

A view from the Rectory Window October 2026

It is hard to think of something original to say on the theme of harvest, but October being the time of harvest festivals (although this year many harvests have been incredibly early) I feel obliged to attempt to do so.

One of the traditional readings for harvest comes from 2 Corinthians 9 verses 6-15, remember this: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." Verse 6.

In a simplistic sense the scripture may be described as saying whatever goes around comes around! However, to rely on such an interpretation would be to miss out on the central theme of harvest, i.e., we receive in proportion to what we give.

The Christian festival of Harvest must always hold on to the key relationship of 'harvest'. Which is that creation does not owe us a living! The gift of creation from God is not indebted to mankind due to the love of the giver. Creation and thereby the impartiality, apparent indifference of nature, is something that is not a reflection of the nature of God. It is the nature of the gift not the giver.

To quote the hymn **We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land.** 'All good gifts are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.'

The good gifts of warmth, light, and rain that enable the crops to grow are indeed sent from the love of the Lord. But we must use them wisely, sustainably, and effectively. The land like the soil of our hearts must be nurtured, tended and cared for. Just as the seed of God's word must be cultivated and grown in a culture of faith, trust, and love. The seed of the land must be cultivated in a culture of gratitude, stewardship and gratitude for the crop to be plentiful and the harvest to be abundant.

As farmers struggle mentally and physically with the routine of sowing and reaping. And we struggle with the prospect of higher food prices because of extreme weather patterns. Harvest remains an important opportunity to not only recognize the blessings of the land, but also that we are custodians of the land, and therefore we have a responsibility to give it care and love for the sake of all.

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