

Prayers for A Somerset Harvest Thanksgiving (Year A)

Let us pray:

Father God,

we thank you for this county of Somerset; the beautiful hills, the rivers and moors of Exmoor, the varied coastline, the lushness of the levels. We thank you for the orchards, the excellent grazing pastures and the rich soil for cultivation. We pray for all who work in the countryside and all who work to preserve the wild places, and ask that you will continue to bless our land. Lord in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God,

you have made all things and the balance of nature is marvellous to behold. We pray for our climate, acknowledging our complicity in the rising temperatures and its consequences. Help us all to do our part to conserve your world, reduce waste, and share our plenty with those who have little.

We pray for our soil: for recovery from the heavy winter and spring rains and flooding. Help us to use it wisely and protect all your creatures that live in it, for the benefit of all.

Lord in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God,

We pray today for farmers and farm-workers, especially those who live and work in this parish. We pray for them in the heat of summer and in the drear wet and cold of winter, as they tend their stock daily and cultivate their fields, as they manage the hedges, woodland and waterways. We pray for safety in a hazardous industry and encouragement for the solitary, and a fair price for their products.

Lord in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the harvest,

We thank you for our food. For the rich variety and interest of it. We pray for this country to increase its self sufficiency in food, that people and supermarkets will remember to support local growers. We pray for all those who provide seasonal labour at harvest time, for those who clean and process our food often in tough conditions, for those who transport, inspect and sell our food and for all who cook it for us, remembering particularly all the new school caterers feeding our young children.

Lord in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God,

As we celebrate your goodness to us in Somerset, we also remember the plight of those whose harvests have failed. We pray for those whose land or crops were affected by floods, by drought or by pests and disease. For those whose families are hungry and for those who have no seed or livestock for the future. We also remember those here and abroad who are dependent on food aid.

Help us to be generous givers - of our money, food and time, as Christian disciples in this place, and show us how to steward the resources of your world, for the benefit of all your children.

Lord in your love **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer.