



HARVEST SUPPER

Ideas for a Harvest Supper in
Generosity Week



Harvest Supper

A Harvest Supper is a community meal which traditionally celebrates a successful harvest, and for Christians, the provision God has made for us. The book of Ruth begins with Naomi and Ruth leaving a land of famine, and travelling to a place where there is food to harvest and they can "glean" from Boaz's field. It is no coincidence that this is where they also receive their spiritual blessings from God.

Harvest is a significant time of abundance and provision from God. Throughout history, different cultures have recognised this time with their own festivities.

In Anglo-Saxon times, a festival was held at the beginning of August where Farmers made loaves of bread and gifted them to the local church as the communion bread during a special service which honoured God for the bountiful Harvest.

The traditional Anglican Harvest Festival was popularised in 1843 in Cornwall, as parishioners were invited to a thanksgiving service with the churches decorated with fresh produce, where they would also sing Victorian hymns.

As a charitable organisation, your church needs regular funding in order to give out to other and bless the community around you. This supper may be an opportunity to inform people of the church's current needs and reflect as a community on personal generosity to both the church and wider community.

'Bring and Share' Meal

- Choose a date and time that is suitable for your church congregation.
- Decide on a community meal. Suggestions include meals that can easily be shared, it may be helpful to choose a cuisine, such as, 'Mexican' to bring cohesion to your meal.

Baked Potatoes with toppings and sides

Tortilla Wraps with fillings and sides

Hot sandwiches (Bacon, sausage, pulled pork, & vegetarian versions)

Chilli con Carne with rice, dips and sides

Different types of Curry with rice, sides and dips

Grilled meats and vegetables with breads and dips

- Ask people to choose from a list of ingredients/dishes to make
- Prepare any decorations such as; tablecloths, fresh produce, candles.
- Print out the accompanying flyer
- Send out a reminder message the day before the event to manage any cancellations or additional numbers.

Catered Meal

- If you choose to cater the meal for your guests, you can decide whether to serve people, or create a buffet-style meal.
- You will need to organise volunteers in advance and make their roles and responsibilities clear to them.
- Make sure to include fresh produce and use locally-sourced ingredients where you can.

On the day:

- Arrange tables in your church hall space (or whatever your setting) with your tablecloths and decorations
- Place a flyer at each person's place setting
- Have a place for people to put their dishes once they arrived

Suggested outline of the event

Arrival & Welcome	Leave to 10 minutes after your starting time to welcome your guests, and arrange the food items in the designated space.
"Sit up"	Ask people to take their seats at the table/s.
First Reflection	Looking at the first page of the Overflowing Generosity Flyer, read aloud the first reflection, (you may select a different person to read each time). Say a prayer to bless the food.
"Dig in!"	Enjoy plating up your meals, whether you have people designated to serve, or go for buffet-style service, fill your plates.
Second Reflection	After 10 minutes of eating, gather everyone's attention to the second reflection in the flyer, and read aloud. Encourage discussion around the story and activity.
"Clear the decks"	Collect up empty plates to make space for dessert.
Third Reflection	Read aloud the third reflection in the flyer
Time for Dessert!	Boil the kettle for your hot drinks, and serve up any desserts or light bites you may have prepared.
Final Reflection	Read the fourth reflection in the flyer. Draw people's attention to the response page on the back.
Space for conversations	Encourage conversation about generosity and giving, and make space available for safe conversations about money and finances. A leader may make their way around the tables to see how people have found the event, and make themselves approachable for conversation.
Draw to an end	Thank your guests for attending the evening and bring the event to a close with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's provision, and everyone who made a contribution to the evening.