



6. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Age range: Primary

Theme: *We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. We begin this academic year with a reminder that it's good to be grateful. Research reveals the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day's 'blessings' can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship. We provide a script with reflective ideas for classroom use and PowerPoint; both have additional content that you may wish to spread across the week and use in classrooms to ensure that you are meeting the requirement for daily collective worship and to support the spiritual flourishing of your whole school community.*

*You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This collective worship links to the seasonal celebration of the Harvest, which we imagine most schools will mark in some way. We have tried to include some ideas that take your children away from a screen for some of the time, so do use these suggestions. For younger children, you may choose to limit the number of words that you create, but do at least include 'TA' and 'SHARE' as these are central to the theme for this term.***



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference how your school's vision & values create a **grateful community** – and link with any specific routines for you at this time of year.

How might this link with the Guildford Diocese spirituality offer?

This icons in this section show how the collective worship theme links with the elements of **self, others, beauty** and/or **beyond**

-  **Being thankful for the food that we eat – and all of our other 'blessings'!**
-  **How we rely on others who produce our food – and on the importance of sharing with others, especially those in need**
-  **The blessings and benefits of sharing; that many people believe that God provides an abundance for us to share**

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in bold show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. To help any children with visual timetabling, we include an icon for each different part of this collective worship in the top right corner of each slide.
- Print out the large letters, spelling 'H-A-R-V-E-S-T' from pages 4-10, preferably onto card so you can use them across the week. Number them on the back from 1-7 so you can call them out at any point to be reassembled as a new word. You may need to practise this before you do it with children! We include images on the screen, but if you can use the suggested items below instead, you can take a break from the screen for slides 7-15. The objects to use with the H-A-R-V-E-S-T letters are: a plate of role-play food; a globe; toy tractor; empty bowl; loaf of bread (or roll)
- There are two alternatives for a Harvest prayer/blessing (slides 18-21)
- **For your class reflection areas:** You will need to print the HARVEST words from p.11-17, and provide some drawing/colouring materials for children to use to doodle/draw things that they think of relating to the words.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Welcome stilling exercise – field of grain

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly here, watch the movement of the grain in the field.....and bring your mind into a peaceful place
[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to watch....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today.....and think about how peace has come upon us.... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we are thinking about Harvest, and we will..... **talk about Harvest.....tell each other a HARVEST story..... and think think together about Harvest means for our school community – and the wider world.**
But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

- **Slides 2/3:** Teach this new greeting to your school community – there are two slightly different versions from the point of view of the leader; choose which best fits your school's context. One uses words adapted from [Psalm 118:24](#)



- **Leader:** This is a day that God has made!
- **ALL:** We will rejoice* and be glad* in it!

OR:

- **Leader:** Today is a brand new day.....
- **ALL:** May we be a blessing to each other!

