

Harvest Pilgrimage 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

for use on a local walk or in your garden, on your own, or in company.

If you are going for a walk – take a bag with you to pick blackberries or other hedgerow berries/fruits. Collect fruits, nuts, conkers as you go.

If you are in a garden, pick some flowers/fruit/veg, whatever is available, or if not create a table display with fruit and veg etc that you have bought.

If you are walking, walk for a while then...

1. Find a suitable place to sit or stand with a view. Take it all in. Breathe in the fresh air. Become aware of the sights, smells and sounds of the natural world.

Creator God, for daily bread
and all who work
to bring your harvest home,
especially our local farming community
we bring our thanks today.

(pause)

Forgive our ingratitude
we who have so much
yet waste what you have given.

(pause)

For those whose harvest is poor,
whose crops have withered,
water tainted, children starve,
help those who bring relief
and bestow on us
an unaccustomed generosity,
that all might share from your garden
and all might sing your praise.

(pause)

Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today.
And we bless each other
that the beauty of this world
and the love that created it
might be expressed though our lives
and be a blessing to others
now and always.

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Continue on your way

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2. Find another stopping place. Read the Psalm & make your response in silence or prayer.

Psalm 65:9-13

You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with corn,
for so you have ordained it.
You drench its furrows and level its
ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its
crops.
You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with
abundance.
The grasslands of the wilderness
overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.
The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with corn;
they shout for joy and sing.

Continue on your way

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3. Find a quiet place to sit or stand. Observe nature around you and spend some time in quiet wonder before using this prayer:

God of honey and harvest
of grain and grape
of ocean and orchard:
This harvest time
may we both praise and pray;
praise you for the abundance
and pray that this harvest is not just

shared
but shared justly.
God of beehives and breadbaskets
of living webs and the weaving of life
of ecosystems and economy:
This harvest time
may we both praise and pray
praise you for the wealth of the harvest
and pray that this harvest is not just a
promise
but is full of promise for all.

God of bumble bees and blue whales
evolution and environment
ice-field and star-field:
This harvest time
may we both praise and pray
praise you for the sheer wonder of the
world
and pray that this harvest is not about our
wealth
but the wealth of our generosity.

Prayer of Commitment written by Roddy Hamilton, and
posted on **Mucky**
Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

*As you move on from this place, you might
like to hum or sing 'We plough the fields
and scatter' or similar, as you go.....*

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**4. Find a gate or crossing place. Look
at the view behind you and in front of
you. Spend some time thinking or
chatting about the landscape of your
own life/lives, especially in this last
year.**

Harvest of memories
As farmers view their crops,
weigh up the growth and likely yield,
so in this quiet place
my mind seeks patterns
in the landscape of my life.

Growth at times has come
both strong and fruitful;
else when the harvest time has
brought a sparse return
of small and bitter grains.

Plentiful and lush,
dry and meagre—
the years have passed
until once more I pause
to sing of
'All good gifts around ...'

... and with experience fed
by all life's varied harvest times
my thanks is honest, deep and true.

from the **Vision 4
Life** website. <http://www.vision4life.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/HarvestRememb-fresh-prayerful-harvest.pdf>

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**5. As the Pilgrimage comes to an end,
take time to look at the harvest you
have gathered from your walk or
garden.**

Closing Prayer

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.
Amen

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Responding

If you would like to donate to our
Benefice Harvest Charity Appeal
Visit <https://www.nboachurches.co.uk/>
and click on our Just Giving Page.

The two charities we are supporting are:
**Farming Community Network and
Save the Children Beirut Appeal.**



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NETWORK