

To Parents of Form VI

Harvest Thanksgiving Service - Friday, 28th September at 9.30am

You are all most welcome to attend our Harvest Thanksgiving Service at the High Street Methodist Church Harpenden on Friday, 28th September at 9.30am. This is a change from our usual location previously advertised at St Nicholas' Church.

Form VI girls should go directly to the church at 9.00am, wearing their school blazers and bringing their cagoules. We will reserve seats for you to ensure you have a good view in the church.

However, we will also be rehearsing at the church on Thursday, 27th September and on this occasion the girls will be walking from the school to church. Please bring your daughter to school in the normal way, ensuring that she has her blazer and cagoule in case of rain. We would like to leave the school promptly at 9.00am so would be very grateful if you could ensure that she arrives in good time.

The theme of our Harvest service this year is 'Let us bring hope' and we have chosen Médecins Sans Frontières as our charity. MSF is the world's leading independent medical humanitarian aid organisation working in over 65 countries around the world. The charity provides emergency medical aid in countries affected by war, natural disasters, or disease. The charity is able to act without waiting for governments and other institutions to release funds for support. This reach and independence means MSF will always try to help the people in greatest need. The charity focuses on being impartial and neutral, providing free medical care to people who need it most. More information is available via <https://www.msf.org.uk/>.

Today, your daughter is bringing home a small brown envelope. We have asked each girl to earn a small amount of money by being kind and helpful at home and then to put this money inside her envelope. We would also like the girls to decorate the front of the envelope with a picture of what they did to raise their money. These envelopes should be returned to school by Thursday, 27th September, which gives them two weekends to do this. The girls will be asked to bring them to the front of the church during the Harvest Festival Service. We do hope that you feel able to support us in this local community charity event and that the girls will enjoy raising money for Médecins Sans Frontières.

Finally, it is our tradition that each girl in Form VI brings either a box or basket of Harvest gifts which will be presented at the church. These will be used by Open Door, a homeless charity which works to ensure that no-one need sleep rough in St Albans and to improve the life chances of homeless people in our community. Their main activities are to raise funds for the Open Door Homelessness Service in Bricket Road, St Albans, to support and improve the service, and to promote volunteering. The charity regularly gives accommodation to up to 12 people each night, and provides them with a hot meal. Open Door work in tandem with the St Albans Food Bank, which is run by The Trussell Trust.

St Albans & District Foodbank only works with non-perishable food items (tinned and dried goods), which do not spoil or decay. This means that neither the foodbank nor the recipient has to worry about storing the food in a fridge or freezer, and there is less likelihood of food going to waste. It also means that they can give each client a carefully designed food parcel that contains three days' worth of nutritionally-balanced food.

All items should be unopened, in date and in good condition. It is forbidden by law to give away food which has passed its "best before" date. The Food Bank have no storage facilities for fresh food so if you collect fresh food we would prefer you to arrange for it to go elsewhere. Items which can be placed in the boxes can be found here <https://stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. The donations will be taken to St Albans after the service.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the High Street Methodist Church on 28th September for the first service of the year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Sayers
Headmaster



St Hilda's School
Nurturing the individual