

Lincoln Cathedral



**Order of Service
for
the Lincolnshire County Harvest Festival Service**

Sunday, 24th October 2021
3pm

Introduction

We give thanks to God today for all our farmers and food processors our 'key workers' supplying the country throughout this ongoing pandemic. Farmers will say "the gathering of harvest this year has been easier and better than last year". However, some sectors are under severe pressure. As we gather here today, the pig, vegetable and horticultural sectors have critical labour shortages across the whole supply chain. The farming/food industry is facing what would normally be a generations worth of change within a decade, a truly extraordinary period of adjustments.

So a **new charity** for the County of Greater Lincolnshire :- **Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy (LRAC)** will ensure there are more chaplains on the ground to support, listen and act amidst these changing times. We welcome Associate Chaplains Rev Sue Hentley, Rev Al Jenkins and Rev Lee Gable and Rev Peter Lister – each using a day a week from their busy Parish duties. We say on Plough Sunday "God speed the Plough" and today "God speed your work and engagements"!

Enormous changes are unfolding before all humanity and not least the agricultural community.

- A global climate emergency – the devastation we have all witnessed – affecting hundreds of thousands of children, women and men due to the floods and horrific firestorms endured.
- The restructuring of complex trade agreements holding as many dangers as possibilities for farmers (e.g. cheaper imports).
- Shrinkage of suppliers and retailers that hold dangers for 'primary' suppliers if there are not contractual safeguards on the prices of their produce.
- Water shortages (e.g. droughts and shrinking lakes in Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Chile, Venezuela, Columbia, Mexico and many states in the USA).

The rise in internal displacement of peoples and mass migrations and the subsequent attractiveness by the 'disenfranchised' to extremism is not surprising, the diminishment of land and resources have to be reversed. We give thanks for the work of Prof Pearson and the Lincoln Institute for Agri Food Technology and the wider work of Lincoln University in understanding the speed and impact of Climate changes!

Andersons consultants estimate that the numbers of full-time farm businesses in the UK will shrink from circa 54,000 in 2020 to 42,300 by 2023 a fall of 11,700 or 20% – is this an underestimation do you think? At this Harvest festival It is right we 'hold strong' with courage, compassion and vision; seeking to reconnect people and supporting all those who will struggle to leave their livelihoods, after generations of farming life.

We pray continually for justice, fairness, and global peace and a deep wisdom for all our leaders secular and spiritual to act together – not just because of the meteorological changes, but in mind of the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP26); that practical and deliverable changes to use all energy sources sustainably will happen.

The past month has been the Season of Creationtide lets just keep extending it!

Rev Canon Alan Robson (Ecumenical Canon of Honour here at Lincoln Cathedral & Lincolnshire Agricultural Chaplain)

“Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank you as the light breaks forth we see again the wonder of all you have made. As we go about our business this day may we tread with care, consume with moderation, and share with generosity so that all your people might delight in your goodness and so that those who come after us may receive a rich inheritance. In Christ we pray.

Amen”

Prayer by Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary, British Methodist Conference

At this Harvest time, we come together to give thanks for:

**Our produce
Our people
Our chaplains**

COLLECTIONS AT THIS SERVICE

There will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the work of Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy, Lincolnshire Young Farmers, and Lincolnshire Rural Support Network both as you enter and leave the service.

Do please show your generosity toward the work of these bodies, who do so much to support the rural and agricultural communities of Lincolnshire.

The Order of Service

Introduction

Before the service, the distinguished guests are escorted to their seats.

HYMN

All stand to sing the following hymn as the procession enters.

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home:
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest-home!**

**All this world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
ripening with a wondrous power
till the final harvest-hour:
grant, O Lord of life, that we
holy grain and pure may be.**

**Come then, Lord of mercy, come,
bid us sing thy harvest-home:
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
all upon the golden floor
praising thee for evermore:
come, with all thine angels come,
bid us sing thy harvest-home!**

Words: Henry Alford (1810-71)

Tune: St George

WELCOME

The Dean, The Very Revd Christine Wilson, welcomes the congregation, and the Rev'd Canon Alan Robson, County Agricultural Chaplain, introduces the service.

