

# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GROUP OF PARISHES.

All Saints' Church, St Michan's Church, St Werburgh's Church.

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

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### CONTACT



Parish Office—(01)

Email:  
[office@stmichanschurch.ie](mailto:office@stmichanschurch.ie)

The Archdeacon:  
087-2630402

Email:  
[pierpoint.david@gmail.com](mailto:pierpoint.david@gmail.com)

The Curate:  
087-9892941  
Email:  
[stylesross@gmail.com](mailto:stylesross@gmail.com)

Dear Parishioners and Friends

Unfortunately, once more, our beautiful churches are temporarily closed due to Covid-19. Yet though the buildings are closed, the church as a community continues. We should have held our harvest festival service this week and, in lieu of being able to worship together, this Sunday we will have a service available on our YouTube channel.

Harvest Festival is a wonderful celebration, particularly important in an age when we appear to be becoming more distanced from the natural World around us. Yet as Covid-19 has shown us, we cannot ignore the natural world. We find ourselves living in a time when our attitudes to caring for our planet must change, if not for us then for our children. And indeed, it is our children who are reminding us that we must do more to protect the wonder of creation. Our planet is not something that we can infinitely drain of resources. We must acknowledge and protect the wonder and the gift that has been given to us. We are fortunate in that we live in one of the most food secure nations in the world. Our farmer's produce enough food to feed thirty-six million people. It is right that we should recognise all they do to provide us with those necessities that we oft take for granted. Very often it takes events such as heavy snowfall, or the early stages of the Covid-19 lockdown, when bread and milk became scarce commodities in many shops, to remind us of how important agricultural produce is to us. We need to reconnect with the gift and wonder of creation. And so, it always gladdens my heart, that throughout the Church of Ireland, both in rural areas and in urban, parishes gather to give thanks and to celebrate the harvest. The wonder of growth and bounty is something that can transcend our society, a gift that we can cherish no matter where we live.

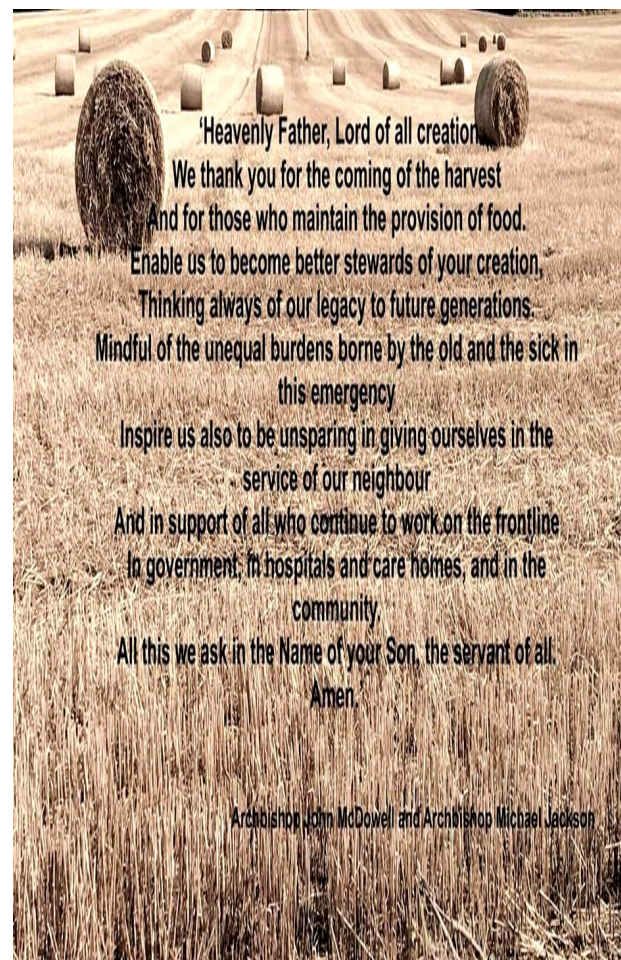


The sense of wonder and awe at the natural world and how things grow is something special for all ages to enjoy and it truly never loses its fascination. Seeds are amazing and Jesus uses the imagery of seeds throughout the gospels. I think it is fair to say that we do perhaps tend to take seeds for granted in our modern day-to-day lives. We expect to have bread to eat, biscuits to nibble and fruit and vegetables. Yet even chocolate is dependent on seeds been planted and growing to produce the cocoa. As a society we have grown distant from the processes behind our food production. As Christians, we are called to follow Christ's example and provide the ideal conditions for others so they can grow and develop their lives and faith and bring about the Kingdom of God here on Earth. Sometimes all it takes is a small seed, an individual or a word that is the seed for a life of faith. We can all look back and remember people who were hugely influential on us as we grew up. As parents, we try to provide the ideal conditions and environment for our children to grow and develop. As Christians we should do the same for each other, following Jesus' example of service and growing our communities, helping the marginalised, lonely and disadvantaged, sowing the seeds of love and faith, helping to improve our world.