*There are different BSL signs for rejoicing and joy/gladness. View them here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/rejoice>
 Blessing: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/blessing> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4:** This term, we are thinking about our blessings – all the good things in our lives. We thought a couple of weeks ago about the blessing of our wonderful world, and today, we are going to continue that theme... by being thankful for the food that our earth (and farmers!) produce.
- **Slide 5:** Last week, we heard of a special, thank-ful, Harvest celebration for Jewish people, called Sukkot – a festival that is still being celebrated today all over the world, reminding people that **'God will provide!'** Today, we are going to continue that theme... by being thankful, ourselves, for the food that our earth (and farmers!) produce.
- **Slide 6:** We are going to do a great big, grateful, HARVEST shout-out now, which is NOT something that we very often allow in collective worship (shouting out)! After 3, everyone can shout out their favourite food... so have a quick think now about what you'll say..... 3-2-1.... [*HARVEST shout-out!*]
 We are lucky to live where we do, with all the many different types of food that we like, but it's not the same for everyone. I have some big letters here to help us with a very special HARVEST story, using these letters.....
- **Slide 7: H A R V E S T.....**and I need 7 helpers to hold them. [*gather your helpers and give them each one letter to hold so that the word HARVEST is spelt*]
- **Slide 8 / bread:** At this time of year, we often think about **HARVEST**-time. People sometimes make special shaped bread to celebrate the HARVEST. But we don't just harvest wheat: HARVESTing happens all over our world, to bring our food from where it is grown to our tables.
- **Slide 9:** Some of you may even have grown things in your garden, that you are now HARVESTing!
- **Slide 10 / globe:** Let's have letters 5,2,3,7&1: **EARTH**. Our earth works very hard for us, because all our food comes from it. We've already given a great big shout-out for all our favourite foods, those we really like to **EAT** (5,2&7 - reshuffle if you want to!) We are completely dependent on our planet for the food that we **EAT**.
- **Slide 11:** Just as an example, the wheat that is made into the bread or cereal that many of you will have eaten for breakfast has come from farms all over Britain, and the banana that you might have at break time will have been harvested in other places of our world where it's hotter. [**Slide 11**]
- **Slide 12:** *Talk about this slide if you have time! This is just an example – there are many others to be found on the internet!*
- **Slide 13 / tractor:** Let's have letters 7&2 **'TA!'** – that's short for 'thankyou'!! At Harvest time, we say thank you for our food: to the farmers who've grown it and taken care of it, those who've harvested it, those who've stored it and sold it...and (as a church school family) to God for the rain and sunshine that has helped it to grow.
- **Slide 14 / plate of role play food:** Let's have 1,2,4&5 **HAVE:** most of us HAVE plenty of food in our country,
- **Slide 15 / empty bowl:** but we need to remember that in other places, there is not enough food to eat because their harvest has not been good – too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry – or people don't have enough money to buy food, and so people might (6,7,2,3,4&5) **STARVE**.
- **Slide 16 / bread:** Let's have letters 6,1,2,3&5 **SHARE:** And so, at Harvest time, it's good to find ways to SHARE what we have with others [*break up bread into pieces*] (*Explain how you will be doing this as a school this year – or together think of ways e.g. giving to the local food bank, donating money to charity etc.*) In the Bible, on many occasions, there are encouragements to remind people to **SHARE**.
- **Slide 17:** Let's read these words together as we draw near to the end of our time together, both from the New Testament. We are told that the first Christians shared all that they had: **'They shared everything.'** Those who had more gave to those who were in need – just like we are doing here today.
 St. Paul, writing to these early Christians in other places, wrote: **'Be generous and willing to share.'**
 I wonder what these words might mean for us today....?

Slide 18: Responding (and words for worship)

.....We've been thinking today about HARVEST time....
 ...We've thought of lots of words....**EAT**....**TA** (thankyou)....**HAVE** and **SHARE**....
 ...I wonder which word might be most important?.....or which word made you think the most?.....
HARVEST is an important time of the year...a time to remember and celebrate.... and say **'TA!'**....



.....but above all, to **SHARE**

I'm going to do that right now, in a thankyou prayer. Make it yours if you'd like to...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts. You'll see some of our HARVEST words again!

Slide 19: Dear God, giver of the Harvest

Thank you for this time of year, Harvest time, and for the food that we **HAVE** on our tables. It is good to be grateful for the things we **EAT** – and good to find ways to **SHARE**. Help us to find ways to do this in these challenging times, we pray.

Slide 20: Amen

OR:

Slide 21: ALTERNATIVE: a blessing, ©Christian Aid, 2024

The earth is fruitful; may we be generous.

The earth is fragile; may we be gentle.

The earth is fractured; may we be just.

Slide 22: Amen

Songs to sing:

[Let our love show](#) (NBD) or any school Harvest favourite

A song to listen to: *We plough the fields and scatter*

This version of the traditional harvest hymn has a good selection of pictures to accompany the words.

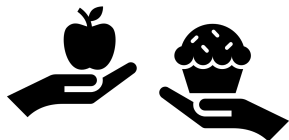
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=93&v=V6HkQ3VpDKs&feature=emb_logo

Alternatively, make percussion shakers from plastic bottles & rice / peas / pasta (keeping the food theme going!) to accompany Harvest Samba (Out of the Ark) or another school Harvest favourite.

Slide 23: Sending

Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead....