Stand

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The associate chaplains invite the congregation to confess their sins.

Chaplain Creator God,
forgive us for the times we lose sight of your blessings,
the times we become too absorbed
in the demands of our work
to see the wonder of your creation

All **Lord, forgive us.**

Chaplain For food taken for granted,
work unappreciated and poorly rewarded,
for our blindness to the needs and aspirations of others,
our lack of concern for the hungry
and those living in poverty.

All **Lord, forgive us**

Chaplain For our lack of trust in your providence
in a time of political uncertainty:
for our unwillingness to respect
those who view the countryside
through different eyes from our own:
for the times we think of the land as ours and not yours.

All **Lord, forgive us**

Chaplain May our sins be forgiven
our coldness of heart be healed.
May you renewing spirit rest upon us
and fill our nation with your love and hope
in Jesus' name.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT

Dean Let us pray.

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
help us to cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The congregation is invited to sit, and the dean and chaplains take their seats.

Thanksgiving for produce

Representatives of the National Farmers Union come and stand alongside the produce that is collected under the tower crossing, and the Rev'd Canon Alan Robson leads a prayer of thanksgiving to the produce that we receive as a gift of God in creation:

Creator God, the whole earth proclaims your glory. Field and forest, farm and garden all sing your praise! As we gaze at the world around us we see your handiwork; your fingerprint is everywhere. This is your world; help us to enjoy it gently. In Jesus' name. Amen

All **Amen.**

Loving God, we give thanks for those who produce our food: for farmers and fishermen, factory and shop workers. We pray for those for whom this has been a difficult year: farmers who have battled the weather to grow food, delivery drivers and shop workers who kept working despite the pandemic. Help us to value and support each other. In Jesus' name. Amen

All **Amen.**

(Arthur Rank Centre Resources)

Ministry of the Word

Sit

FIRST READING

read by Amy Thomas, Head of Charity, LRSN

Joel 2: 21-27

HYMN

All stand to sing

**Praise, O praise our God and King:
hymns of adoration sing:
*for his mercies aye endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.***

**Praise him that he made the sun
day by day his course to run:**

**And the silver moon by night,
shining with her gentle light:**

**Praise him that he gave the rain
to mature the swelling grain:**

**And hath bid the fruitful field
crops of precious increase yield:**

**Praise him for our harvest-store;
he hath filled our garner-floor:**

**And for richer food than this,
pledge of everlasting bliss:**

**Glory to our bounteous King;
glory let creation sing:
glory to the Father, Son,
and blest Spirit, Three in One.**

*H.W. Baker (1821-77)
Music: Monkland*

Sit

SECOND READING

read by Professor Simon Pearson, University of Lincoln

1 Timothy 2.1-7

ANTHEM

*The choir sings **The heavens are telling the glory of God** (from *The Creation*) by Josef Haydn:*

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
the wonder of his work displays the firmament.
To-day that is coming, speaks it the day,
the night that is gone, to following night.
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
the wonder of his work displays the firmament.
In all the lands resounds the word,
never unperceived, ever understood.
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
the wonder of his work displays the firmament.

