

Pastors Comment

There's an advertising campaign that has been going for as long as I can remember – probably the worst one I can imagine and it still gives me Goosebumps ... 'Back to school' ... If advertisers don't realise how repulsive this slogan is, then I hope one of them is reading this comment right now! Yes, you guessed it, I used to reel and cringe when I saw this slogan in the windows of Woolworths and it ruined the rest of my summer holiday thinking about it! Never-the-less, those were the good old days and kids (I know some) actually can't wait to go back to school because they enjoy it (yes, really). However it is a worthy reminder to pray for our children and grandchildren who are returning to school and I hope all of you, who have been away, have had a relaxing and enjoyable time. Don't forget that on the 3rd September we have our table top sale – please come along and bring something to sell if you can. We are also welcoming the new Malborough homeowners this September. Please continue to pray for Kate, Sandra, Ros and Dori Blessings – Pastor Tim.



Services

September

4th Mr M. Page
11th Mr M. Young
17th Rev. T. Skillman
25th Rev. T. Skillman
Harvest Festival

October

2nd Rev. T. Skillman

Door Stewards

September

4th Peggy
11th Brian
17th Brian
25th Ann

October

2nd Ann

Flowers

September

4th Mrs D. Laphorn
11th Mr R. Parsons
18th Mrs D. Laphorn
25th Harvest Flowers

October

2nd Harvest Flowers

Hoovering (week ending...)

September

3rd Mr and Mrs King
10th Mrs G. Sterry
17th Mrs S. Jones
24th Ms J. Brown



October

1st Mrs E. Putt

MALBOROUGH
BAPTIST
CHURCH

MINISTER
REV TIM SKILLMAN

Fellowship News

Volume 4, Issue 9

September 2011

Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

Harvest Festival is one of the oldest known festivals. In the UK it is traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon around the time of the Autumn Equinox in September. Unlike the USA and Canada, the UK does not have a national holiday for Harvest Festival.

The celebration of Harvest in Britain dates back to pre-Christian times when the success of the crop governed the lives of the people. Saxon farmers offered the first cut sheaf of corn to one of their gods of fertility, in order to safeguard a good harvest the following year. The last sheaf was thought to contain the Spirit of the Corn, and its cutting was usually accompanied by the ritual sacrifice of an animal - often a hare caught hiding in the corn. Later, a model hare made from straw was used to represent the continuity of the Spirit. This practice eventually led to the making of plaited 'corn dollies', symbolising the goddess of the grain. These were hung from the rafters in farmhouses until the next year. When the harvest was in, a celebratory supper was held to which the whole community was invited.



These traditions continued after Christianity arrived in Britain, sometimes in a slightly different form, and there were ceremonies and rituals at the beginning as well as the end of the harvest and church bells were rung on every day of the harvest. A corn dolly was made from the last sheaf of corn harvested - a figure made of plaited straw, which was held aloft and carried with great ceremony to the celebrations - and it often had a place of honour at the banquet table, and was kept until the following spring. The horse bringing the last cart load was decorated with garlands of flowers and colourful ribbons. A magnificent harvest feast was held at the farmer's house and games played to celebrate the end of the harvest.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. This led to the custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

The traditional ways of celebrating the harvest still survive today in rural communities. Nowadays, children also take gifts of fruit and vegetables to church and present them during the harvest service whilst the harvest hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand' is sung. After the service, these gifts are distributed to the elderly and needy of the community.

Many schools also have a Harvest Festival assembly and the gifts of fruit and vegetables are distributed in the local community.



“The earth is the LORD’S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

“The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. ...The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.” (Matthew 13:37-39)

I danced in the morning when the world was young
I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth

Chorus

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

I danced for the scribes and the Pharisees
They wouldn't dance, they wouldn't follow me
I danced for the fishermen James and John
They came with me so the dance went on

Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame
They whipped, they stripped, they hung me high
Left me there on the cross to die

Chorus

I danced on a Friday when the world turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body, they thought I was gone
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on

Chorus

They cut me down and I leapt up high
I am the life that will never, never die
I'll live in you if you'll live in me
I am the Lord of the dance, said he

Chorus