

Autumn



What do you like best about autumn?

Is it the beautiful colours of the leaves, all the yellows and oranges and reds? Or having a cosy time with your family, while the weather outside is getting colder and wetter? Or seeing tractors in the fields all around us, harvesting and ploughing and resowing the next crop?

I like autumn time because it tells us a lot about the richness in which we live. All of these examples show us this richness. The colours of the leaves show us the beauty of the world around us, and also that sometimes we just have to wait for the right time to discover something that has been hidden until it was ready. Our homes are warm and comfortable places, just right to curl up (perhaps with a nice cup of hot chocolate) while the weather outside is not so nice. And seeing the farmers busy in the fields reminds us how lucky we are to have tasty, healthy and enough food – and being able to see it grow, too.

Where we are, here in beautiful East Lothian, we are lucky to live in the midst of so many farms. Do you know what kind of things grow in the fields that you see each day? There's oats for porridge, there are potatoes that will become chips, there are also the cows with the calves who produce milk for yogurts and cheese for us. These are only a few examples, I'm sure you can discover lots more that grows around here, and maybe you can even ask a farmer you know. Have you ever grown anything in your own garden – maybe some flowers, or strawberries, or tomatoes? If you have, then you know how much care we need to put in to make something grow: to sow the seed at the right time into the right kind of soil, to make sure that the plants have enough water and sunshine, that they're sheltered from harsh winds and protected from pests, and, not least, that they're harvested just when the time is right. Can you imagine just how much more work is necessary to grow so many crops in a field, or to look after a flock of sheep or a herd of cattle?

God gave us the world, to live in, and to live well: have good, enjoyable, fulfilled lives. God also gave us the task to look after the world, to protect our fragile planet and make sure that we do what we can to help it. I'm sure you've spoken about the climate crisis and looking after the planet at school, too – it's something that matters to us all, us here in Scotland and people all around the world – and we all need to do what we can to help the earth.

God also asked us to look out for one another: and to help each other when someone needs support. We are lucky to have more than enough for our needs: food, warm homes, lovely clothes and lots of toys, but there are many people who are not as lucky. That's why we help when we can: for example with collections for the foodbank, so that all may have enough. It's important to remember to look out for each other all the time, so that we can help and support each other when one of us is not feeling so well or is sad.

In this autumn time, we celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving: that's when we take a moment to remember all the things for which we are thankful. What has been especially good for you this autumn? What are the things or people or experiences that give you joy? As you're exploring all the craft activities offered in the bag, maybe you can take a moment to think about these questions, and say a 'thank you' to God for all that's good in your life.

Dear parents and carers:

Please help you children with their crafts. Videos with instructions for the crafts can be found on our websites, at humbiechurch.org/messy-church and yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org/messy-church. If you would like to take a video or photos of your children engaging with the crafts, and are happy to share them, please send them to us (whatsapp to 07936 042191 or email to anikosb@churchofscotland.org.uk) or share them on our social media pages. Thank you!

We hope to be able to meet again for a Messy Church event before too long. We offer a Sunday Club for children of preschool and primary school age on the first Sunday of the month at the 10am service in Yester Church. Please stay in touch via our websites, social media pages or children's mailing list. If you'd like to receive our weekly email with information about the services and all the activities happening around our churches, please let Anikó know.

If you would like to support our ongoing work and ministry, please consider making a donation. More info at humbiechurch.org/donate and yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org/donate. Thank you!