

<p>Welcome <i>(ice-breaker)</i></p>	<p>Have you ever received a hamper of food (e.g. as a 'welcome home' gift)? How did it make you feel? // Have you ever sent one to someone? How did that make you feel?</p>
<p>Worship ideas</p>	<p>Suggestions appropriate for harvest thanksgiving e.g. Songs of Fellowship 124 Give thanks 585 We plough the fields &c 1003 Sing to the Lord (God of creation) 1015 Thank you for saving me 1241 Give thanks to the Lord ('Forever') (NB: 20 files of 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the church lounge for groups)</p>
<p>Word (refs.↓)</p>	<p><i>Sunday's 9am sermon is available to hear at http://www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on 'download' tab)</i></p>
<p><u>Read</u> Deut. 26:1-11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Here Moses addresses the Israelites who are waiting to enter the Promised Land but gives them instructions from God for what they are to do to celebrate harvest once they have entered the land. 2. Vv. 1-4. What can we learn about the importance of giving God the 'first-fruits' of our labours? Is there a lesson here about committing a certain amount of our income to God's work before taking into account all our regular expenses etc.? (if not, why not?) 3. Note in vv.5-10 the sequence: i) recalling our previous bondage ii) recounting God's redemption iii) responding in thankful offering of ourselves. How practically can you respond with gratitude for all that the Lord has given us?
<p><u>Read</u> John 6:25-35.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This passage follows on from the familiar story of 'the feeding of the 5,000' in 6:1-13. Read ch.6 vv. 14-15. What was the expectation of the people now that Jesus had performed this 'sign' (miracle)? Note: 'the Prophet' refers to Moses' prophecy in Deut. 16:15-18 that 'a new Moses' would come to begin the Messianic kingdom. 2. Read 6:25-27. Who is Jesus addressing (see v. 24/41)? What does Jesus say about the one whom God has chosen (i.e. the new Moses/ Messiah)? What does this 'Son of Man' offer to people? 3. In vv.28-31 the people recall Moses feeding the people with manna from heaven – are they referring to the feeding of the 5000 or are they asking Jesus for another, greater miracle? 4. Read vv.32-34. If Jesus is the 'new manna' as well as the 'new Moses', what is he saying about himself in terms of being given by God to 'feed' the world? How exactly does he do this? 5. Learn John 6:35 as a memory verse. This is one of the 7 'I am' sayings in John's gospel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you name the other 6? • What does this verse mean to you personally?
<p>Witness</p>	<p><u>Act</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of one way you as individuals or as a group can express your thank to God for his faithful provision at harvest-time eg by supporting an aid charity and/or local foodbanks, etc. How else might you support them (eg volunteering/ campaigning, etc.)? <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firm up plans for your next 'social' to which you can invite those in your group's circle of friends/ family who are not yet Christians – perhaps joining with another group. Remember half term this year is 26 Oct – 5 Nov (which includes Halloween).