

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The point is this:
the one who sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly,
and the one who
sows bountifully
will also reap
bountifully.
Each of you must give as you have
made up your mind, not reluctantly or
under compulsion, for God loves a
cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7



"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:38)

Readings

2 Corinthians 9: verses 6-15

Matthew 9: verses 35-38

Father, we thank you for your goodness and the gifts which you so freely give to us. Help us to share what we have with those around us and those who live far away. Amen

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Revised Standard Version

⁶ The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness^[a] endures for ever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources^[b] and increase the harvest of your righteousness.^[c] ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; ¹² for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Under the test of this service, you^[d] will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others; ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

MATTHEW 9 VERSES 35-38 The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few

³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

The Harvest is Ready

What do I have here? (*Hold up a piece of fruit*) That's right, this is fruit! I love fruit, don't you? Do you have a favourite kind of fruit? (*Hold up several fruits and/or vegetables*) What do you think would happen if fruit did not get picked? What if no one came to harvest the produce? Well, it would go bad. It would get old, and mouldy, smelly, rotten and not fit to eat! No one would be able to enjoy it, and it wouldn't provide nourishment or joy. That seems a little sad, doesn't it? Sometimes people can be like this. Jesus calls us all to be fruit pickers! If people never hear about the good news of Jesus, and they never experience the love of God, they won't be able to bless others and be blessed

through faith. Without love and without the Gospel, people tend to “rot” in their hearts, and they miss out on amazing and beautiful opportunities. So our job is to communicate the good news. We are called to serve God’s people. We are called to be workers. Jesus told the disciples that the “harvest” was ready: He meant there were many people who needed to hear the wonderful story. This is no less true today! When people miss out on God’s love or don’t hear the Gospel, they tend to go sour, and can do things they shouldn’t. Jesus wants us to share His love. He wants us to recognize opportunities to serve each other. So many people need to hear this good news, and we get to communicate it! And we can tell ALL people about God’s love. We can show people what God’s love is like in the ways we act. The good news of Jesus is not just for people that look a certain way, or treat us nicely...we want to make sure that we are looking for ways in which all people will be noticed, helped, and “picked’ for service. We don’t want to leave anyone “rotting” on a branch, but we seek to bring all people into God’s family. Harvesting does not happen on it’s own. Crops do not just grow or pick themselves – it takes a group of people to look after the crops to ensure they grow properly and then to pick them or dig them up or cut them and then to store them correctly.

Have a look at people in our church – how many people does it take to make a church work? Show/make a list of different ‘jobs’ that need to be done and who is involved. For one Sunday Club how many people does it involve? We are a team of 4 leaders with 2 or 3 members of the congregation to call on if necessary to make the right ratio of adults to youngsters. We have the support of a priest; the sides people who call us at the right time to go into church; parents or grandparents who bring youngsters to Sunday Club; the youngsters who attend Sunday Club; then in church when you tell the congregation what you have been doing they are all involved in supporting you; how many are you up to so far??? Let’s look at other people in the church – does the organ play itself? Does the coffee make itself or the biscuits or cake just land on a plate for you to enjoy? Who helps the priest? How many people go into school as Story Tellers? Who keeps the church clean? Here is a list of some others – what number will you make it?

Vicar, organises church activities and services, visits people, goes into schools	Get ready for the services at the Cottage Hospice in Five Ashes
Helps Fr Michael, does funerals and weddings, reads lesson, prayers and preaches	Sing in the choir
Church wardens who help look after things in the church	Sides people who look after people at church

Servers at the altar who help Fr Michael	Bell ringers
Organist, Adult and Youth choir leader, and musical director, goes into schools	Treasurer
Sunday Club	Safeguarding officer
Cleaning	Flower guild
Coffee after church, e-news	Parish secretary

As you can see it takes a Harvest of People to make a church work. Working together as small cogs on a big wheel is what we can all be involved in doing in some way whether large or small.

Can you make up your own answers for Harvest below? You can put food or anything to do with Harvest or Harvesting

H is for.....

A is for.....

R is for.....

V is for.....

E is for.....

S is for.....

T is for.....

You could also do this using the alphabet and putting something for each letter.
On your list you could also put what YOU can do as a labourer/worker.

Harvest Events/Traditions/Customs

Services of Harvest Thanksgiving in our churches all over the world

Harvest lunches or Harvest Suppers

Harvest Festival of Costermongers (fruit and vegetable sellers)
at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London

Harvest of the Sea Thanksgiving, Billingsgate, London.
The church is decorated with fish, nets and other fishing items.

Blessing the Fishing Smacks, Devon.
A smack is a traditional fishing boat

Blessing the Nets, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

Celebration of the Wine Harvest, London.
Masters and Wardens of the Worshipful Companies of Vintners and Distillers
mark the harvest

Blessing the Fish Harvest, in various places

Hh is for Harvest



Harvest Fruit & Vegetables Search

SEARCH THE PUZZLE TO FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS IN THE WORD LIST. WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE ARE HIDDEN ACROSS AND DOWN.



APPLE
BEANS
BEETS
BROCCOLI
CABBAGE
CARROTS
CAULIFLOWER

CELERY
CORN
EGGPLANT
FIGS
GRAPES
ONIONS
PARSNIPS

PEARS
PEPPERS
POTATO
PUMPKIN
SQUASH
TURNIP
YAMS

T W O U C E L E R Y A R X Z B
W O P T F H C A P P L E J I M
D L R T V C O R N G B Q H W I
S T M E D D P A R S N I P S Z
T U F V Y A M S P B E E T S A
B R O C C O L I P U M P K I N
O N I O N S N S N S H M K N P
C I C A U L I F L O W E R C E
A P L D F E G G P L A N T A P
R H F I G S E P K L V Z Q B P
R U U O Z U Z O O N Y P B B E
O G R A P E S T T Z V J E A R
T K N U V A V A Q H C L A G S
S P E A R S N T Q I I L N E M
A S Q U A S H O Q Q V R S Y G

