

A Harvest Welcome

The turning leaves, the cooler days and above all the darker, frosty mornings all remind us of what time of year it is. This Sunday, October 7th is Thanksgiving Sunday. This Thanksgiving Weekend is a weekend of hustle, of family gatherings, and of traveling. It is a weekend of turkey, gravy, pumpkins and fresh apple pie, but will it also be a time of thanksgiving for you and yours? Will you take time to reflect and give thanks?

St Peter's offers you an opportunity to do just that – to give thanks. But rather than site the usual list of 'things to be thankful for' like our wonderful country, our well laden tables and our beautiful countryside, I am the first to concede that we live in a very cynical age. We live in an age in which our minds will reply by pointing out how our government takes us places many do not want to go, that we collectively pollute our environment and that the need for food banks and soup kitchens continues to grow. How deep this cynicism runs concerns me. Does it negate all that we really do have to be thankful for? Can we not be both thankful and share and work together to make a better world? Surely it would be an odd position indeed to live in one of the richest countries in the world, at the most prosperous time of human history and maintain that we have nothing to be thankful for. What is more, do we really want to instill this attitude and pessimism in our children? Can we not give them better than this?

In an effort to give thanks and to share some hope, St Peter's offers two specific opportunities this weekend. First, on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. SHARP, we will be decorating our church for worship. As part of our heritage of 'the pretty little country church in the big city,' we will again decorate St Peter's in the traditional fashion. All children are invited to bring a tomato, a pumpkin, a squash, a stalk of corn, an apple or whatever AND place it as part of our decorating efforts. It will only take a moment but it will connect your child with this traditional activity and the notion of actively helping to decorate God's House for Thanksgiving worship.

Secondly, on Sunday morning, we will all gather, young and old, to worship our God. The very word 'eucharist,' used to describe the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion means 'thanksgiving' – Thanksgiving for the visible and the obvious, thanksgiving for our life and health and homes, but also, more profoundly, thanksgiving for God's love towards us and the gift of our passing glimpses of the depth of that love, that is, for His gifts of Faith and Hope and Love.

You are most welcome to join us. Please do avail yourselves of these opportunities and may we all gather to give thanks this special weekend.