THIRD READING

Matthew 6.25-33

read by Mrs Claire Birch, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire

SERMON

by The Rev;d Mark Betson, National Rural Officer, Church of England

Prayers of Intercession

Sit or kneel

PRAYERS

led by members of Lincolnshire Young Farmers

All For people who love the land and care for it well,
making farming sustainable for future generations,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For crop and horticultural grower,
for livestock breeders, and the fishing industry
taking risks to ensure food is plentiful and nutritious
for a hungry world,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For rural networks, local and national,
sharing information to overcome loneliness and
isolation for those on the land,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For strategists, planners, policy makers and advisors,
offering new ways to grow food well
so that we can care for the land wisely
in changing times,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For seasonable weather, good growth and good yields,
so that there may be abundant harvests
to feed all people,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For safe work practices and healthy habits
for all farmers, so that people and communities
may flourish and be strong,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For health and happiness in the home life of all farmers,
and for families to work together
with love, respect and harmony,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For wise financial planning,
land care and asset management,
so that farmers may be confident
about the future of their farms,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For good communication between country and city,
so that we may understand each other's worlds
and encourage one another,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For strong and growing initiative and energy
in villages and market towns
across Greater Lincolnshire,
so that farmers may share in life-giving communities,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For those who despair in hard times,
that they may be helped and supported
by caring and effective services and loyal friends,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All For Christians who gather for worship, study and prayer
across Greater Lincolnshire
that their faith may create and sustain community,
Lord, hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers of intercession, the dean invites the congregation to join in saying the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

HYMN

The congregation stands to sing:

**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.**

All good gifts around us . . .

**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.**

All good gifts around us . . .

Words: Matthias Claudius (1740-1815) tr. Jane Campbell (1817-78)

Tune: Wir pflügen

Sit

Thanksgiving for people

Representatives of farming, agricultural and food organizations (Young Farmers, National Farmers Union, Country Landowners Association, Lincoln City Food partnership, Lincoln Food Bank, Lincolnshire Rural Support Network, LAAVA) come and stand alongside the display under the tower crossing, and the Nick Dowler, Lincolnshire Chair of the National Farmers Union leads a prayer of thanksgiving to the people who work together as stewards of creation:

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered
thanksgiving for your love in creation,
and celebrated the contribution of all
on whose work and skill we depend,
by your grace plant within us
a reverence for all that you give us,
make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy,
and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Rural and Agricultural Chaplains come and stand before the Bishop of Lincoln, who blesses them in their work:

We all rejoice with you on this day as you, Alan Robson, continue your ministry as Lincolnshire Agricultural Chaplain; and Al Jenkins, Lee Gable, Peter Lister and Sue Hentley as Associate Rural and Agricultural Chaplains. May you experience much joy in fulfilling your calling. May you always remain humble servants. Look faithfully after those you are called to serve—the old and the young, the faithful and the unfaithful, the healthy and the sick, the strong and the weak. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and suffer with those who suffer. Use all your talents to the utmost of your ability, and do not neglect any of your gifts.

Chaplains We give thanks and ask the Lord to help us do what we have promised.

Conclusion

HYMN

Please stand to sing:

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
in hymns of adoration,
to thee bring sacrifice of praise
with shouts of exultation:
bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
the hills with joy are ringing,
the valleys stand so thick with corn
that even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day,
thy bounteous hand confessing,
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay
the first-fruits of thy blessing:
by thee the hungry soul is fed
with gifts of grace supernal;
thou who dost give us earthly bread,
give us the bread eternal.

O blessèd is that land of God,
where saints abide for ever;
where golden fields spread far and broad,
where flows the crystal river:
the strains of all its holy throng
with ours today are blending;
thrice blessèd is that harvest-song
which never hath an ending.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Tune: Golden Sheaves

BLESSING *by the Bishop of Lincoln*

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
 who is the source of all goodness and growth,
 pour his blessing upon all things created,
 and upon you, his children,
 that you may use his gifts to his glory
 and the welfare of all peoples;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Dean Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Following the service refreshments will be available in the transepts.

COLLECTIONS AT THIS SERVICE

There will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the work of Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy, Lincolnshire Young Farmers, and Lincolnshire Rural Support Network both as you enter and leave the service.

Do please show your generosity toward the work of these bodies, who do so much to support the rural and agricultural communities of Lincolnshire.

Acknowledgements

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, *material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.*
Reproduction of the hymns falls within the provisions of either CCL 901658 or Calamus 1455