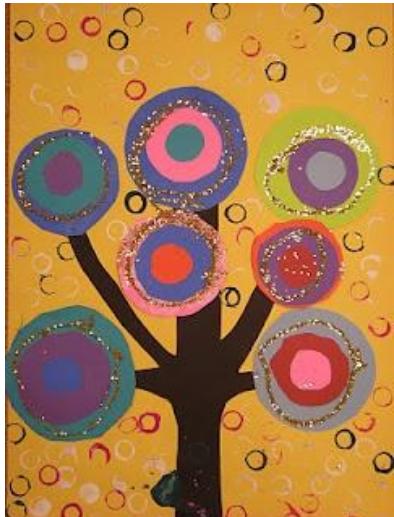


# Church of Ireland Children's Ministry

## Harvest Newsletter



We have lots of ideas for your Harvest celebrations this year. We have collated them from different Children's Ministry websites, blogs and resource books or have simply shared tried and tested ideas run in parishes in previous years. We hope you enjoy as you give thanks for all that God has given.

### All Age Service/Sunday Club Talk:

We'll be taking a lot of ideas from Ripple, the Connor Diocesan website for Children's Ministry as it has so many gems for use at Harvest. See all of the ideas here: <http://www.rippleconnor.org.uk/resources/>

This is an interactive story which can be used in a church setting or in Sunday School. Choose children to be the seed, wheat, farmer, miller, baker, seller, dad, me. Children do the following actions for a few seconds each time their character is mentioned in the story:

Seed: crouch down and be as small as possible

Wheat: growing action

Farmer: cutting action as if using a scythe

Miller: pretend to grind flour

Baker: pretend to knead or roll out dough

Seller: shout "roll up roll up nice fresh bread"

Dad: shout I'm home!

Me: take a big bite (on cue) and say "Delicious"

Everyone else watching joins in the refrain "**That's part of the world that God made**". If you use visuals use the "This is the world that God made" PowerPoint. (download 'This is the world that God made powerpoint from: <http://www.rippleconnor.org.uk/harvest/>)

Some simple props add to the story e.g. farmer's cap/wellies/cardboard scythe pestle and

mortar/bag of flour for miller, baker's hat/apron/rolling pin, till for seller, big baguette/shopping bag for dad, slice of bread for "me".

Words in bold should be said everyone together. Narrator reads the rest.

Narrator: This is the world that God made.

Narrator: This is the field with the old stone WALL

**All: That's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is the seed, ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is the Farmer - Farmer PAUL

Who cut down the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is the miller who was on the BALL

And ground the flour in no time at ALL

For our hardworking Farmer, Farmer PAUL Who cut down the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is the baker, from DONEGAL

Who made bread for the miller who was on the BALL

Who ground the flour in no time at ALL

For our hardworking Farmer, Farmer PAUL Who cut down the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is the man at his market STALL

Who sold bread for the baker from DONEGAL

Who made bread for the miller who was on the BALL

Who ground the flour in no time at ALL

For our hardworking Farmer, Farmer PAUL Who cut down the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is my dad coming into the HALL

Who has just bought some bread from a market STALL

The baker was someone from DONEGAL

Who made bread for a miller who was on the BALL

Who ground the flour in no time at ALL

For a hardworking Farmer called Farmer Paul Who cut down the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL

Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

Narrator: This is me hearing the CALL

"Come for your breakfast" –that's my mother's BAWL,

"Morning Dad" – he's still in the HALL

I am eating the bread from the market STALL

Baked by the baker from DONEGAL

Who made bread for a miller who was on the BALL

Who ground the flour in no time at ALL

For a hardworking Farmer called Farmer PAUL Who cut down the wheat which grew so TALL

Which sprung from the seed ever so SMALL  
Which was sown in the field with the old stone WALL  
**All: that's part of the world that God made.**  
Narrator: I took a great big bite and said  
Me: DELICIOUS

Narrator: and thank you God for my mum and dad who bought it, the man who sold it, the baker who baked it, the miller who ground it, the farmer who cut it, the wheat which sprung up, the seed that was sown, in the field...

