

St. Peter's Church Swettenham

Annual Plough Service



A Service of Prayer, Dedication & Blessing

For those involved in and concerned for agriculture

A very warm welcome to the community here at St. Peter's where worship has been offered on this site since Saxon times. The present Church building has its origins in the late 13th Century and has been the place of worship for the village of Swettenham since then. If you make use of a hearing aid please switch to "T" for enhanced sound. Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones and pagers are switched off.



THE WELCOME

Presider: Welcome to you all in the name of the One who made us all, people, animals, and all the earth.

Hymn: 116 All things bright and beautiful (*omit verse 5*)

The wide extent of the world:

And all who live there.

The Lord looked upon the earth:

And filled it with blessings.

As long as the earth endures seed time and harvest:

Summer and winter will never cease.

When farmers plough for planting, do they plough continually?

Do they keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil?

When they have levelled the surface,

Do they not plant wheat in its place and barley in its plot?

Their God instructs them and teaches them in the right way.

Creator God, who works through our hands and our minds, as we strive to renew the face of the earth and bring your Kingdom: help us to feel reverence for the power you give us, and to love the small part of your creation which you have entrusted to each of us. **Amen**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SIN

When we are ungrateful for the rain, sun and frost, and forget they are God's gifts to us:

O God, forgive us.

When we are blind to the mystery of germination, and forget it is God's handiwork:

O God, forgive us.

When we are careless with our beasts, and forget they are God's creatures:

O God, forgive us.

When we are unkind to those who work with us, and forget they are God's children:

O God, forgive us.

When we are careless about our work, and forget we are God's co-workers:

O God, forgive us.

When we ill-treat the land and forget we are God's stewards:

O God, forgive us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

May God the Creator forgive our misusing of his creative work; May God the Son take up into his cross the sufferings of our land, our animals, our families and ourselves. May God the Holy Spirit give us the strength and power to overcome our troubles, weaknesses and temptations. May God the Holy Trinity forgive us all our sins. **Amen.**

Please sit for the Reading: Isaiah 55 v6-11

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Please stand for the Hymn: 104 For the beauty of the earth

Please sit for the Reading: 1 Corinthians 9 v6-14

Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.' Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever ploughs should plough in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is sacrificed on the altar? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

ADDRESS: Rev Ian Godfrey

All stand for THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

President: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All: We believe and trust in him.

President: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All: We believe and trust in him.

President: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

President: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please kneel or sit for THE PRAYERS

Let us pray

Our Father which art in heaven

Through our love of the countryside, through our care for animals, through our respect for property and tools

Hallowed be your name,

On our farms and in our homes, in our training colleges and schools where machinery is made, and policy is planned

Your kingdom come,

By our seeking your guidance, by our keeping your commandments, by our living true to our consciences

Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger, for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours by co-operation, sympathy and generosity

Give us this day our daily bread

Because we have broken your commandments, doing what we ought not to do, and neglecting what we out to do

Forgive us our trespasses

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation

As we forgive those who trespass against us

When we consider doing to others what we would dislike done to us, when prosperity lulls us to false security, or adversity prompts us to despair, when success makes us boastful, or failure makes us bitter

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

For those who are unwell in our Community...

For those who have recently departed and now rest in your eternal peace...

In assurance of faith, in confidence of hope, in the will to serve, help us to love Christ as Lord, and our neighbours as ourselves

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

Hymn: 290 We plough the fields and scatter

An offertory will be taken during the next hymn for the ministry and mission of St. Peter's Church, Swettenham.

At the end of the hymn, members of the farming community draw the plough into the Church and gather round for the

BLESSING OF THE PLOUGH

Sir we ask you to pray for God's blessing on the work of the farmers in our country, of which this plough is a sign and token.

I will gladly do so, and ask you all to pray with me.

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Who has made heaven and earth

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord

And you give them their meat in due season

You open your hand

And fill all things with plenteousness

PRAYER OF BLESSING

God speed the plough and the ploughman, the farm and the farmer

God speed the plough

God speed the plough, on hillside and in valley, on land which is rich, on land which is poor, in countries beyond the seas and in our homeland

God speed the plough

God speed the plough, in fair weather and in foul, in success and disappointment, in rain and wind, in frost and sunshine.

God speed the plough

Almighty God, you fill the earth with your riches for the use of your children, remember the impoverishment of the nations; and on all who are in authority bestow your gifts of wisdom and goodwill, that, being lifted above self-regard, they may establish a new order, wherein the needs of all people shall be supplied; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who gives each of us work to do for your sake, we ask for your blessing on this plough and upon all the machines that enable us to do all our work upon the land. **Amen.**

We ask you to prosper throughout the year the work done on our local farms. May the farmers' hopes be fulfilled in a plentiful harvest; may your people be fed with wholesome food; may town and country, united in gratitude to you, be drawn nearer to the understanding and true service of each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The farming community return to their places

Hymn: 105 All creatures of our God and King (*omit verses 5 & 6*)

THE BLESSING

May God bless you in winter and summer, at your ploughing, your sowing and your reaping. May God give you sunshine and rain in due season; May God, who gladdens the face of the earth, give you joyfulness of heart. May God, who has called you to work on the land, set your affections upon himself. And may the blessing of God the Holy Trinity, three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Presider Go in the peace of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

NEXT WEEK

11.15am Holy Communion

A huge thank you to all those who helped and worked so hard during the day with preparation of food and with the Plough Supper in the evening last Friday, a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.



The Swettenham Club Lunch + Pancakes

Tuesday 9th February
12noon - 6.00pm

**Plougmans lunch,
soup & pancakes
available
All Welcome!**