

Celebrating God's Bounty

Reminder to witness to the community what the gifts of God are ...

“Celebrating God’s bounty helps connect people with the gifts of creation, whether church members or not.” Bill Bennett writes.

“We know the monks of old, as now, lived a life of prayer, study and work. Much of this work was out in the paddocks – cropping, tending stock, milking cows, gathering grapes and making wine. Their work was an expression of their worship. In rural England the vicar/rector rang the church bell each morning and evening for Matins and Evensong – those out in the fields would hear it tolling, a reminder to them that all their farm work was an offering to God....”

“We recognize the onset of springtime as the season of hope, the time of planting and germination, of the births of livestock, the dazzling colours of orchard blossom.

“When working at Norfolk, UK, a significant service annually was Plough Sunday. Sometimes a tractor and plough were driven into church (yes – the doors were wide enough), or a plough was dragged in by local farmers, up the church aisle.

“Rogation Days once commemorated God’s mercy and hope after the crisis of devastating earthquakes in France, but now are associated with asking God’s blessing for spring plantings. Often associated with Rogation is the ‘Beating the Bounds’ – the people of the parish would walk in procession around the local district asking God to bless the crops and fruits of the earth.”

(submitted by Bill Bennett, Hawke Bay, NZ)

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