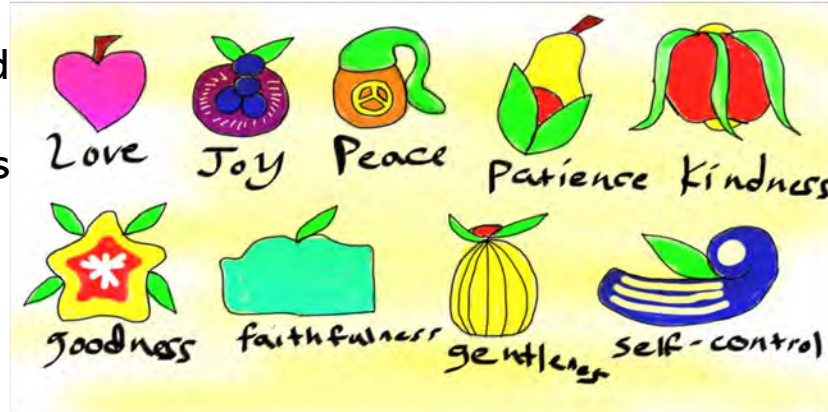


First Fruits

My Father is glorified
when you produce
much fruit and in this
way prove that you
are my disciples
(John 15:8)



Picking at Pentecost

Pentecost is the festival of the harvest of the first fruits (cf Deut.16). Read again the passage above from John's Gospel 15:8. Now take a look at the nine fruits of the Spirit pictured above and as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

- ✿ Have a discussion to draw out what each fruit might look like in your lives?
- ✿ Which fruits do other people see in your life? How are they made manifest?
- ✿ Which fruits need a bit of work? Perhaps you lack patience because your self-control is failing.
- ✿ How might you help one another in your church or your family to bear more spiritual fruit?



Let us pray:

Loving God, you provide all our needs in this, your beautiful creation. Help us always to appreciate and care for it.

Today we also thank you for the farmers of our nation, for our shop workers, lorry drivers, factory workers, all these and more who help to bring food from the ground to our tables.

Bless them all Lord, in Jesus' name, Amen!



Get Active:

In our crazy modern world where we can eat Strawberries all year round and fruit like Avocado from 1000s of miles away, perhaps we could take the "First Fruits" to mean those nearest to us. Those grown locally.

- ✿ Buy locally grown food.
- ✿ Check out the mileage your food has travelled to get to your plate.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>

Have a Pentecost 'First Fruits' Harvest Festival—
Celebrating all that is good
in your local environment





Blow away art

You will need: twigs; leaves; seeds; flowers; any other natural item already detached from trees and plants.

What you do:

Find a space away from the path and create a picture or pattern on the ground using the things you've found.



Show your friends what you have made and look at theirs.

Enjoy your art before it blows away in the wind!

What's on this month



Churches Count on Nature 4th - 12th June

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>



Why not open up your churchyard to the local community to discover, identify and record the wildlife and plants you find there? The different species can be registered onto the National Biodiversity Network database.

You could:

Run a small organised event of some kind or simply open your gates.

Advertise it to the public or keep it private to the church community.

Lead the activity yourself or work with a nature group or school.

Ask your local Wildlife Trust or RSPB to run a workshop.



30 Days Wild 1st - 30th June

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild>

Take the Wildlife Trusts' annual challenge and do one wild thing a day through the month of June.

Some favourite 'random acts of wildness' last year were:

- * Listening to birdsong
- * Exercising and eating outdoors
- * Identifying and planting wildflowers
- * Going on a bug hunt

"Our vision is of people close to nature, with land and seas rich in wildlife.

Our mission is to bring about living landscapes, living seas and a society where nature matters".



This material was written, compiled and published by Eileen Newington (Synod Green Advocate), Judy Harris (Children and Youth Development Officer) Jason Askew (Training and Development Officer)