In closing I have something to ask of everyone reading this. In our homes and gardens, let's look at something growing, be it a flower, a tree or even a weed or at something that a farmer has produced for us to eat. While looking at that plant or flower, let us say a little prayer in praise of things that grow. We are truly blessed with the wonder of creation and the bounty that it provides. Let us share that bounty with those who are less fortunate, let us sow seeds of faith in our world and let us nurture those seeds through love. God, who makes all things grow, help us grow in love for our world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Stay safe and God bless.

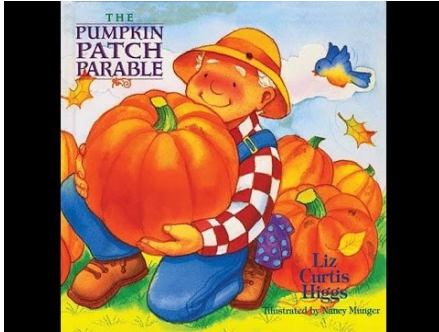
Ross



"But why do we have to plough the fields and scatter when we get everything from Tesco?"

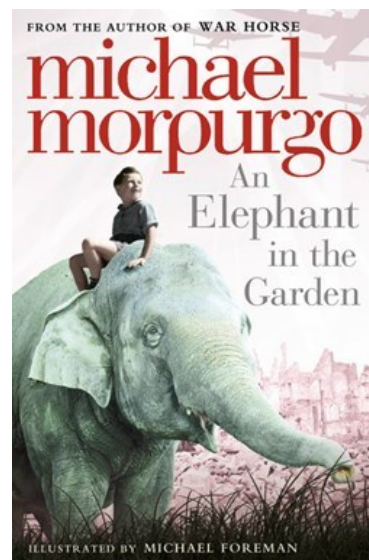


# Book Reviews by Ben and Fiona Styles



The Pumpkin Patch Parable by *Liz Curtis Higgs* is a story I have read to Ben and Ava at harvest time each year since they were very little, they loved it then and still enjoy it now! It is a beautiful story for children, illustrating how a farmer can turn a simple pumpkin seed into a magnificent sight. In the same way, God's transforming love for us can fill each of our hearts with joy and light.

Fiona



An Elephant in the Garden by *Michael Morpurgo* is set in Germany in 1945. It is about a girl Lizzy and her family. Lizzie's dad is fighting in the war, she lives with her mum and brother. Her mum is a zoo keeper. They know their city will be bombed soon and the director of the zoo orders that all the animals be destroyed so they are not left running wild. Lizzie's family decide to adopt Marlene, an elephant in the zoo. Together Lizzie, her mum, brother and Marlene flee Dresden and head to safety in their aunt and uncles' home. It is a very exciting adventure.

Ben



*Pre-Covid!!*

*All Saints' Church, Harvest Festival 2018*

### **The First Harvest Festival**

R.S. Hawker was born on 3rd December 1803 in Plymouth. It was his ambition to become an Anglican priest and he spent five years studying at Pembroke College Oxford, where he also wrote several pieces of poetry including his famous adaptation of 'Song of the Western Men'.

He was ordained in 1831 and by 1835 was vicar of Morwenstow, in Cornwall, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Prior to Hawker's appointment at Morwenstow, the remote parish had been left pretty much to its own devices. Vicars came and went with a great deal of regularity, and those that did stay were absent most of the time, leaving the mostly poor people to fend for themselves in the best way they could.

His concern for the poor people of his parish was always uppermost in his mind though, and in 1843 he introduced a Harvest Festival to the church.

