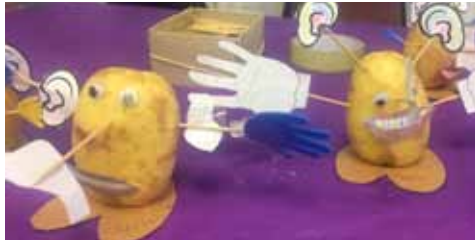


Body building at Messy Church



We are the body of Christ, said Messy Church in September. We all build up the church of God, and each other, in our different ways like living stones



At September CAMEO Peter Gregory spoke about hand cycling to Paris for the YMCA and showed a film of his exploits. All were in awe of his achievement!



Windmill United Benefice
The parishes of Burstow, Horne and Outwood

Rector: Revd Nicholas Calver
(nicholas.calver@btinternet.com)

Harvest 2017

Harvest home and away

The harvest festivals in the benefice gave thanks for God's goodness to us, while remembering those whose harvest had been devastated by natural disasters



The first grain of harvest was brought forward by James Wells, together with the bread baked from it by Carole Wells. The bread was then blessed by Bishop Jonathan, broken and shared at communion

The first harvest celebration came when Bishop Jonathan joined members of the Windmill United Benefice in July to celebrate Lammastide at Hookhouse Farm in Outwood for a picnic tea followed by a service of Holy Communion.

Of the festivals that were lost at the Reformation, Lammas was one to mourn the most, said Bishop Jonathan in his sermon: "This is because it returns harvest celebrations to where they should be – not at the end of harvest but at its beginning. It is not a celebration that 'all is safely gathered in' but offering the first fruits, the first sign that there will be a harvest, while you are still waiting for other plantings to ripen, before you can be sure it will be all right."

He explained: "Lammas is a harvest festival of faith – that what God has begun to show of his goodness towards us, he will continue to demonstrate."

The service began with an offering of these first fruits as James and

(Continued overleaf)



Burstow



Horne

The three Harvest suppers at Burstow (below), Horne (right) and Outwood provided the opportunity to come together for great food, fun and fellowship



Burstow



The benefice churches looked beautiful at the harvest festivals – a real expression of gratitude at the bounty of the season. The Burstow Scouts helped Nicholas create the message of **harvest** festival from the word itself: we all live on the same **earth**, the resources of which are **vast**. But some people are the **haves**, while others **starve**. God calls us to have a **heart** for all in need. Some are near at home, some we only see on **TV**, but with all we should **share**.



Horne



Outwood



Outwood

Non-perishable offerings brought to the harvest festivals (right, gifts being brought forward at Burstow) were taken to Crawley Open House to support their work with the homeless, disadvantaged and socially excluded people in the local area, while perishable gifts were sold after the services (below, at Outwood) in aid of UNICEF Children in Emergencies Fund to support those who have not been able to bring the harvest home in places like Nepal, Bangladesh and the Caribbean. Over £120 has been raised in this way.



(Continued from front page)
Carole Wells brought forward grains of wheat James had grown and a loaf Carole had baked from them – a loaf that was consecrated and shared at communion.

But we cannot offer these first fruits, the things we have grown and created, without also offering ourselves, said Bishop Jonathan: “As we offer ourselves, as people in and

for this place, we offer this piece of land too, these communities which make up the Windmill United Benefice, to say that this can be holy land.

“Holy because it is blessed by God; holy because it is a place in which the grace and generosity of God is recognised; holy because we have asked for and opened the way for God’s blessing.”

