

# Worship at Home 'Creation and the Harvest' with the Bishop of Ripon

## WELCOME

*Rt Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley and Rev Ruth Newton*

Hello and welcome to our service for harvest and the season of creation. My name's Helen-Ann Hartley and I'm the Bishop of Ripon, in the Diocese of Leeds. We're at St John's Church in the village of Sharow, which is the village where we live, and it's in the Ripon episcopal area, one of five episcopal areas that make up the Diocese of Leeds. Diocese was formed in the year 2014 by the bringing together of three historic Dioceses of Bradford, Wakefield and Ripon and Leeds. And it's a joy for me to share in ministry with my episcopal colleagues under the oversight of the Diocesan Bishop, the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines. We are a large and diverse area, ranging from urban to rural and everything in between.

We're celebrating harvest and the season of creation mindful that for those who work in agriculture this is a very busy time of year, right in the middle of harvest. Our rural communities and the diversity offer us many challenges and opportunities, connectivity, housing, schools, hidden poverty and loneliness. And there are many examples of the witness and value of faithfulness to place over many generations. Our Gospel reading from Luke, both challenges us with the command not to worry and encourages us with what we can learn about ourselves and about God, when we are tuned in to our surroundings. Some of the material in this service can be found in the Church of England's brand new book of prayers, readings and other resources for creation and the environment, 'A time for creation', which churches are using for the first time this year. I'm joined here at St John's by parish priest, the reverend Ruth Newton, who's going to tell us a little bit about the churches environmental mission.

*Our ecological mission is very important to us as it acts as a catalyst for the whole of our mission, enabling us to build partnerships and make inroads into the community. We're a silver eco church and our churchyard, which is managed to maximise biodiversity, is recognised as a county wildlife site.*

We gather now in prayer, and in worship of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, also looking outwards and listening to stories of farming and the creative arts. Listen, connect, reflect and consider our place in the world and what it means to belong, be challenged and inspired as the Holy Spirit speaks to us afresh this day.

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be always with you  
All **and also with you.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
Your Word calls all things into being,  
and the light of dawn awakens us to life.  
May your wisdom guide us this day  
that we may cherish and care for your good creation,  
and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips,  
praising you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

## **HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for his is thy health and salvation:  
come ye who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen  
all that is needful hath been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew  
all the almighty can do,  
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for ay we adore him.

*Words: Joachim Neander (1680)*

*Tune: Lobe Den Herren*

## *The president says*

As those who know the generosity of God,  
let us confess our sins,  
especially the ways in which we take creation and God's gifts for granted.

## *Silence is kept*

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
yet we take your generous gifts for granted.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*    **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
but we squander its rich resources.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*    **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
but we fail to share your bounty with all of your children.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*    **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*    **Amen.**

## **REFLECTION**

*Neil Heseltine, Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority*

*Our first reflection is with Neil Heseltine, chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and whose family have farmed for generations near Malham Cove.*

Well my name is Neil Heseltine and I live and farm in Malham, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. So dad moved here in 1950, my parents got married they moved into the farmhouse, when they were married, fifty-seven, around about there. But I was away, I sort of went to school and then away to college, and it wasn't until I actually started farming full-time in 2001, and that was mainly as a result of the foot and mouth epidemic.

I was working off the farm, but when that came along, I ended up being here, and I've sort of farmed here full-time since then. In about 2004 we got involved with the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and Limestone Country Project, which was like a conservation grazing scheme that they delivered, and it's not until you look back now that you start to see how much an influence being involved in that has changed the sort of our course in terms of how we're farming.

Behind you can see Malham Cove for one thing, but also some of the Belted Galloways that we have. And it was that Limestone Country Project that meant that we got involved with the Belted Galloways, and got involved with conservation grazing, which is really about grazing in a way which promotes nature, promotes biodiversity on the farm. And I think it was that, being involved with that, that we sort of realised that we could farm, we could produce food on the farm, but at the same time, in harmony with nature to promote biodiversity, and really get a balance between the food we produce and the natural environment that we're living and working in at the moment. You know, it gives me a really good feeling when I'm out on the hills, out looking at the stock, that both my father and my grandfather probably walked all these hills before me, and that does give you a sense of belonging, there's no doubt about that.