**All: that's part of the world that God made.**

**All: Doesn't God use a lot of people and take a lot of care just to give us our breakfast!**



Another brilliant Bible Story Telling tool for Harvest has been produced by Lucy Moore from Messy Church. It involves putting the listeners into 3 different groups who have different actions or sounds and then delivering the Parable of the Sower to the tune of 'Old McDonald'. It can be easily transcribed from a talk she gave at a Hand in Hand Conference. It's available here to download: <http://www.handinhandconference.com/resources/storytelling/> for £3.00 and she teaches the parable of the sower from 43 minutes in. The rest is well worth a listen for both general and specific story telling ideas.

Scripture Union's online resource Lightlive has a wonderful action story for the Parable of the Sower for Under 5's. Search Lightlive using the keyword 'Farmer' for free access to the Bible Story.



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**NOTE: The Application of the Story is really important:**

**Stony path = no listening ears/hard hearts SO the word of God and the love of God cannot grow in our hearts.**

**Rocky ground = we listen and are interested but when life gets hard the word of God and the love of God cannot grow in our hearts.**

**Thorn bushes = we listen and we hear but when life gets crowded and we get distracted, the word of God and the love of God cannot grow in our hearts.**

**Good soil = Our hearts stay open to God so even when life gets hard or busy, God's word and God's love continue to grow in our hearts.**

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**God help us to have hearts that are open to you. Amen**

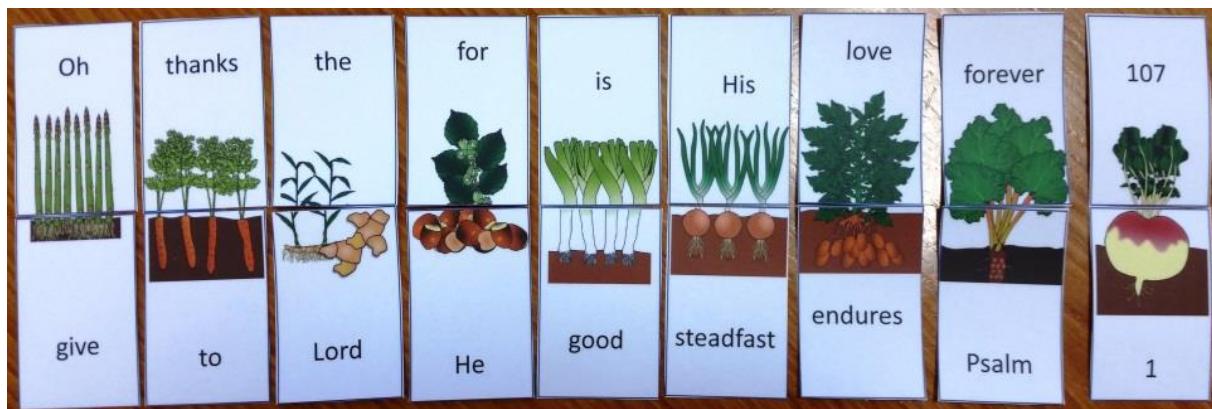
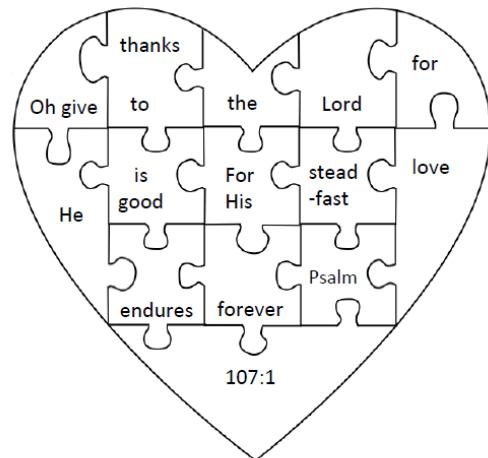
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In the Resource Book 'Let's All Clap Hands' edited by Maggie Barfield, which provides lots of simple songs, rhymes and prayers for use with young children in an All Age Service setting, the story of the sower is told very simply to the tune of 'The Farmer Wants a Wife'. It also provides suggested actions. It also provides a simple song of Harvest to the tune of 'Row, row, row your boat' (sow, sow, sow the seeds)

