



# Service Sheet

1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023 10.30am, St Mary's  
Harvest Thanksgiving:  
Growing Gratitude and Generosity

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website ([www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church)).

*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

## WELCOME

### OPENING PRAISE

*(from Psalm 65, The Message)*

Paint the wheat fields golden.

**Creation was made for this!**

Drench the plowed fields,  
soak the dirt clods with rainfall  
**as harrow and rake bring her to  
blossom and fruit.**

Set the hills to dancing, dress the  
canyon walls with live sheep,  
a drape of flax across the valleys.

**Let them shout! Oh let them sing!**

### HYMN

*(During this hymn the harvest gifts are received)*

*All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all*

The seasons and the weather  
The sun and moon and stars  
The planets way beyond us  
Like Jupiter and Mars

The creatures of the deep sea  
The mountain dwelling goat  
He covered some with fish-scales  
And others furry coats

The leaping lime-green lizard  
the slow and sleepy sloth  
He set the speed they'd travel  
Then smiled and set them off

He gave us eyes to see them  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty  
Who has made all things well

### RESPONSE

We receive these gifts, knowing that  
they are given by you.

Freely we have received from you:

**So freely we will give.**

We receive these offerings a symbol  
of our whole lives, every aspect a gift of  
your grace.

Freely we have received from you:

**So freely we will give. Amen.**

### FOOD CHAIN

#### SONG

He gave the mouse its squeak  
sharks their teeth

He made legs that jump

gave camels the hump

He made the kangaroo

and humans too

He even gave us lips

so good for kissing

He made fish that fly, eyes that cry

He made birds that poo

upon your shoe

He made whales that sing

bees that sting

He even gave the cat its furry bottom

>>>

*And it's lovely jubbly all of God's creation  
Lovely jubbly all of God's creation  
Lovely jubbly all of God's creation  
What a wonderful God we have  
Lovely jubbly all of God's creation  
Lovely jubbly all of God's creation  
Lovely jubbly all of God's creation  
He made it all He made it all He made it all*

He made dogs that point, pigs that oink  
He made dolphin smiles, crocodiles  
He made a zillion things, fly with wings  
He even gave us tongues so good for licking  
He made things that scoot, things that hoot  
He made some things smell not so well  
He made wind to blow, clouds to snow  
He even made your knees  
that are so knobbly

*(The children leave for Sunday Club)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 28.1-14

If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; <sup>2</sup>all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God: <sup>3</sup>Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. <sup>4</sup>Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock. <sup>5</sup>Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl. <sup>6</sup>Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. <sup>7</sup>The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. <sup>8</sup>The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>9</sup>The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. <sup>10</sup>All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and

they shall be afraid of you. <sup>11</sup>The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you. <sup>12</sup>The Lord will open for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all your undertakings. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. <sup>13</sup>The Lord will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom—if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them, <sup>14</sup>and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I am commanding you today, either to the right or to the left, following other gods to serve them.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

### SECOND READING: Luke 12.22-30

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For it is the

nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

### OFFERTORY HYMN

We plough the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand  
He 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 heaven above*

*Then thank the Lord*

*O thank the Lord for all His love*

He only is the Maker  
Of all things near and far  
He paints the wayside flower  
He lights the evening star  
The winds and waves obey Him  
By Him the birds are fed  
Much more to us His children  
He gives our daily bread

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

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

*We pray for our five mission partners:  
BRF Ministries, Church Army, SHOC/  
Trinity, Tearfund and Wycliffe Bible  
Translators. We thank you for their sharing  
of good news in action and word and pray  
that you would sustain and inspire them.  
May they see rich fruit in their work for you.*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of  
your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

**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**

## CHILDREN

Freely we have received  
So freely we're going to give  
All we have comes from your generosity  
So we're going to live...  
*(Repeat)*

### Mark 4:30-32:

Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

Dear God, we hold these seeds in our hand. They seem so small and weak. But tiny seeds grow by your power into huge trees. They give food to the hungry and homes for the birds.

Your Kingdom is like a tiny seed.

When we look at your church, and our own lives, it often seems small and weak.

Give us eyes of faith and willing hands to see your Kingdom grow in us. Help us to gather the harvest your love has provided. Fill us with the love of Jesus, so we can share it with others.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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## **Diary**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 10am**  
**Funeral of Betty Mace.** St Mary's

**Weds 4<sup>th</sup> Oct - Little Lions toddler group.**  
St Mark's. Contact: eddalindner18@gmail.com

## **We need you...!**

***Have you ever thought about helping during the Sunday service?***

We are looking for more people to help in the following areas:

- **Welcome Team**
- **Readers**
- **Sound Desk Operator**
- **Online Chat Moderator**

Full training will be given.

Please email or call the church office for more information.

## **Church Goods and Cards Stall**

We have some new **cards** and **ceramic coasters** with gift envelopes by Hannah Dunnett- an ideal small gift. Should you wish to order any coasters please contact Anne (07896533202).

# **CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

**WITH BISHOP TIM WAMBUNYE**



**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, 5 pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Denham, UB9 5BH**