The 1840s were known as the hungry forties, but 1843 produced a good harvest, and the good reverend called upon his parishioners to attend church on the first Sunday in October for a service of Harvest Thanksgiving. People brought along fruit and vegetables that they'd grown, and he saw to it that the food was distributed to those who needed it the most.

Other churches followed suit and the tradition of Harvest Festival continues to this day.

## Recipes from Fiona Styles

### Dutch Apple Tart

#### For the pastry

100g granulated sugar

250g plain flour

150g butter (chilled and cubed)

¼ tsp salt (fine not coarse))

1 medium egg (beaten)

1tsp vanilla extract

2 tbsp cold water

#### For the filing

1kg eating apples (Braeburn)

¼ tsp ground cinnamon

½ tsp finely grated lemon zest

50g sultanas

50g caster sugar

4 tbsp dried breadcrumbs

1 medium egg (beaten, to glaze)

For the pastry mix the sugar, flour and salt then add the butter until it looks like bread crumbs. Add the egg, vanilla and water. Keep mixing until it starts to stick together. Lightly dust a worksurface with flour and shape the pastry into a disk, wrap in baking parchment and chill for an hour.

Just before the pastry is fully chilled begin the filling. Peel, core and half the apples, then slice them. Add the apples to a bowl and mix with the cinnamon, lemon zest, sultanas and all **but** ¾ tbsp of the sugar.

Pre heat the oven to 180/gas mark 4. Grease a 20cm springform tin. Cut 1/3 of the chilled pastry off and re-wrap. On a lightly floured worksurface roll out the remaining 2/3 pastry and use to line the tin making sure the pastry comes approx. 6cm up the side of the tin.

Sprinkle the breadcrumbs on the base and then add the apple mixture.

Re-flour the worksurface and roll out the remaining pastry. Slice into 1.5cm wide strips arranging in a lattice pattern on top of the tart.

Brush the lattice with beaten egg and sprinkle over the remaining sugar.

Bake for 1hr 20mins and cool on a wire rack for 45mins

Delicious served warm or cold with whipped cream or ice-cream.

(my lattice work leaves a lot to be desired, so I've attached a stock photo from the internet as a sample of what it should look like!)





# Chocolate Chip Cookies

## Ingredients

125g butter (softened)  
125g golden caster sugar  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
200g self-raising flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tbsp water  
2 tbsp coco powder  
50g dark chocolate chips



You will also need a cookie cutter and greaseproof paper

Pre heat the oven to 180/gas mark 4

Cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl until fluffy, stir in all the other ingredients

Lightly dust a worksurface with flour, lightly sprinkle some on the cookie dough too. Roll out the dough, cut out the shapes and place them on a lined baking tray, space them well apart.

Bake for 12 mins, after you remove from the oven, leave them on the baking sheet for five mins before transferring to a wire rack to cool

They will store in an airtight tin for two to three weeks. (they usually don't make it to the end of the day in our house!)



## To Autumn by John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH:

### Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Daphne Madden. Her funeral was held in her beloved All Saints Church on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. She was a lifelong parishioner of All Saints.

All current HSE and diocesan funeral guidelines were adhered to.

We pray for all who grieve at this time, especially Daphne's family: her children, Stephen, Audrey and Andrew; her granddaughter Laura, her great-grandson Dylan, her sisters-in-law Rosie & Beatrice, her son-in-law's, Pat and DJ, her nephews, nieces, extended family and her many friends and neighbours.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

### Sick

We continue to remember in our prayers all those who are ill; in hospital, in residential care or at home and we give thanks to God for all who care for them in many ways.

We especially remember and pray at this time for all in our community who are affected by COVID-19, for those who are ill, for those who grieve, for doctors, nurses and healthcare staff, for all who work to discover a vaccine for this disease and for all who work to supply essential services.



### Presentation to mark the 25th Anniversary as Vicar

A presentation was made to the Venerable David Pierpoint and Mrs Denise Pierpoint to mark the Archdeacon's 25th anniversary as Vicar of the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes at the Group Service on 30th August 2020 in All Saints' Church.



## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We thank you Loving Creator God  
for all things bright and good;  
the seed time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.

Loving Creator Father,  
You have given so much.  
We want to give back to You  
the love of our hearts,  
the service of our lives.  
Amen.

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up  
and the clouds drop down the dew:  
We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and  
harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its  
fruits, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence  
bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us  
a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives  
by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy  
Ghost be all glory and honour, world without end.

Amen.