All: May we be generous and willing to SHARE!



Slide 24: Reflection areas

Use the big word sheets from p.11-17, enlarged to A3 to give children space to doodle and draw.

Think: Look at the big words. What ideas do you think of when you look at them?

Do: Doodle or draw your idea on one or more big sheets.

Talk: At the end of the week, talk about the ideas you've thought of. You could also display them with your Harvest goods for any Harvest celebration that you are holding.

Further ideas to build spirituality, using your classroom reflection areas:

- Use the **Harvest Bible Chat Mat** reading and then the reflective colouring & discussion questions on the mat. You can find them [here](#). Scroll down to find the Harvest version at the bottom!
- Make a class **Harvest picture** outdoors using natural materials.
- We also have Harvest materials on our webpages, to help you plan for Harvest, here: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/harvest>
- Use the words of the familiar song '**Thank you Lord for this new day**', to write your own harvest version e.g. 'Thank you Lord for cold ice cream' (great for helping younger children to write with adjectives!) You could read this as a poem instead, or assemble beautiful photos, with words, to put into a slideshow to accompany a backing track of the song.
- **Pop some corn** together to illustrate how a little can turn into a lot (link to Jesus' miracle of the loaves & fish) God can do this with the little that we are prepared to share.



Our friends at the Diocese of Chichester have also produced some fantastic resources for Harvest, which they have generously SHARED with us! Here are a couple:

- **Spend, Save, Give - 3 Part Money Box** - Design, make, decorate, write instructions for a money box and take it home. At end of half term children bring their money boxes in and count up the money saved. Children discuss and decide how they will spend/give. Empowers children to make their own choices and justify their decisions/opinions (also good RE!) See Christians Against Poverty <https://capuk.org/>
- **Field to Fork** - Find out about food as it moves from 'field to fork' and about food waste along the way! Create a class 'field to fork' display, collecting photographs & interesting facts. Different classes could research for the same steps in a different



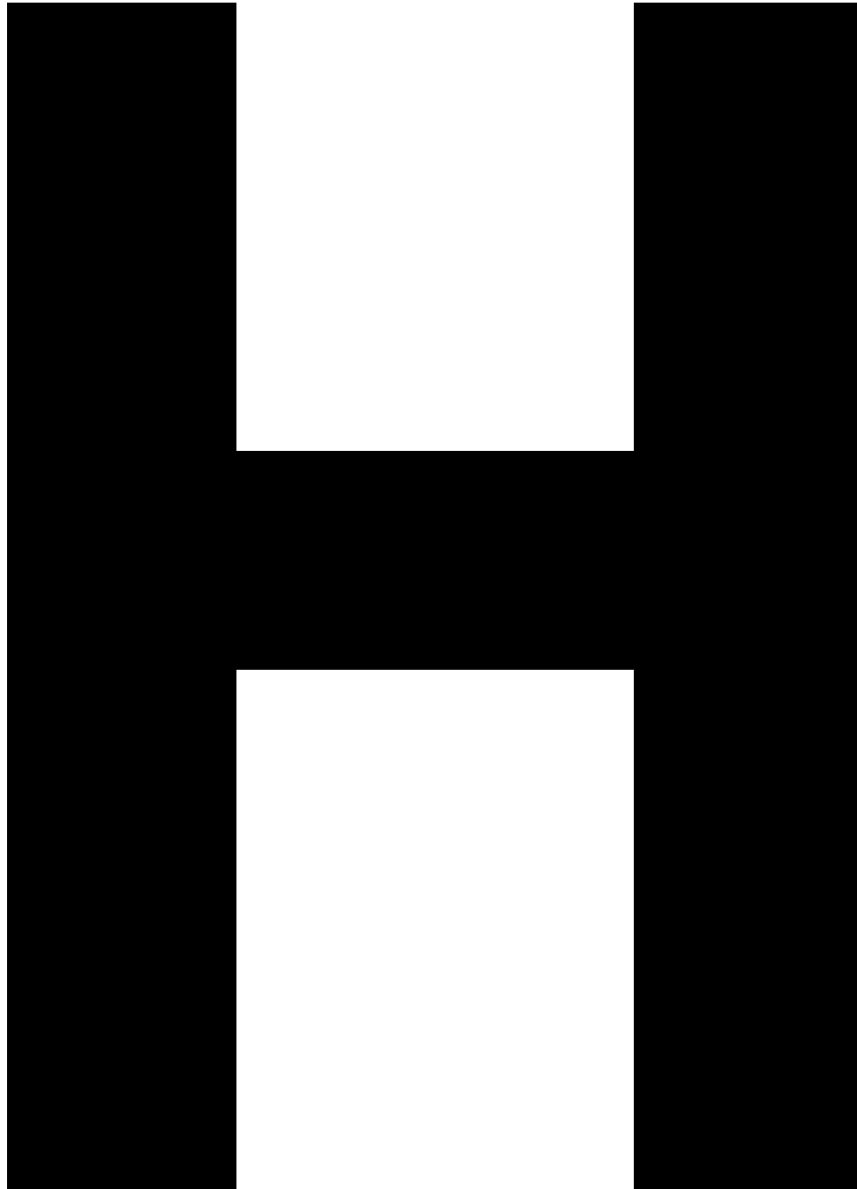
'Count your Blessings'

