

Welcome to the Parish Church of St Mark

*Serving the people of Broomhill & Broomhall*

# ABUNDANCE



## Harvest Festival

A Service of Christian Hospitality  
for All the Ages

Sunday 7 October 2012 at 10.00 am

## Welcome

Welcome and warmest greetings, especially if you are new to St Mark's. May you discover here an abundance of warmth and welcome and find companionship for life's journey. Your presence enriches this act of worship. Thank you. Please introduce yourself to a member of staff or welcome team before leaving.

## About this service

Today's service has been planned with all age groups in mind so there are no separate activities for children.

We are using the theme of “**Abundance**” for this year's Harvest Festival Service. We are blessed with an abundance of food and yet we waste so much of it; an abundance of people and yet so many feel lonely; an abundance of resources and yet for some their basic needs are still not met. This Service is an invitation to enter into a spirit of gratitude for what we do have so that as a people blessed with plenty we may share well with others. This year we shall be taking a look at some local projects including the “Abundance” harvesting project, Foodbanks and the Cathedral Archer Project. After the Service we hope you will buy the jams and pickles, lovingly prepared from local produce and raising much-needed funds for Christian Aid.

**All are welcome** to receive the bread and the wine at Communion, or to come forward for a blessing if you prefer. All the bread is Gluten-free (but it contains egg and milk).



To use the *Induction Loop*, please select the *T Setting* on your hearing aid. We ask that *mobile phones* and *paggers* be switched off or set to silent mode. Large print versions of this and other worship materials are available on request.

### **As we prepare for worship we sing together:**

Come all you people, come and praise your maker (x3)

Come now and worship the Lord

# Gathering

Welcome and Introduction to the theme

## Opening Sentences

Let us give thanks to the Spirit  
whose restless energy dances through all creation.  
**Spirit of creation and community**  
**we celebrate your power.**

Let us give thanks to the Spirit  
whose tender embrace gives birth to our longing.  
**Spirit of creation and community**  
**we celebrate your power.**

Let us give thanks to the Spirit  
whose urgent voice summons us to justice.  
**Spirit of creation and community**  
**we celebrate your power.**

*Jan Berry.*

## Hymn

WE PLOUGH the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand:  
God sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us  
are sent from heav'n above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.*

The Owner and Creator  
of planets near and far,  
gives us the earth to cherish,  
and life to make or mar,  
with wondrous power to increase  
and share our daily bread,  
that friends might welcome strangers  
and every child be fed.

We thank thee then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good:  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
for all thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

*Vv 1 & 3 – Matthias Claudius; v 2 – Brian Wren.*

### Prayers of Penitence *(we remain standing)*

Generous God,  
you have made more than enough  
and your love and care are prodigal;  
we confess that we have been blind to your beauty,  
selfish in our stewardship  
and arrogant in our taking and using what is not ours.

**Our hands have been closed  
when they should have been open in sharing,  
our hearts have been cold  
when they should have been warm with your love,  
we have created chaos and distress.**

Forgive us, when we have left our sisters and brothers  
hungry and in need;  
forgive us, when we have exploited your world  
and not recognised how precious it is.

**Send your Spirit to move amongst us  
to make a new creation in Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*The Baptist Union.*

### Collect *(as we stand, we pray)*

God of faithfulness,  
your generous love supplies us  
with the fruits of the earth in their seasons.  
Give us grace to be thankful for your gifts,  
to use them wisely,  
and to share our plenty with others;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Baptist Union.*

## Attending

Gospel Reading – Luke 12.16-21 (*we sit for the reading from the Gospel*)

Here is a farmer who is very rich.

The farmer is rich because his soil is rich; his corn grows faster than anyone else's, and higher than anyone else's.

And at harvest time he has much more of it than anyone else!

Lucky man.

This year he has so much corn that his old barn can't hold it all.

It is bursting at the seams.

"No problem," says the farmer. "I will pull it down and build a bigger one.

Then next year I will be rich enough to take life easy."

So he builds a bigger barn.

But when harvest comes round again, the new barn is not big enough.

The greedy farmer has planted more corn than before.

And carrots too.

"No problem," says the farmer. "I will build an even bigger, better barn.

Then next year I will be richer still and then I can really enjoy myself."

So he builds a bigger, better barn.

But at harvest time, even the bigger, better barn is not big enough.

Again the farmer has planted too much corn, too many carrots, (and a few cabbages as well.)

This time the farmer says to himself, "I will build the biggest, grandest barn the world has ever seen. And then I shall be so rich, I need never work again!"

The barn he builds reaches up to the sky. When it is finished the farmer sighs a great big sigh.

"Tomorrow I will gather in the harvest and then at last I shall begin to enjoy myself. I know! I'll have a party!"

But that very night he dies in his sleep. Just like that!

The birds eat his corn, the rabbits dig up his carrots

and his cabbages go to seed. The big barn stands empty and the rich farmer never does get to enjoy his money.

Poor man.

Jesus says, "How silly it is for a man to spend his whole life storing up riches for himself. To God, he really is a poor man."

*From Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen's 'Stories Jesus Told.'*

Reflection (*Rev'd Sue Hammersley and others*)

## Our Presentation of Gifts

*Harvest produce and items for the Cathedral's Archer Project are brought forward and placed around the altar table while the congregation sings,*

Autumn days, when the grass is jewelled  
and the silk inside a chestnut shell.  
Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled  
all these things I love so well:

*So I mustn't forget  
No, I mustn't forget  
To say a great big thank you  
I mustn't forget.*

Clouds that look like familiar faces  
and a winter's moon with frosted rings.  
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces  
and the song the milkman sings:

Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered  
and a swallow curving in the sky.  
Shoes so comfy though they're worn out and they're battered  
and the taste of apple pie:

Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling  
and a minnow darting down a stream.  
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering and stalling  
and a win for my home team:

*Estelle White.*

*'Lions' offer symbols of thankfulness.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

We bring these harvest gifts, and give thanks to God.