I'm just sort of, not sure why it gives you a good feeling, I'm not sure whether that has any value to anybody outside of that, but for us it definitely has a sense of belonging, and a sense of place. I mean, obviously we're in the middle of the COVID pandemic, there's Brexit happening at the moment, and that's bringing all sorts of issues to the farming world, with trade deals and that sort of thing. But I think, to be honest with you the biggest issue we're all facing at the moment, and this is particularly relevant to Yorkshire Dales National Park work and farming and agriculture globally is climate change. And I just think that everything we do at the moment has got to have some form of responsibility and duty towards the work that we do, the way we live has got to have some responsibility towards climate change, and we're working really closely on that as a National Park, and hopefully we need to be doing that as an industry as well.

I personally believe that farming and agriculture generally has to sort of take a change in direction. I think the changes that we've made to farm, we feel has been of benefit to us, both, sort of, within the landscape, the wildlife, the farm and actually to us as people, and families, and a family. For me I believe that getting that balance between, as I say the food we produce and the nature that's on all our farms, actually think that is a more fulfilling role for us as farmers, and I personally believe it's a more profitable role as well, so I think it's a 'win win' situation, so I think that there's a real lot of hope for farming as we go forward.

## **HYMN**

### **At the dawning of creation**

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

At the dawning of creation  
when the world began to be,  
God called forth the world's foundations  
from the deep chaotic sea.

When the Lord delivered Israel  
out of Egypt's bitter yoke,  
then the parting of the waters  
of the living water spoke.

Water from the rock of Moses,  
water from the temple's side,  
water from the heart of Jesus,  
flow in this baptismal tide.

Thus united in this water  
each to all, and each to Christ;  
to his life of love he calls us  
by his total sacrifice.

*Words: David Fox (1956-2008) © Executors of Rev David Fox  
Tune: Long Lane*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING (Deuteronomy 8: 7-18)**

*Read by Darius Traves, ordinand*

*Our first reading is given by Darius Traves, an ordinand who has been here on placement at St John's.*

*A reader says*

A reading from Deuteronomy.

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

*All* This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

*By Kate Dale, Yorkshire Rural Support Network*

*Our second reflection is with Kate Dale, in the middle of harvest on her family farm in the Vale of York.*

My name's Kate Dale and I farm in partnership with my husband, Ben in the Vale of York. It's a mixed farm, we are obviously in an arable field here, so we're just rounding up on the wheat harvest, we've still got a few beans to combine, and some spring rape, but we're getting there now. But we also have cattle for beef, and some sheep as well, so I think we are a fairly traditional family mixed farm. I think we feel extremely privileged to have been able to have put down roots somewhere, I'm a farmer's daughter, my father farmed here as a tenant before we came here. Ben is part of a farming family, he was the youngest of four brothers, so there was really no chance that he was going to be able to farm at home. We got the opportunity to come here thirty-one years ago, and for me, it was like coming home.

I'd done other things, but it's wonderful to be somewhere where you can really feel that you belong. We've got two sons who we brought up here, they had a wonderful childhood, and they still love coming back here. We would normally have had lots of summer shows, including the Great Yorkshire Show, none of that's happened this year sadly, we did manage to create a virtual Great Yorkshire Show, which I think went down well with people. But we've missed the little village shows, I was due to be president of Aldborough Boroughbridge Show, this year, our local show, and that wasn't able to go ahead. So that's been a great sadness, and also I think the farming fraternity have missed that, many of them haven't been able to get into the livestock markets, very often either. So, we've kind of lost a lot of our normal social interactions, but that's not to say that we haven't still managed to stay in touch.

In terms of opportunities, I think we've all got grips with Zoom, we've managed to stay in touch that way, we're not averse to picking up the phone, keeping an eye on our neighbours. Obviously, farmers do see each other over the hedges, over the fences, and we're quite good at looking after each other as a community. So I look after something called the Yorkshire Rural Support Network, which really seeks to bring together the farming help charities, and other organisations who support farming families and that's the whole family, it's not just about the farmer, that encompasses very much the women, and the families and the staff who work on farms too.

Farming, farm life, you know, goes on whatever. We have to learn to be flexible, to be adaptable, we get up every day, we have jobs to do, it doesn't matter whether we're feeling gloomy or upbeat, there are animals to be fed, there are crops to be looked after, and I think, just being able to embrace the natural world and feeling very connected to it, in a very physical way definitely helps to lift your spirits, you know, even in the darkest of times.

