

## Youthful Harvest

October proved to be a memorable month for school harvest celebrations. All three schools in the benefice chose to celebrate harvest in their local churches, on consecutive days!

Highampton School had a joyous time at Holy Cross Church, with much singing, playing and reading, joined by parents and members of the congregation. There was a retiring collection for Food Aid, and everyone trooped back to school for the judging of the scarecrows! It was a very happy afternoon.

The next morning was the moment for Black Torrington School to give their celebration, at St Mary's. The children had researched their topics individually, and they read about their findings on various aspects of harvest, with confidence. There was some delightful singing and a wonderful school of fish, designed by the younger members of the school.

Bradford School walked to All Saint's on the following afternoon, and they and their parents, along with members of the congregation, fairly well filled the church. Again, we were treated to confident and clear reading, a prayer offered with great enthusiasm, and some lovely, tuneful, rhythmic singing and clapping. It took a long time for all the children to bring out their varied and generous produce – all tinned and packaged foods, later to be sent to Bude Foodbank – 42.1 kilos in all!

Often concerns are expressed at the lack of young people in church. For a week in October, there was no worry at all! All the primary school children in the benefice brought joyous celebration into our churches. We can pray that they will visit again before next October!