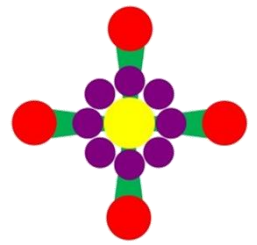


The Benefice of  
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
**TRINITY 17**  
Sunday after Harvest



Call to worship

Holy Spirit of God

**We invite you among us.**

As we come to celebrate your harvest

And to pray for your justice

**We also ask you to bring your peace.**

So that the quiet place inside us may speak

**In stillness may we be at one with you.**

**Amen.**

Creator God, You make us welcome.

We are the work of your hand.

You give us life in all its fulness.

May our hearts and our minds,

our prayers and our actions,

be shaped by your will

and inspired by your love.

**Amen.**

As we prepare for worship now,

Our good lives can be tangled with thorns.

Thorns of failure and sadness.

Tangles of duties and demands.

**Lord, cut away the thorns that wound and choke.**

**Free us to live and work in your light.**

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society,  
in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry  
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,  
and acted ungratefully.  
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,  
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,  
but ignore the cry of the hungry.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,  
and do not care enough for the world you have made.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,  
as if there were no God and no heaven.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

May God who loved the world so much  
That he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
Forgive us our sins  
And make us holy to serve him in the world,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**The earth has yielded its harvest;  
God, our God, has blessed us.**

You visit the earth and water it;  
**you make it very plenteous.**  
You soften the ground with showers;  
**and bless the increase of it.**  
You crown the year with your goodness;  
**and your paths overflow with plenty.**  
The meadows are clothed with sheep;  
**the valleys stand so thick with corn,  
they shout for joy and sing.**

**The earth has yielded its harvest;  
God, our God, has blessed us.**

Collect

Eternal God,  
you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need  
and for our own well-being;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

The Readings

**First reading: Philippians 4: 4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### Second reading: John 6: 25-35

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

### Reflection with Alison

#### **“The Bread That Lasts”**

Philippians 4:4–9 reminds us to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” It’s a call to gratitude, not just when life is easy, but in every season. Paul writes these words from prison, yet his heart is full of peace. Why? Because his focus is on God’s goodness, not on his circumstances. He says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Harvest is our yearly reminder to do exactly that, to pause, to notice, and to give thanks.

The fields may not look the same as they did in Paul's day, but we still rely on God's provision: for rain, for sunshine, for people who grow, harvest, transport, and prepare our food. Behind every loaf of bread and tin of soup is the steady faithfulness of God at work through human hands.

In John 6:25–35, Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life." The crowds were looking for more of the bread He had miraculously provided, but Jesus gently redirected them. He reminded them that while ordinary bread fills us for a day, the true nourishment of our souls comes from Him. The "bread that lasts" isn't baked in an oven, it's born in a heart that trusts and follows Christ.

At harvest, we give thanks for both kinds of bread:

- the food that sustains our bodies,
- and the spiritual food that sustains our spirits.

And we remember that God's provision isn't meant to stop with us. Gratitude always leads to generosity.

That's why it's so moving to see how many people continue to give to local food banks, especially in hard times. When you place a tin of beans, a bag of pasta, or a box of cereal in a collection basket, you are sharing the love of Christ in a very real and practical way. You are helping to feed the hungry, not just with food, but with hope.

So today, as we celebrate harvest:

- Let us give thanks for the abundance we enjoy.
- Let us pray for those who struggle to afford even daily bread.
- And let us recommit ourselves to being people of kindness, peace, and generosity, shining the light of Christ wherever there is need.

May we rejoice in the Lord always.

May the peace of God guard our hearts and minds.

And may we daily receive and share the Bread of Life.

Let us declare our faith in God.  
**We believe in God the Father,**  
**from whom every family**  
**in heaven and earth is named.**  
**We believe in God the Son,**  
**who lives in our hearts through faith,**  
**and fills us with his love.**  
**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**  
**who strengthens us**  
**with power from on high.**  
**We believe in one God;**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen**

Prayers of Intercessions with Astrid

St Paul's words remind us that the Lord is near, that we should not be anxious, but make our requests known to God in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. So we come Lord, thankful for the gifts and freedoms we enjoy, remembering we come to you at a time when the lives of people in so many places are painful and uncertain, where loss and sorrow are never far away.

Lord we pray for the people of Israel, for families of hostages, for Palestinians in Gaza, hungry, frightened, sick or injured, and we pray for aid workers willingly staying in the most dangerous situations to do what they can to help. Lord guide those who have it in their power to bring a humane and lasting settlement to this whole unhappy region, and Lord we pray for an end to war and violence in Ukraine, in Sudan and those other areas of conflict and unrest that we hear little about.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer*

Lord we pray for people suffering from the devastation of floods, gales, landslips, earthquakes. We are reminded of the risk to our lovely world, not only from the destructive force of war, but from what we label 'natural disasters', made more likely by our greed and thoughtlessness in our treatment of the environment. Make us wise and faithful stewards of your creation, living lightly on the Earth so that it may blossom and flourish now and in future.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer*

Lord we pray for our own country where we have so many blessings but still so many problems, where people struggle with rising costs and inequalities. We pray for families in unsatisfactory housing, for those with nowhere to call home, and for the agencies, charities and volunteers trying so hard to help. We pray for our own communities, our villages, our friends and neighbours, those with their own anxieties about their future, their health, their families. We pray for the lonely, those who have lost someone dear, the people whose needs we know and those we may not know. We pray for the clergy and lay people who provide leadership for our parishes and our worship, and we pray for the person you will call to serve as team rector for the parishes of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth and Denholme.

As members of a wider worshipping family than our own small part, we pray for Sarah Mullally, called to be Archbishop of Canterbury. Lord, pour upon her the strength, wisdom and vision that she needs as she leads and serves us.

*Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

### Closing prayer and Blessing

Holy Spirit of God  
May the space within that we keep for you  
Become ever deeper and wider.  
May the busyness of our brains  
And the cares of our hearts  
Give way to the light of your presence.  
**O God, come home with us this harvest time**  
**And evermore**  
**Amen.**

God the Father, who created the world,  
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.  
**Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,  
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,  
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all  
evermore. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation  
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.  
Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**