My experience of Church has always been that it is always there for us, and whether we are deeply religious, or I think everybody still feels a deep sense of faith, because we've had to have faith, as farmers and growers, and I think that hope does endure and we just like to keep half an eye on the church in the village, and it's just a symbol for us that there is hope, and we must keep going.

## **GOSPEL (Luke Chapter 12.16-30)**

*Rev Ruth Newton*

*Our second reading is given by the Reverend Ruth Newton*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 12, beginning at verse sixteen.

And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, "What shall I do, I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "This is what I'll do: I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, you have plenty of good things laid up for many years; take life easy, eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then, who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself, but is not rich towards God.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable are you than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? Consider how the lilies grow: they do not labour or spin; yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you. O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink, do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*     **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

*The Bishop of Ripon, Rt Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley*

## ANTHEM

The Canticle of Brother Sun

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Most high, omnipotent Lord,  
all praise, all honour and glory be given to thee,  
to thee alone most high all praise belong.

Be praised O Lord for all thy works.  
For brother Sun whose brightness makes the light by which we see.  
For sister moon, whose beams were formed to shine so clear and bright.  
For brother wind, whose clouds and breezes blow across the land.  
For sister water, so precious, humble, lowly, chaste and pure.

Be praised O Lord for all thy works.

Be praised my Lord for brother fire whose flames and light illuminate the night.  
Be praised my Lord for sister Earth, for grass and plants and flowers and all our food.

Be praised my Lord for all thy love bestowed on us.  
Bless those who walk the way of peace in quiet to live.  
Bless those who walk the way of peace.  
By thee O Lord most high they shall be crowned.

Be praised O heavenly Lord, all praise and blessing and glory be given to you,  
with humblest thanks for all he's given you.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Music by: Grayston Ives  
Words: St Francis of Assisi text*

## REFLECTION

*by David Stead, Artist*

*Earlier this week I visited local painter David Stead in his studio at Norton Conyers. I asked him to tell us about his life and work as a painter and how that relates to themes of place and belonging.*

So hello, I am David Stead, I'm a landscape painter and I've been thinking about the concept of place, and how my work is wrapped in that idea. And I was thinking about the things that I do like about it and things I don't. Place itself, I think is an exciting idea and I like the idea of edges too, so they tend to appear in my work. But the idea of boundaries and borders is a different issue, and that's something that I really don't like, and it seems to stop the kind of movement of ideas and concepts or at least slow them so I'm kind of very clear about where I am with this place thing.

I've never been one for being jingoistic or proud of where I come from, or that kind of issue, but I do love the things that I see where we are and the countryside, so they often appear in my work, which, works such as this, which is the corner of a field, the idea of the ordinary, something that we all understand.



It's like that communication that maybe you see in a cave painting, maybe Lascaux in France, where, you know, there are horses and perhaps wildebeest, and that kind of thing, and I like that direct communication. It's not there to, to pass on anything really profound, although perhaps it is a profound idea, the idea that we understand each other, that's the thing that I really like to communicate, and that's really my main message in painting that, 'we understand each other, don't we'. And it crosses borders and boundaries and countries, and I really like that idea of communication.

And there are things that are even older than that, like the way the landscape changes, particularly, in the north. I used to live in Devon and I found it really difficult to paint when I was in Devon, I didn't understand the landscape, and we were there a long time, and I just didn't get it.

It was frustrating, I think more frustrating than that, is when I go back now, I do understand it, because time's moved on, and I've spent a lot of time there since, so I am painting it again now, but I moved back here to paint this landscape, because I've caved it, and potholed and climbed it. I understand the geology of it, and how it's built, I mean there are places when you drive up into the Dales here, where you drive over the terminal moraine from the ice ages, there's various, maybe three or four terminal moraines you drive over on the way into the way of the Dales, I think that's absolutely stunning, that vast amount of time that we're looking at in this landscape.

And then people have altered it too, and it's altered the people; and what's our relationship with it, you know, how does that work? And it's that understanding, the depth of understanding with the geology and the life that this place has led over millennia that I really like and that's what fires up the work, and there are paintings like the one behind you which is Lindisfarne, but really it's about the edge of land and sea, and it's about the whin sill which is an igneous intrusion and volcanic eruption that covers the whole of the north east and its blue black rock that when it gets wet it's stunning and that the sea's turquoise, the rock is blue black, I mean I just can't believe it, you know, I'm kind of just drawn to the place, I go there and paint there too, but it's that understanding of what's going on, all of the big castles are built on it, Dunstanburgh, Banburgh, and all the way up to the Scottish borders, where I've painted quite recently.

