

SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021

# ST COLUMBA'S FAMILIES NEWSLETTER



## HI FAMILIES OF ST COLUMBA'S,

This week I had a fascinating conversation with Chris Blackshaw. Chris is one of the Church of Scotland's first pioneering ministers. Since 2016 he has ministered to the agricultural community in Ayrshire. He doesn't have a church building – the farmers' market at Ayr is his "office". There, he spends time listening and talking with farmers, their families and many people whose lives are connected to the farming industry. He organises a carol service held each year in the show /sales ring of Ayr market, which sounds a lot of fun. "Farming can be very rewarding but it is hard life and often very isolating, miles from other people," he says. "I have met vets who have told me that they often go back to farms, not to look at the animals but to make sure the farmers are okay."

I asked him about Harvest which is such a special time for farmers, and he sent me this hymn, which gives some new words to a favourite old harvest hymn. Perhaps an adult at home could teach you the tune.... or sing you the verses?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du-5yPKfSRc> might help. (The tune and original words.) Let me know how you get on. And as we celebrate harvest this Sunday at St Columba's please remember our Harvest Appeal for the Upper Room. (See below.)

## Alternate words for 'We plough the fields and scatter'

We plough the fields with tractors,  
With drills we sow the land;  
But growth is still the wondrous gift  
Of God's almighty hand.  
We add our fertilizers  
To help the growing grain;  
But for its full fruition,  
It needs God's sun and rain.

*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all his love.*

To gather in the harvest  
Machines now lead the way.  
We reap the fields with combines,  
We bale the new mown hay;  
But it is God who gives us  
Inventive skills and drive;  
Which lighten daily labour  
And give us fuller lives!

*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all his love.*

Then why are people starving  
When we have life so good?  
And some in crowded cities  
Search dustbins for their food;  
And even some go hungry  
Who farm in distant lands;  
Lord, help us learn more swiftly  
To share with open hands.

*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all his love.*

We thank thee then, O Father,  
For life so rich and good,  
For seedtime and the harvest,  
The wealth of daily food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
Such as thy love imparts,  
But what thou most desirest:  
Our humble thankful hearts.

*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all his love.*



## Harvest Appeal

The Upper Room is a great name for a charity – a reminder, and a connection, to the place where Jesus shared a meal with his closest friends at the Last Supper. The Upper Room provides thousands of meals a year for the homeless and disadvantaged people. Harvest Appeal - UR4Meals - The Upper Room

<https://theupperroom.org.uk/>

<https://theupperroom.org.uk/what-we-do/ur4meals/>

The above links provide an insight into the incredible services the charity provides. They are asking for:

- canned fish, canned meat and canned vegetables,
- olive oil, sunflower oil,
- jarred sauces
- and long-life milk (any).

Our collecting culminates this Sunday (3rd October.) Collection area: Upper Vestibule, where there is a box for donated items. If your family would prefer to make a financial donation online direct to The Upper Room, UR4Meals, please click on the link.

<https://theupperroom.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

Anything you can help with makes a difference.

### **Next Week: Sunday School gathering: Sunday 10th October, 11am**

We look forward to offering activities for 4-9-year-olds and 10-13-year-olds. Hope to see you then.

And looking ahead:

**Sunday 14th November (Remembrance Sunday) 10.45am**

**Sunday 12th December (3.30pm, Christingle making, pizza family tea & Carols by Candlelight at 5pm)**

Thanks to Fiona for preparing activities for this weekend.

Stay dry!

The Sunday School Team