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THE  
WORLD



IN OUR  
HANDS

Family Faith Fun

## September 2025

Creationtide, from 1st September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, marks a relatively new addition to the church calendar. It brings together all denominations of Christians to pray and work for the protection of the environment. It prompts us to think about the whole of creation and what we, the people, are doing to our planet, the rising temperature causing ice caps to melt, more droughts and forest fires. We are being told that we need to act now to prevent a disaster – but what can one individual do, particularly if you are a child.

Many young people are getting involved in trying to raise awareness in those with the capability to make changes, the more powerful people and companies.

Perhaps you could raise more awareness by designing a poster for your church or school notice board and ask permission for it to be displayed. Think of the issues such as those mentioned above – plus things such as plastic waste, river pollution



It is also a time when many churches celebrate with a **HARVEST FESTIVAL**.

Whether we live in a town, a village or out in the country, harvest time is important for us all. It's a time to give thanks for everything that we have to help us to live. For instance our food (whether fresh, tinned or frozen) which may be grown on the land or fished from the sea, and also for the gas and electricity for our homes (and now cars!) and even the petrol or diesel (drilled from beneath this earth) not just for our family cars, but more importantly for essential emergency vehicles. We have so much to be thankful for even though it is not evenly shared amongst us. Take time to think about those in this country, and the world as a whole, who do not have enough to eat, a safe place to call home and the resources to make life bearable.

### **Harvest Time Craft** using card tubes.

**Windsock:** Decorate the outside of a cardboard tube with pictures of leaves, acorns etc. Make two holes opposite each other at one end and thread a piece of string through each then tie the ends together to form a loop. Then cut some strips of coloured paper (crepe or tissue paper if possible) to form the tail of the windsock. Stick more leaves on the strips and attach them to the end away from the string. Then take your windsock and run about in the wind.



Also this month 14<sup>th</sup> September is Holy Cross Day.

I wonder if you have ever thought about the crosses that you see in churches, or which people wear as a necklace.

The **CROSS** is the most widely recognised symbol of Christianity, but it comes in many different designs. It might be carved in stone or wood, marble or precious metal, it could be on top of a building or embedded in the ground. It can be worn as an ornament or carried in liturgical processions. Buildings for worship can be built in the shape of a cross.



As a focus of faith for Christians through history, many individuals and groups have adopted special designs to make it a symbol special to them.

### Celtic Cross

The Celts had a strong sense of God in nature and everyday events in their lives. This is shown in the “key” patterns that come from the days of St Columba. What seem to be broken lines are a spiral of one continuous line. The circle represents the earth.



This practice of creating a ‘special cross’ continues today, as shown in the picture on the left. This is known as a ‘Gomez Cross’ in memory of **María Cristina Gómez**. She was a Baptist primary school teacher and community leader in El Salvador who was abducted on April 5, 1989 and subsequently murdered because of her work for women’s rights. The cross has a picture of Maria and illustrates her life. It shows her teaching in school, working on the family farm and working with women’s groups in the villages.

**Design a Cross** You could colour in the Celtic Cross below, trying to follow the intricate patterns, or use the outline of the other cross to design one to represent your community and any of the people who inspire you, either in the church, your school, where you live, or in your family (you could draw your own larger one).