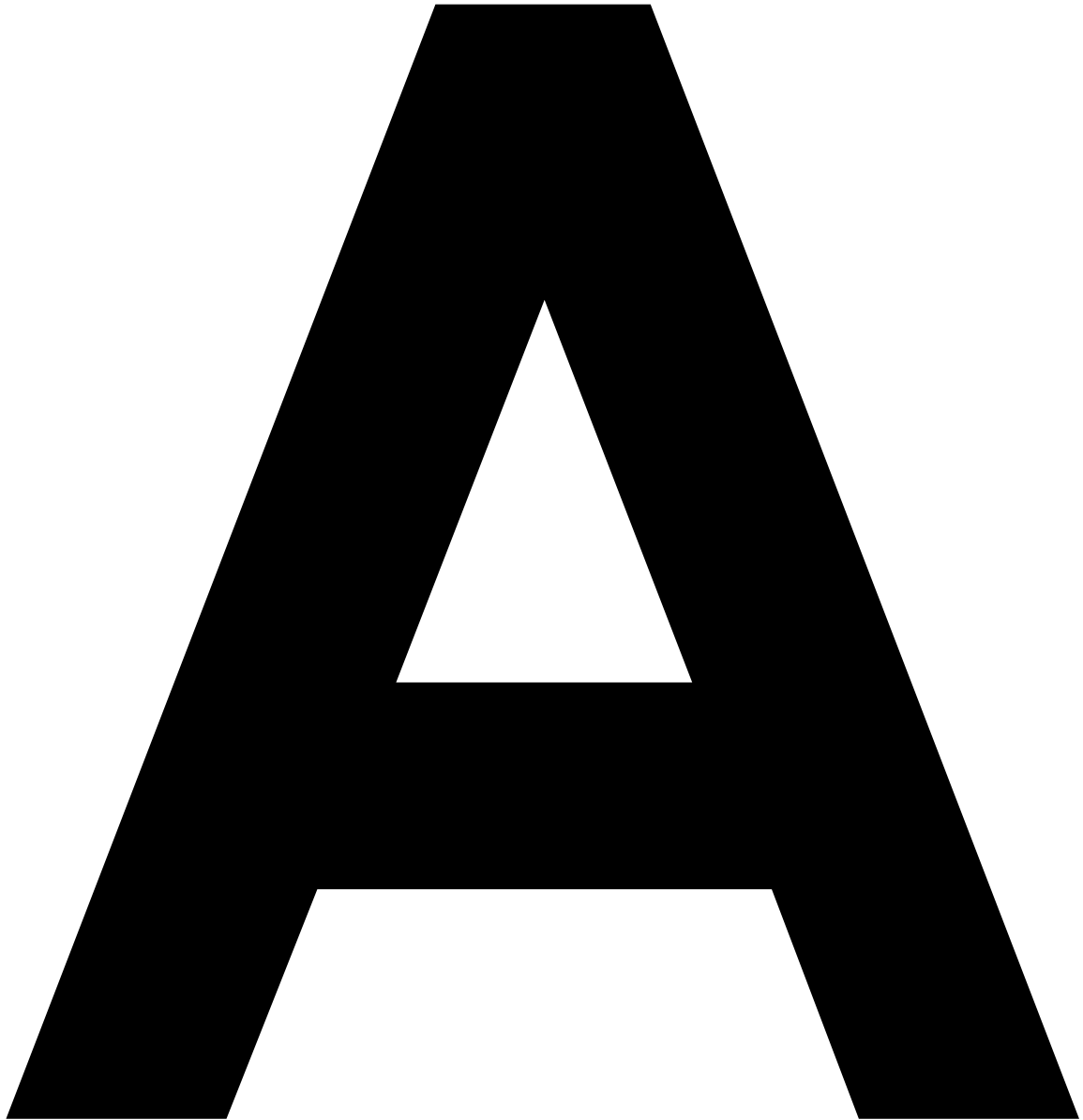
5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

