

# RE fresh Harvest -

## 10 ways to refresh Harvest



The Christian festival of Harvest is an opportunity to say 'thank you' to God for the goodness and richness of Creation. Christians believe that the whole of creation belongs to God and that humans have a special responsibility within creation to care for it. The story of Creation opens the Bible. Although Christians may read and interpret the story of Creation in different ways, most agree that a 'good God' created a 'good creation' and that creation has a purpose and design which reveals the nature of God. Some key beliefs about Creation include: God is powerful and created the universe out of nothing; his creativity is reflected in the beauty and diversity of the world; creation is orderly, planned and structured; God is concerned with the role and value of life; humans are made in the image of God and therefore have a special responsibility for preserving and enhancing the world around them. Other faiths have similar beliefs and festivals linked to creation.



1. WWWday - 'What a Wonderful World' day
2. Spend, Save, Give - 3 part money box
3. Sunshine Sun Flowers - Felt Making
4. Field to Fork week
5. Field to Fork Dance
6. Poetry for Prayer
7. School Food Collection
8. Harvest Bake Off
9. 'Stone Soup' Lunch
10. Pass it on!

1. **What A Wonderful World Day** - hold a x- age, x-curricular, creative, making memories day. Involve the local community. The day could be themed or be about 'Harvest' in general. You could make it an opportunity to do some comparative religion. Build the outcomes into your CW.
2. **Spend, Save Give - 3 part money Box** - design, make, decorate, write instructions for your money box etc. and take it home. At end of half term children bring their money boxes in and count up the money saved. Children discuss and decide how they will spend/ give it to. Empowers children to make their own choices and justify their decisions/opinions (good RE!)[See [Christians Against Poverty capuk.org](http://Christians Against Poverty capuk.org) for Christian charity]
3. **Sunshine Sun Flowers - felt making** - make felt sunflowers and hang them up around the school grounds. (Wool = natural harvest/ affordable/biodegradable. Invite parents in to make one as well. Makes a fantastic colourful display and great fun! Could explore artists' work/paintings etc. [[Feltbetter.com](http://Feltbetter.com) provides a good overview of felt and felt making.] .
4. **Field to Fork week** - find out about food as it moves from 'field to fork' and about food waste along the way!. Visit a local farm. Create whole school 'field to fork' display with each class collecting photographs. Research for the same steps in a different country and create a similar display. Great for discussion/ research/ creative ideas/ deeper thinking/ knowledge and appreciation of different places and cultures! Follow this up with .....
5. **Field to Fork Dance** - create a dance to represent and link the different stages - eg. planting seed/ watering/ harvesting/transporting/processing/packing/stacking/shipping/selling/ cooking/ eating. Children can pick or compose their own music. Discuss what happens if a stage in the process is taken out.
6. **Poetry for Prayer** - give each person an A4 piece of paper in centre of which is a photograph of living thing. Set time limit of 30 seconds. Children write descriptive words around the edge of the photo; after 30 seconds pass on to next person. Ask for: descriptive word eg. looks like, colour, size, shape, noise makes; movement; where it lives/ found; metaphors; similes; onomatopoeia words etc. After a few goes passing it on, give pupils a verse/verses from Genesis. Where does your photo fit in? In groups/class discuss how amazing creation is and responsibility to look after it. Ask children to write a one line thank you for the amazing living thing that is on their current piece of paper. Use the word bank on the sheet and the biblical verses for inspiration. Perform the poem/prayer - Children stand in circle facing outwards and read their line one at a time.. Revisit another time and edit/improve lines; think about order etc to represent the Genesis account of creation. Perform at Harvest festival.. [[Google](http://Google) - 'close up nature' for lots of great photos!]
7. **School Food Collection** - mark out a large shape on hall floor (some area in school building) with masking tape. Try to fill the shape with food items. Could be a circle to represent world; rainbow etc. Take photographs as the shape fills up. Research a particular charity to collect for and ask them what items want. Each class could collect particular items eg. Class 1 toothbrushes! Helps questions and discussion and deeper understanding. .
8. **Harvest Bake Off** - you might set a theme eg harvest loaf; 12 cup cakes; world harvest cake etc. and give two weeks' notice. Local WI could be judges. Each class/ year group/ whole school etc could have own competition. You could charge a small amount to enter competition and money raised goes to a given charity or hold a cake sale with the entries to raise money.
9. **'Stone Soup' Lunch**- based on the fable. Children bring in contributions for soup lunch. Classes could help make soup lunch and invite community in to share. Could do in conjunction with local parish church/congregation. It is a good way of bringing community together! [[See Stone Soup fable](http://See Stone Soup fable)]
10. **Pass It On** -Discuss what harvest is all about for Christians. (Could explore different communities around world/ Christian charities linked to learning in RE etc). Discuss what would be harvest-related 'acts' (eg generosity/thank you/ stewardship etc). See if each class can do '40 acts' following harvest festival etc. Children could record in short video/ photo and could create display/ short harvest film etc. [[www.40acts.co.uk](http://www.40acts.co.uk) for inspiration]

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