



SEASON OF CREATION

- What do you most enjoy about harvest festival?
- Read Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- What are the people asked to do when they have settled and farmed the land?
- Why do you think the liturgy includes reference back to the time in Egypt?
- What are the implications of verse 10: 'the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me'?
- God also wanted his people to think of the poor at harvest time (eg Leviticus 23:22). What implications does this have for our attitude to food today?
- How do our eating habits affect the lives of those in other countries?
- How do you decide what to eat? (Eg meal plan, habit, family favourites) How difficult would it be to change some of your meals?
- The *People, Plate and Planet* report recommends a reduction in the consumption of meat and dairy products, in order to improve health, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and use less land globally. Is this thinking new to you? How do you feel about it?
- Close by thanking God for his generous provision, and praying for farmers, and all those making decisions which affect food production.

Harvest

The Season of Creation, or Creationtide (1 September to 4 October) is a season in which Christians specifically focus on giving thanks for and committing themselves to care for God's wonderful gift of Earth.

'Possibly the most important and dangerous thing about our own historical moment is that now for the first time a great social swathe across the globe... is eating sacrilegiously...; we are "drawing our lives out of the land" without thought of return.'

Ellen Davis,

Scripture, Culture and Agriculture (CUP 2009)

Our modern harvest festivals look back to Jewish ones. Shavuot was the concluding festival of the grain harvest, and the eighth day of Sukkot (Tabernacles) was the concluding festival of the fruit harvest.

Further reading

People, Plate and Planet, Centre for Alternative Technology; read online or download [here](#).

The Plant-based diet: A Christian Option?
Mia Smith, Grove Books 2019

A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues, Martin and Margot Hodson, BRF 2021, ch 8.