

With thanks to Tina Venton of
Carnmarth South Deanery for
sharing her hard work and ideas.

Harvest Heroes

A project allowing schools to
work in partnership with
their local churches in
learning about the creation
story and how and why
Christians celebrate Harvest.



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EDUCATION

Plant a Seed

Indoor
Activity

Outdoor
Activity

You will need:

- 4 or 5 Pot Makers
- Newspaper

Or Half a toilet roll tube (or similar cardboard tube) for each child

- A plastic tray from your recycling
- Some compost
- A seed (your choice)

Make a pot by rolling a strip of newspaper around the pot maker and pressing it into the mould to form the base. It is recommended to pre-cut the paper as children find this difficult.

Fill the pot or cardboard tube with compost up to about 2cm from the top.

Add a seed and cover with compost.

The cardboard tubes can be stored in the plastic tray until they have sprouted and then planted in the churchyard or garden. The cardboard will rot away leaving the seedling growing in the ground. Alternatively use a wooden pot maker and make your own pots out of newspaper.

Harvest Cookies

Indoor
Activity

You will need:

- 100g butter (softened)
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 200g plain flour
- Optional cinnamon, nutmeg or ginger for a harvest spice twist.
- Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan) / 350°F / Gas Mark 4.
- Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
- Beat in the egg and vanilla extract.
- Stir in the flour (and spices if using) to form a soft dough.
- Roll into balls and flatten slightly on a baking tray lined with parchment.
- Bake for 10–12 minutes until golden at the edges.
- Cool on a wire rack.

Have a bowl of soapy water and some towels for handwashing at the station.

Ask one child to weigh out the butter, one to weigh out the sugar, one to break the egg etc. the remaining children can take it in turns to stir. Each child in turn can form a cookie until all the mixture has been used. It will probably be more practical to bake the cookies later and deliver them to the school later in the day. You might like to use wheat sheaf cookie cutters or [cookie stampers](#).

NB check with the school that there are no children with allergies before doing any activities connected with food.

Bird Puddings

Indoor
Activity

You will need:

- Vegetable shortening (like Trex or Flora White) or lard – acts as a binder
- Bird seed mix (check that it is nut-free)
- Oats
- Dried fruit (like raisins or chopped apple – optional)
- Grated cheese (optional, birds love it!)
- Pine cones, cardboard tubes, or yogurt pots
- String for hanging
- Scoop the shortening or lard into a bowl (room temperature is fine—no melting needed).
- Add bird seed, oats, and extras like dried fruit or cheese.
- Mix well with a spoon or hands until everything sticks together.
- Spoon the mixture into your chosen container (pine cone, tube, or pot).
- Press it in firmly so it sticks well.
- Tie string around the top for hanging.
- Hang outside on a tree or bird feeder and watch the birds enjoy!

Have a bowl of soapy water and some towels for handwashing at the station.

Ask one child to put the lard into the mixing bowl, one to add the seed etc, All children can take turns to stir. Each child in turn can fill a pot or cardboard tube. There is no need to make a feeder each, one can be made per group, or children can work in pairs. Adults may want to string the container prior to starting.

NB check with the school that there are no children with allergies before doing any activities connected with food.

Crying the Neck

Indoor
Activity

Explain that the Cornish “Crying the Neck” ceremony is not a Christian ceremony but is an old tradition which is still followed in some communities today – it goes like this:

The farmer cuts the last sheaf of corn and cries, “I ‘ave un! I ‘ave un!”

“What ‘ave ‘ee?” reply the people.

“A neck! A neck!”

“Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!”

This is then repeated in Cornish.

The people then go to the church where hymns are sung and prayers are said.

The people then hold a harvest celebration

Try the Crying the Neck ceremony with the children using the Cornish language:

An Tregher: Yma genef! Yma genef! Yma genef!

An Re erel: Pandr’us genes? Pandr’us genes? Pandr’us genes?

An Tregher: Pen Yar! Pen Yar! Pen Yar!

An Re erel: “Houra! Houra! Houra!”

Give the group yellow paper to draw and cut out a corn sheaf, string these together to create a garland to take back to school.

Other cut out harvest fruits and veg can be added. Letters can be added to spell out “Thank you for the Harvest” or similar.

Leaf Bingo

Outdoor
Activity

Ask the children to pick up as many different leaves as they can find on the ground. If there are fallen seeds as well collect those too and keep them with the leaf.

Provide them with a copy of a simple leaf identification chart such as this one on the [Woodland Trust](#) website.

Ask children to tick the trees they have found. Have a discussion on the life cycle of a tree and the methods of seed dispersal.

Bee Bombs

Indoor
Activity

Outdoor
Activity

You will need:

- Some wildflower seeds
- Some compost
- Some air drying clay

Take a ball of clay about the size of a golf ball.

Push your thumb in to form a thumb pot, make the walls quite thin.

Mix some seeds with some compost.

Close the top of the pot to create a ball shape.

Leave the bee bomb for about a week to allow the clay to dry.

Prepare some ground by clearing the soil and damping it with a watering can.

Throw your bee bomb onto the ground hard enough to break it.

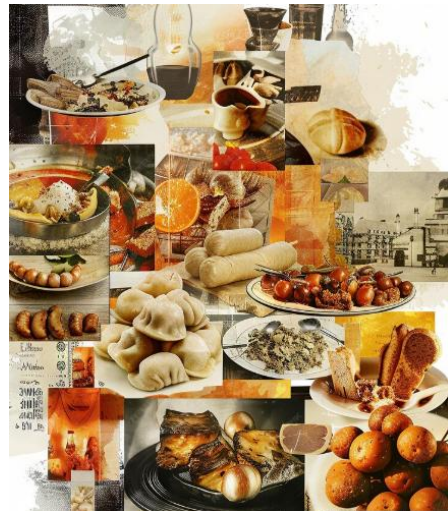
Watch your seeds grow.

Food Collage 1

Indoor
Activity

You will need:

- Magazines with pictures of food
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Coloured sugar paper or craft paper



Ask the children to choose pictures of food they like from the magazines and cut them out. They can then use these to form a collage – this could be a picture of something else or just a decoupage style filling of a basic shape such as an apple or a sheaf of wheat. You could make it window shaped to fit one of the church windows which would enhance your harvest displays. Children could then invite their parents to come to the harvest service and view it! During the activity you can discuss God's bounty and the importance of sharing what we have with those who have less.

Food Collage 2

Indoor
Activity

You will need:

- A selection of small dried food such as lentils, pulses and smaller types of pasta
- PVA glue and spreaders
- Coloured sugar paper or craft paper



Ask the children to create a picture or pattern from the food, they will need to use plenty of glue. You may want to offer pre-cut shapes for them to fill, or just a piece of coloured paper A5 is probably a good size for this.

During the activity you can discuss God's bounty and the importance of sharing what we have with those who have less.

It will be necessary to have a bowl of soapy water and towels to hand!

Vegetable Animal

Indoor
Activity

You will need:

- A selection of fruit and vegetables
- A knife for adult use
- Cocktail sticks
- Googly eyes (optional)



Choose your animal – e.g. rabbit, hedgehog, caterpillar.

Cut and shape the vegetables to form body parts.

Carrot slices for ears or legs

Cucumber rounds for body

Cherry tomato for nose or tail

Join pieces using toothpicks.

Add eyes using peppercorns or googly eyes.