

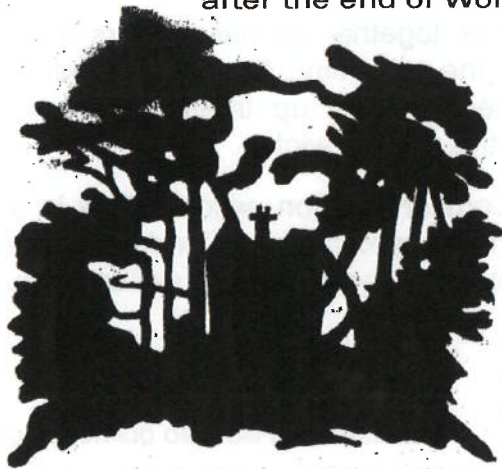
Before:

*Those quiet days before, will they return?
Days filled with sunshine, seashore, shells;
Days filled with countryside and peace,
And flowers, tulips, Canterbury bells,
The humble violet, primrose aching sweet
As anything I knew before these hells.*

*Those quiet days before, will they return?
Or has this blasting, screaming world
Done with all nature's goodness here?
Has it now out of normal thinking hurled
Everything, every thing that was
Sane and normal. Are all things whirlpool
swirled?*

Anon.

Poem & Linocut are taken from 'Piazza', a magazine published by Kingswood School in 1948, three years after the end of World War Two.



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Priory Prayer Diary

*October
2018*



Summer's Reward



Harvest

*While the earth remaineth, seedtime & harvest
. . . . shall not cease*

Genesis, 8, 06.



SUNDAYS :

Lord of all creation, you designed the seasons, the night and day, the moon & stars, sunshine & rain. Help us to appreciate your planet, to take care of all living creatures. Praise the Lord, the God of the skies, of the land, the owner & Maker of us all.

MONDAYS :

We give thanks for our countryside, where we can enjoy meditative peace. Thanks for lakes, and streams that flow to the ever restless sea. Thanks for holidays with friends & family in relaxing surroundings.

TUESDAYS :

Loving God, we give thanks for all those who work hard in all kinds of weather and sometimes in very difficult circumstances to produce food for our tables. May we never take those who work on the land for granted but always be mindful of their struggle to overcome difficulties. We pray for farmers, fishermen - and rescue organisations.

WEDNESDAYS :

Gracious God, we give thanks for the harvest for food and water we enjoy. Help us to share what we have with those who are homeless, with those who rely on the food bank and those who have lost their crops in the recent typhoons - and those who wait for rain to water their planted seed.

THURSDAYS :

We bring before you the ministry of flowers, those of our members who are housebound and those in care homes who appreciate the pastoral care we offer in Your Name. May they feel your presence and know they are remembered in love.

FRIDAYS :

We thank you for the bounty which we enjoy at harvest time. The opportunity to preserve our produce, to bake, to use in a meaningful way the gifts that You have given us. We are thankful for the countryside that produces fruit for ourselves and fruit for the birds & wildlife.

SATURDAYS:

We gather together all our prayers in the colours of the autumn, the seed-time for another year, sharing Your gifts with others, storing up treasured memories to assist us through the coming winter.

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us, open our eyes to Your wonders that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace, through Jesus Christ, Amen



*Fortunatus et ille Deo qui novit agrestis
(fortunate too is the man who has come to know God in the
countryside)*

Virgil, Georgics 2.