

According to that fount of all knowledge - Wikipedia - Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word hærfeſt, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. (source [Wikipedia](#))

Themes:

- Thank God for all his has provided. Giving to others is a reflection of the gratitude God's people have for what he has given them.
- Thank God for the farmers, fishermen and food producers.
- How can we help those who don't have enough to eat?
- Where does our food come from?
- Link to [Creation](#) – God gave humans the job of cultivating the land. Are we doing a good job with this? Are there places where crops can't be grown because of pollution, rubbish, houses, illegal logging etc.?

Bible verses:

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deuteronomy 24:19

“Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. “Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.

Exodus 23:16

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God.’ ”

Leviticus 23:22

“When you gather your crops and fail to bring in some of the grain that you have cut, do not go back for it; it is to be left for the foreigners, orphans, and widows, so that the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.
Deuteronomy 24:19

Celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honour the LORD your God, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you. ¹¹ Be joyful in the LORD's presence, together with your children, your servants, and the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows who live in your towns. Do this at the one place of worship. ¹² Be sure that you obey these commands; do not forget that you were slaves in Egypt.
Deuteronomy 16:10-17

Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.
Genesis 1: 28-30

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.
Genesis 2: 4-9

http://www.faithandworship.com/harvest_thanksgiving_liturgy_prayers.htm

Collective Worship plans

<https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/idea/reflective-story-presentation-harvest>

<https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/harvest-support-material>

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/harvest-school-resources> - Christian Aid resources and stories from Ethiopia from a family trying to grow enough food to survive.

<https://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/celebrate-harvest/>

<https://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/god-is-a-faithful-gardener/>

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/harvest-festival-6176420> - Video clip explaining why Christians celebrate harvest. (Could be used for teacher subject knowledge or within worship to help explain what happens in churches and why)

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/search.php?term=harvest&ksval=6&order=aid&offset=0&restype=p&art> - Not all of these acts of worship are written for Church schools, so make sure you adapt them to meet the requirements of worship in a C of E School.

Songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTdIrITIXks> – Harvest Samba

<http://www.gokidmusic.com/letsharvest/#mailmunch-pop-483447> Let's Harvest – explains the importance of sharing what we have.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uDwnqynJD4> – Creator God by Nick and Becky Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PukdaXUzgOU> – Cauliflowers Fluffy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9mvrkQbzgc> – Autumn Days

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha628Pj_Rns – We plough the fields and scatter