Finally, in 'Celebrations Sorted' a wonderful Scripture Union Resource, there is an All Age Service Harvest talk provided by Christian Aid.

## Memory Verse Ideas:

There is a fantastic Fruit and Veg Memory Verse Match, again in the Harvest section of the Ripple Connor website. We have it printed, laminated and ready to play! It is for Psalm 107:1 'Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever.' It is accompanied by a fantastic jigsaw craft that can be made and brought home as a visible craft reminder.



## Harvest Craft Ideas:

We've taken this directly from Flame Creative Ministries blogspot and it is so practical and caters for a really open ended response. Rev Mina Munns, who provides all the ideas for Flame Creative Ministries is our keynote speaker and is delivering 2 different workshops at Building Blocks Dublin this year on November 12<sup>th</sup> – find us on facebook (see below) to get all the details!

## Don't worry: Birds and flowers craft (Matthew 6: 25-34)



There is great imagery in this passage about birds and flowers being given everything they need by God and the children were really able to identify with the simplicity of the ideas. It led to great discussion about what God provides for us and what we worry about.

Each child took a stone and glued a heart to it. This was to remind them that God loves them even more than he loves the birds and the plants. A stone is also something strong to hold onto, a reflection of the strength and reassurance God can bring in worrying times. We wanted the children to take the stone home as something they could hold on to when they were worried and that would remind them of God's love and might prompt them to pray.





I thought it would be a good idea for the children to make a pot to keep the stone in that would remind them of the verses about the birds and flowers, so we challenged the children to transform a little pot/paper cup into a bird or a flower. They, of course, had much more creative ideas!

We had a lion, an elephant and a (pink!) rabbit as well as a variety of flowers and a penguin.

It was great to see the children be creative in their response and extend the teaching about birds and flowers to other creatures too! We created a fair bit of mess, but everyone was engaged and had things to share about their own worries. The independent creative time gave the leaders the chance to share testimonies from our own lives about when God helped us through worrying times.

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In the Messy Programmes section of the Ripple Connor website, there are lots of craft ideas for the Parable of the Sower. The Herby Pets are our favourite! But you can also avail of seed packet decorators and soil creative prayers.

#### Herby Pet



Cut a large empty bottle leaving the bottom third.



Add a bottle top nose and two large googly eyes. Use a glue gun or glue dots.



Fill with compost and either sow some seeds or plant some herbs for the kitchen window sill.



Water regularly and enjoy your plant.

## Creative Prayer Ideas:

We borrowed this prayer idea from Barnabas in Churches. It can be found here:

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

This prayer idea involves using a blow up globe. However, you could use a soft ball or beach ball and have a large map at the front for everyone to see: Use it to illustrate the following three worlds:

a. A World of Amazing Harvests

Toss the globe to adults and children, who can name different sorts of foods and vegetables that come from around the world. Some of these fruits and vegetables may be on display already



b. A World of Terrible Hurts and Hunger

Toss the globe to adults and children who can name some of the bad 'harvests' of the world in terms of war, famine and distress

c. A World of Hope

Toss the globe to adults and children who can name some of the good things that are happening around God's world, as the harvest of his good work through people's lives is made real.

Invite children to pick a country, to pray for the people and the harvests there, that people may have enough in countries where there is poverty, and people may have enough, in countries where there is wealth.



[www.cm.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org);

[www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry](http://www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry)

