HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

29 October 2026 at 3.30pm & 6.30pm

The Strict Baptist Chapel
St David's Bridge Cranbrook

Preacher: Mr. Stephen Hyde

Collection for Free Bible Fund

Harvest Report made for us by Farmers Jeremy and Eleanor Northern on 27th October. Eleanor is a member at Zoar Chapel, Ashwell.

The harvest in the UK in 2026 has been one of the poorest and smallest on record. An extremely dry spring, and a summer of drought and heatwaves lowered grain yields by 30%, and in some cases up to 50% in the south.

But although our harvest has been poor there is still much to be thankful for. The quality of wheat is very good because the hot summer sun concentrated the nutrients in the grains, meaning more of this wheat can be used to produce bread. The actual harvesting process was one of the easiest and quickest in living memory, with a very early start and an early finish, with no rain interruptions. As a family and business, we are thankful that we were kept from the very real dangers of field fires during the heatwaves.

In horticulture the fruit harvest was highly successful, with berry and orchard fruits yielding very well, and many domestic gardens had some good vegetable harvests especially where irrigation was still possible. Other parts of the world, such as Canada and parts of US had exceptional grain harvests, and we are able to import from them to make up our shortfall.

Afternoon Service

1 *Tune: St. George 516 CTB*

"This traditional harvest hymn is partly about harvesting and gathering of crops but also about the 'harvest' of souls, where believers are gathered together to be with God.

See Matthew 13: Verses 36-43

1 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!

2 All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day
All offences purge away;
Give His angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store
In His garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final Harvest-home,
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There for ever purified,
In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels come;
Raise the glorious Harvest-home.

287 YPH H. Alford (7s.D.)

~ Reading & Prayer ~

2

Psalm 136 verses 1-8, 23-26
Tune: Dominus regit me 622 CTB

Psalm 136
One of only a few psalms that have a refrain.

Tracing the Lord's mercies in all his dealings.

The verses selected apply to us and the harvest.

The other verses tell of the Lord's mercies in bringing Israel out of Egypt.

1. Give thanks unto the LORD - he's good;
   His mercy is for ever.
2. Give thanks unto the God of gods;
   His mercy is for ever.

3. Give thanks unto the Lord of lords;
   His mercy is for ever.
4. To him who only wonders does;
   His mercy is for ever.

5. To him whose wisdom made the heavens;
   His mercy is for ever.
6. To him that stretched out earth o'er seas;
   His mercy is for ever.

7. To him that made the glorious lights;
   His mercy is for ever.
8. The glowing sun to rule by day;
   His mercy is for ever.

23. Who in our lowness thought of us;
   His mercy is for ever.
24. And has redeemed us from our foes;
   His mercy is for ever.

25. Who giveth food unto all flesh;
   His mercy is for ever.
26. Give thanks then to the God of heaven;
   His mercy is for ever.

The Book of Psalms for Singing - Psalm 136 (8.7.8.7. lambic)
Translation by David Cooke

~ Sermon ~

3

Tune: Duke Street 326 CTB

Hymn based on 2 Corinthians 4:6

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

1 Now to the Lord a noble song!
Awake, my soul; awake, my tongue!
Hosanna to the eternal name,
And all his boundless love proclaim!

2 See where it shines in Jesus' face,
The brightest image of his grace!
God, in the person of his Son,
Has all his mightiest works outdone.

3 The spacious earth and spreading flood
Proclaim the wise, the powerful God;
And thy rich glories from afar
Sparkle in every rolling star.

4 But in his looks a glory stands,
The noblest labour of thy hands;
The pleasing lustre of his eyes
Outshines the wonders of the skies.

5 Grace! 'tis a sweet, a charming theme!
My thoughts rejoice at Jesus' name!
Ye angels, dwell upon the sound!
Ye heavens, reflect it to the ground!

6 O may I live to reach the place
Where he unveils his lovely face,
Where all his beauties you behold,
And sing his name to harps of gold!

18 GHB I.Watts (L.M.)

~ Benediction ~

A meal will be served in the chapel between the services. All welcome to stay.

Evening Service

4 *Tune: Evan 136 CTB*

Hymn based on

Jeremiah 5:24
"Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

Hosea 10:12
Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

1 To praise the ever-bounteous Lord,
My soul, wake all thy powers;
He calls, and at His voice come forth
The smiling harvest hours.

2 His covenant with the earth He keeps;
My tongue, His goodness sing:
Summer and winter know their time,
His harvest crowns the spring.

3 Well pleased the toiling swains behold
The waving yellow crop;
With joy they bear the sheaves away,
And sow again in hope.

4 Thus teach me, gracious God, to sow
The seeds of righteousness:
Smile on my soul, and with Thy beam,
The ripening harvest bless.

5 Then in the last great harvest, I
Shall reap a glorious crop:
The harvest shall by far exceed
What I have sown in hope.

947 from Denham's Selection
John Needham, 1769 (C.M.)

~ Reading & Prayer ~

5 *Tune: St. George 59 CTB*

1 Thy mercy, Lord, we praise;
Of judgment too we sing;
For all the riches of thy grace
Our grateful tribute bring.

2 Mercy may justly claim
A sinner's thankful voice;
And judgment joining in the theme,
We tremble and rejoice.

3 Thy mercies bid us trust;
Thy judgments strike with awe;
We fear the last, we bless the first,
And love thy righteous law.

4 Who can thy acts express,
Or trace thy wondrous ways?
How glorious is thy holiness;
How terrible thy praise!

5 Thy goodness how immense
To those that fear thy name!
Thy love surpasses thought or sense,
And always is the same.

6 Thy judgments are too deep
For reason's line to sound.
Thy tender mercies to thy sheep
No bottom know, nor bound.

833 GHB J.Hart (S.M.)

Hymn based on Psalm 101:1

" I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing."

~ Sermon ~

6

Tune: Barton 576 CTB

1 Our faithful God hath sent us
A fruitful harvest tide;
He summer boons hath lent us,
And winter wants supplied.

2 The fields at His ordaining,
Stand thick with golden sheaves;
And man, full oft complaining,
New bounty now receives.

3 Though Mercy largely giveth,
Is justice pacified?
We live through Him that liveth,
The "Corn of Wheat" that died.

4 Then full be our thanksgiving,
And clear each note of joy;
While faith and holy living
Our earnest thoughts employ.

5 And at the last great reaping,
When Christ His sheaves will own,
May we, no longer weeping,
By garnered near His throne.

6 Praise we the Godhead-Union,
The Eternal Three in One;
With them may our communion,
For ever be begun.

Based on

Matthew 3:12
Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.)

John 12:24
Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

854 from Songs of Grace and Glory
William Henry Havergal, 1863 (76.7.6 D Iambic)

~ Benediction ~

7
Doxology

506A GHB *Tune: Old Hundredth 382 CTB*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Between the Services

Graces

Remain seated to sing

Before Meal *Tune: Rimington 395 CTB*

Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored;
These mercies bless, and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee.

After Meal *Tune: Wareham 431CTB*

We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,
But more because of Jesus' blood;
Let manna to our souls be given,
The bread of life sent down from heaven.

In Paradise, within the gates,
A nobler entertainment waits,
Fruits new and old laid up in store,
Where we shall feast, and want no more.

Graces from 343 & 344 YPH

GHB= Gadsby's Hymn Book. YPH= Young People's Hymnal. CTB = Companion Tune Book