So that's my connection to here, and it gets stronger as time goes on, it doesn't mean to say that I'm going to stay here and continue to paint here for the rest of my life, because I think, you know, we all, there's a finite time for things, some people stay put and I'm not one of those, I think I'd probably like to move on again and go somewhere else and try something new, but I will always be attached to this place and I've got a lot of work out of it and I'm kind of thankful for that, you know, that's something nice to have after all this time.

## **THE CREED**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

*All*      **Though he was divine,  
            he did not cling to equality with God,  
            but made himself nothing.**

Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## INTERCESSIONS

*Led by Peter Triffitt*

*Our prayers are led by Peter Triffitt.*

In peace let us pray to the Father, through the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who make, sustain and renew all things.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your Church throughout the world throughout the world, that we may be faithful to our baptism, with the dawn of each day, may we be awakened to the beauty of the earth, and rejoice in the wonder and diversity of creation, in all its forms and colour.

Lord hear us  
All **Lord Graciously hear us.**

Lord of life, as all living things depend on the good quality of the air, the soil and water, may your wisdom guide us as we care for the environment. Deliver us from selfishness and rapacious greed, help us to share the rich resources of this world, gladly and justly, in the cause of stability and peace, between nations and people.

Lord hear us  
All **Lord Graciously hear us.**

Lord of mercy, we bring before you areas affected by chronic shortage of water and pray for those suffering as a result of drought, or the lack of safe water to drink. We pray for those suffering from the effects of extreme weather, and whose environment has been damaged, by cyclones, floods or destructive wildfires. May we better understand the effects of the changing patterns of weather on our planet.

Lord hear us  
All **Lord Graciously hear us.**

Lord of abundant life, we give thanks for the rich harvest of the seas, may we cherish the good things you have created and be successful in reducing the pollution in our oceans, rivers and lakes, that life may flourish. May your wisdom help us to maintain the biodiversity of our fragile planet, strengthen our resolve and bless the efforts of all who seek to protect the marine, animal, insect and plant life that are threatened with extinction.

Lord hear us  
All **Lord Graciously hear us.**

Lord of creation, you have placed us on the earth to care for it and call us to be co-workers with Christ your Son. Bless our farmers, those who work in our nature reserves, and national parks, in our areas of outstanding natural beauty, and sites of scientific interest, and all who are custodians of our landscape.

Lord hear us  
All **Lord Graciously hear us.**

Lord of the universe, you have made us from the stuff of the earth, and to earth we shall return, may we tread lightly upon this earth, and succeed in the innovation and development of sources of renewable energy and green technology. By your grace may we live our days wisely, live sustainably, and at the last come with all your saints into paradise and enjoy creation made new.

Merciful Father,  
All **accept these prayers,  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

## THE COLLECT

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us,  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence,  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one we pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, which 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 them 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.**

*The Bishop, introducing the Act of Commitment for the Care of Creation, says*

As the whole of creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind, let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God, the Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

Let us affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation.

*All*    **Lord of life and giver of hope,  
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,  
to reduce our waste,  
to live sustainably,  
and to value the rich diversity of life.  
May your wisdom guide us,  
that life in all its forms may flourish,  
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.**

*All*    **May the commitment we have made this day be matched by our faithful living.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

Now thank we all our God

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

*Words: Nun danket alle Gott Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)  
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

*Tune: Nun danket alle Gott*

## **BLESSING**

*Thank you for sharing in our service, please encourage others to watch it when it is made available after this broadcast, our greetings and prayers from the Diocese of Leeds are with you this day, and wherever you are.*

May God, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air,  
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,  
who multiplied loaves and fishes, and changed water into wine,  
lead us and feed us,  
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator  
now and through all eternity,  
and the blessing of God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and for ever.

*All*     **Amen.**

## **ANTHEM**

**Achieved is the glorious work**

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

**Achieved is the glorious work;  
Our song let be the praise of God.  
Glory to His name forever.  
He sole on high exalted reigns. Hallelujah.**

*From: Haydn's 'The Creation'*

## Acknowledgements

With thanks to The Rt. Rev Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon, The Rev Ruth Newton, Vicar of St John's, Sharow, Darius Traves, ordinand, Neil Heseltine, chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Kate Dale, David Stead and Peter Triffitt.

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Naomi Barry.

Music performed by Andrew Earis and St Martin's Voices.

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