country and create a similar display. Great for discussion/ research/ creative ideas/ deeper thinking and appreciation of different cultures!





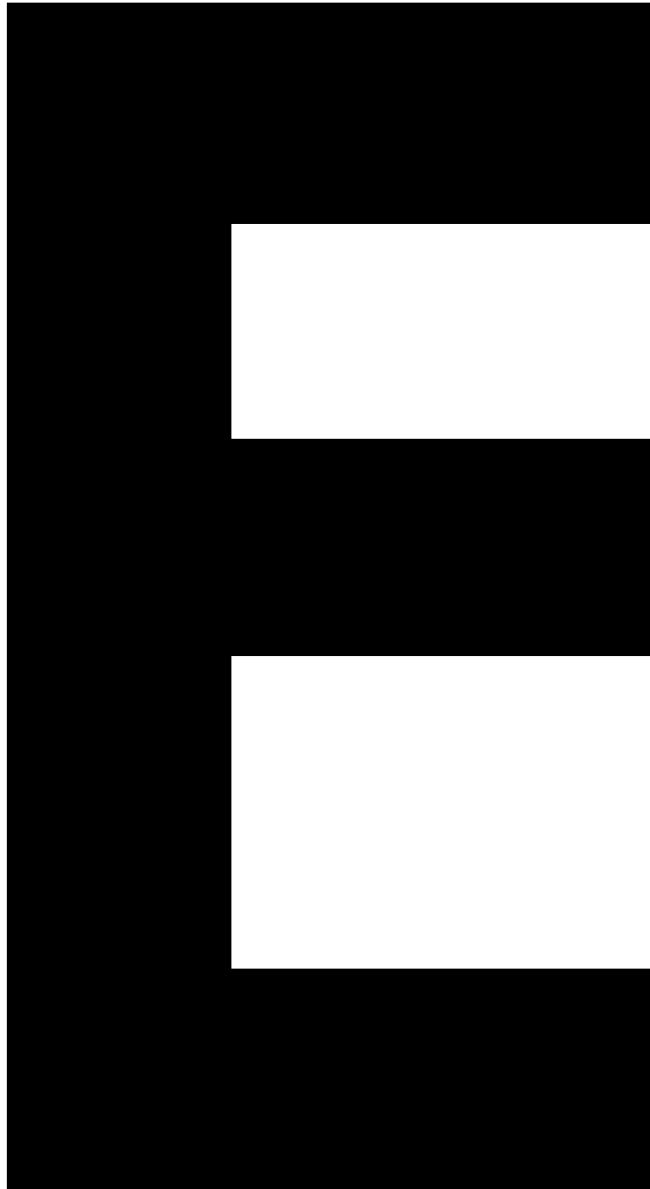


R



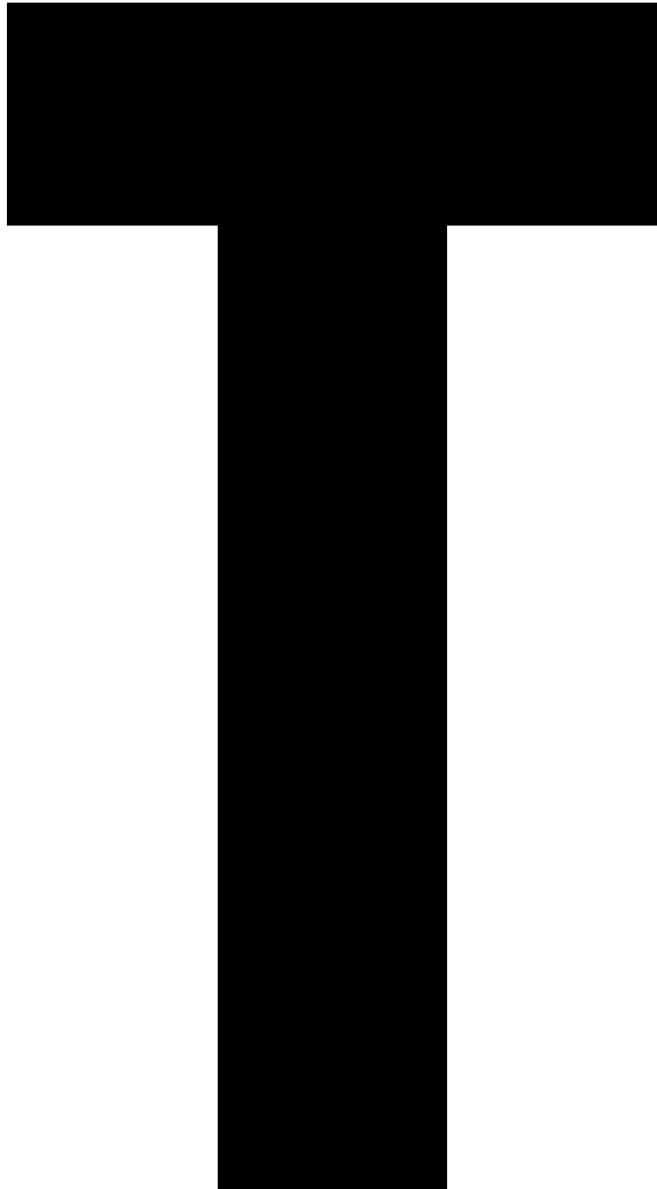
V





S





H A R V E S T



'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

Diocese of
Guildford 
Transforming Church
Transforming Lives

EARTH



'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

Diocese of
Guildford 
Transforming Church
Transforming Lives

E A T



'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

T A
(THANKYOU!)



'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

HAVE



'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

