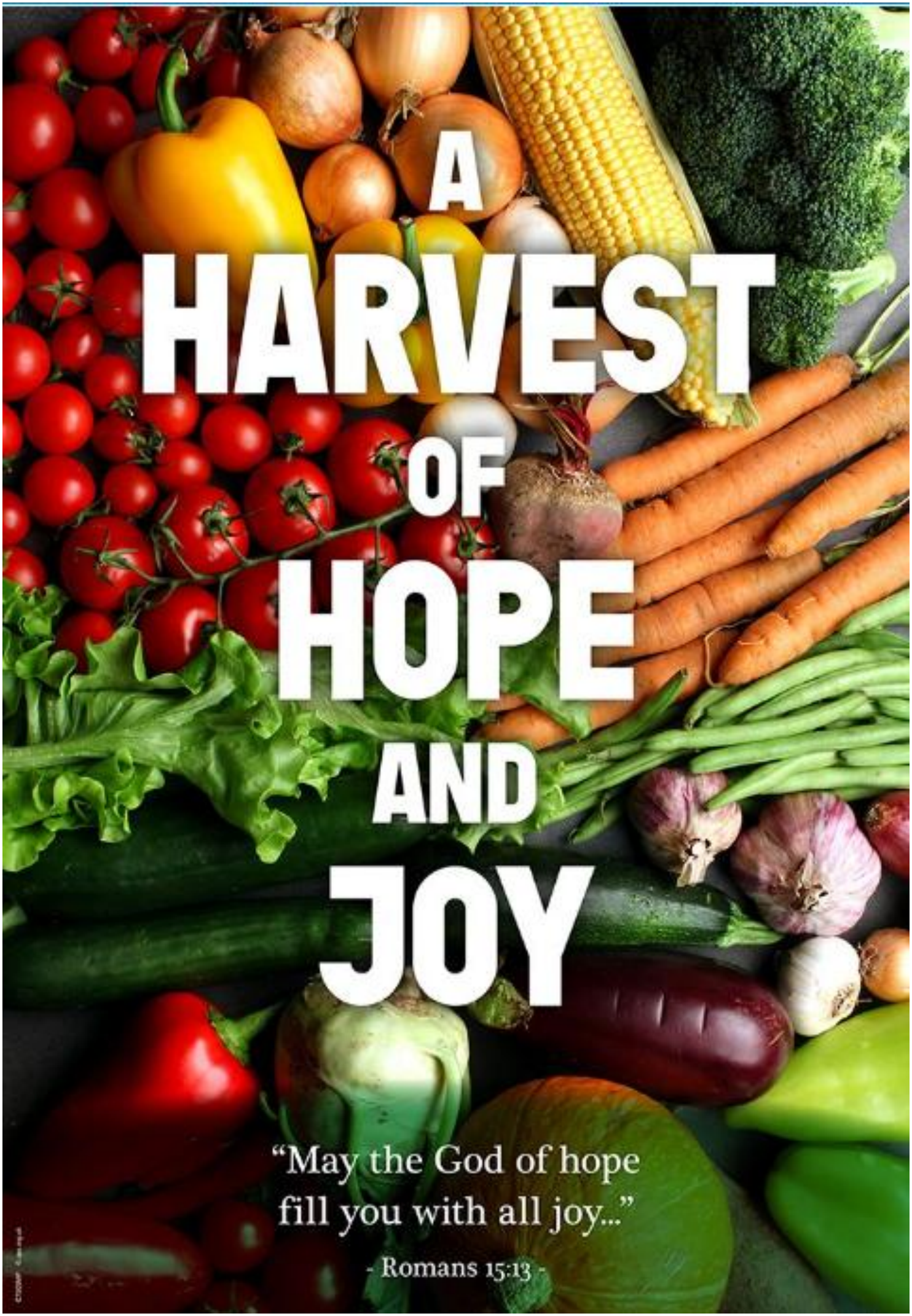


The Weekend Away gave us a welcome opportunity to get to know folk on more than a superficial level, particularly as we alternate between attending St Philip's and St Peter's, Thorner. Consequently we came away with a greater sense of mutual bonding and belonging. The surroundings of Wydale, the weather, the meals and welcome were an added bonus. So too for John, who is trying to regain strength in his legs, were the slopes and stairs!!



"A joy to consolidate the bonds of Christian love and sense of unity. Thanks for being present with us throughout the weekend."




A
HARVEST
OF
HOPE
AND
JOY
"May the God of hope
fill you with all joy..."
- Romans 15:13 -

How to Contact Us

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

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Safeguarding Officer
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✉ safeguarding@the-briggs.co.uk

If you would like to speak to someone about any aspect of St Philip's Church safeguarding policy, or you have any concerns, please speak to Beckie in the first instance. You can also contact Revd Jonathan Brennan.