**God who has blessed us with abundance:  
we give thanks for our riches,  
for the skill and patience of farmers,  
and for your gifts of fertility and growth.  
We pray you plant your word so deep within us,  
that faith may grow to full maturity,  
and our lives bring forth much fruit in good works. Amen.**

*Christian Ecology Link (adapted).*

# Responding

Prayers of Solidarity & Concern, led by Liz Wallis.

*The following bidding and response is used.*

As we are blessed.

**May we bless others.**

## Gift of Peace

Those who sow in peace  
raise a harvest of righteousness.

*James 3:18.*

May the peace of God be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

## Hymn

*A collection is taken for the ministry of St Mark's and for the work of Christian Aid. If you are a taxpayer and are not currently a member of the church's planned giving scheme, please place your gift in one of the envelopes provided, writing your name and address on the front. Thank you.*

FOR THE FRUITS of his creation,  
thanks be to God;  
for his gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

For the harvests of his Spirit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

*Fred Pratt Green.*

# Abiding

## Preparation

*Tokens of our response to God, bread and wine, and the collection, are offered.*

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring bread and wine, made by many people's work,  
from an unjust world where some have plenty  
and most go hungry.**

At this table all are fed, and no-one is turned away.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Brian Wren.*

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Creator God,  
in whose garden our story began;  
we praise and bless you for your continued  
nurture and care as we grow in your kingdom.  
We thank you for Jesus,  
who through his life,  
death and resurrection  
opened the way to fullness of life.

With angels and archangels,  
and all who share in your life-giving love  
we praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Be with us now, creator God, as we remember Jesus,  
who, on the night before he died, took bread and wine,  
blessed them and gave them to his friends, saying,  
'This is my body, given for you.  
This is my blood, shed for you.  
Eat and drink to remember me.'

Come freshly to us now, Lord God,  
and bless these gifts of bread and wine.  
As we receive them,  
may we be rooted and grounded more deeply  
in your love.

Nourish us with your life-giving Spirit,  
and bring us at last to our full-flowering,  
where we shall glorify you for ever. **Amen**

*Ann Lewin.*

## Lord's Prayer & Communion

**OUR FATHER** in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many,  
we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

This is the table not of the Church,  
but of the Lord.  
It has been made ready for those who love him  
and who want to love him more.  
So come, you who have much faith  
and you who have little;  
you who have tried to follow  
and you who have failed.  
Come, not because I invite you:  
it is our Lord;  
and it is his will that those who seek him  
should meet him here.

*Iona Community*

*All are welcome to share in the communion through receiving the bread and wine or, if preferred, a prayer of blessing. **Gluten-free bread rolls are used.***

*During administration, we sing together:*

God bless to us our bread,  
and give bread to all those who are hungry,  
and hunger for justice to those who are fed.  
God bless to us our bread.

*Argentinian arr. John L Bell (b1949)*

*Afterwards, the choir will sing, 'Praise, O praise our God and King,' by Martin How.*

## Venturing

### Prayers of Commitment

Let us pray.

**GRACIOUS GOD**  
**we thank you for inviting us**  
**to share the hospitality of your table**  
**and to enjoy the blessings of a bountiful earth.**  
**Call forth in us the same generosity**  
**as we find in you.**  
**In the power of your Spirit,**  
**raise up in us a hunger for justice,**  
**a commitment to kindness**  
**and a passion for service,**  
**that we may be a blessing in the world. Amen.**

## Notices

### Blessing

May God bless us with strength  
to seek justice. **Amen.**

May God bless us with wisdom  
to care for the earth. **Amen.**

May God bless us with generosity  
to share all that we've been given. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God,  
Creator, Christ and Sacred Spirit,  
rest upon you and all whom you love,  
both living and departed,  
now and always. **Amen.**

### Hymn

NOW WE SING a harvest song,  
clear and joyful, loud and strong;  
think of bread and think of meat,  
think of all we have to eat;  
all God's gifts to us in love,  
earth and rain and sun above,  
thank you, God, for all you give,  
thank you, God, by whom we live.

Now we sing a sadder song  
of injustice, hunger, wrong;  
those with not enough to eat,  
suffering every sort of need.  
They've no home, no work, no pay,  
scraping through from day to day.  
Do they thank you that they live?  
Thank you, God, that we can give.

As we sing our harvest song,  
clear and joyful, loud and strong,  
help us, Father, now to see  
how to set those people free;  
how to share the gifts you give  
so that we may also live,  
so the harvest song may sound  
to your praise the earth around.

*Alex Mitchell.*

**Commission** *(please face the back of church)*

Freely you have received, freely give.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Musical Offering:*

*'Our Hay it is Mowed,' from King Arthur, Henry Purcell.*

*At the end of the service, you are invited to take a biscuit to share with those around you (gluten-free biscuits are available).*

*If possible, please share with someone you don't know very well. If you're looking for a conversation starter, how about: "Do you like your name? If not, what name would you choose for yourself?"*

**Refreshments are served in the lounge,  
followed by a shared lunch.**

**All are welcome,  
please stay if you can.**

*The following sources have been used in compiling this service: 'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England'; 'Gathering for Worship,' The Baptist Union of Great Britain; Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen's 'Stories Jesus Told; resources from Christian Ecology Link; 'Harvest for the World' edited by Geoffrey Duncan and texts crafted locally. Hymns and songs are reproduced under Church Copyright Licence Number 294846.*