Diocese of
Guildford 
Transforming Church
Transforming Lives

STARVE



'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

Diocese of
Guildford 
Transforming Church
Transforming Lives

S H A R E

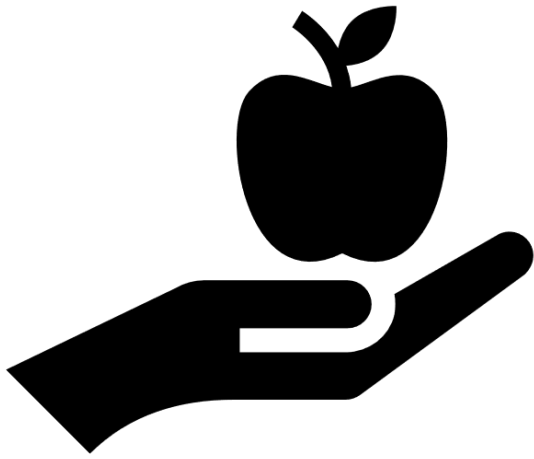


'Count your Blessings'

5. It's H-A-R-V-E-S-T!

Autumn 2026 ©

Diocese of
Guildford 
Transforming Church
Transforming Lives



St. Paul wrote 'Be generous and willing to share.'

H A R V E S T



Look at the big words. What ideas do you think of when you look at them?



Doodle or draw your idea on one or more big sheets.



At the end of the week, talk about all the ideas you've thought of, or display them with your Harvest goods.

