

Celebrating harvest with local schools



Every year we provide Bishop's Harvest Appeal resources for schools and resources for churches. One of the wonderful aspects of celebrating the harvest is that it's a time of **whole community** celebration and thankfulness for the food that we are blessed with by God's provision. These additional notes are to help your church finding the right way for you to join with its local school and families at harvest.

Involving school children as part of the Harvest celebration

- 1) Children to practice and sing 2 or 3 of the songs from the school's resource
- 2) Children to produce artwork for display at harvest celebration
- 3) Children from one class to act out the story of Frank and the Pea Stalk
- 4) Children to lead prayers

Hospitality and time together

How about making "pea biscuits"? Small round cookies with bright green icing on them!

Could any church members knit or crochet vegetables (including peas of course!) to give to the children as a reminder to be thankful for God's provision?

Guess the number of (dried) peas in a jar? For fun or a small donation depending on the setting.

Pigeon peas are a bit like lentils or chickpeas. Make taster samples of daal and flat bread.

How about a joint fundraising event? Set a target of discuss with children and families how it could be achieved? *Eg pea themed lunch to raise £70 for a bicycle to help an experience farmer in Malawi teach others.*



Celebrating the harvest in Zululand

When is best to have the harvest celebration?

Well that depends on your church, the school you link with, and your community setting.

- 1) In church at your Sunday Harvest service

A good option if your church has regular worship or a place to belong for children and families

Invite the school to be a part of your regular harvest service. You may need to work with the school to choose the best Sunday. Do you need to adapt or alter the service to enable children and their parents to feel comfortable? How will you welcome and offer hospitality?

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2) In church during the school day

Good if your church is not currently set up to regularly include children.

Perhaps you could invite parents to come along and see their children involved in the service? Encourage church members to come to the service as well and to organise a welcome and hospitality.

3) In a community space, church hall or school either during the week or at the weekend

Good for if the church is not close to the school.

Good for reaching out to where the community is at and feels most at ease.

This could be a messy church harvest afternoon, or a harvest experience, or a family oriented service. Resources to help with these types of gatherings can be found at:

Resources to help prepare a family harvest service

Experience Harvest from Jumping Fish Publications at <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/education/jumping-fish-publications/>

Barnabas in Churches for more ways to bring the Bible to life – search “harvest” <http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/>

Messy Church for creative ideas <http://www.messychurch.org.uk>

Going For Growth is a Church Of England resource centre with some links to help put a harvest service together. <http://going4growth.com> and search “harvest”.

Additional song suggestions

Creator God / Nick and Becky Drake

My little seed / Maynards Groovy Bible Tunes

Enough to be shared / Grumpy Sheep Music

Harvest Samba / Out of the Ark

If I were a butterfly / Mission Hills Music

When I needed a neighbour / Stainer and Bell



Magalita has learned to grow pigeon peas, helping her to earn a good income in spite of the challenge of climate change in Malawi.