

Dear Friends

This Sunday is our Harvest Festival. Beyond the rousing choruses of "We Plough the Fields and Scatter" and the vibrant displays of tinned goods and root vegetables, what does this season teach us from a spiritual perspective?

Firstly, the harvest reminds us of our profound dependence. In an age of 24-hour supermarkets and complex global supply chains, it is incredibly easy to suffer from the illusion of self-sufficiency. Yet, seeing the fruits of the earth gathered before the altar – admittedly mainly in tinned format as it prepares to be taken to our local Food Bank - strips away that modern comfort. We are reminded that, ultimately, every crumb we eat relies on the delicate, divine balance of sun, soil, and rain—gifts from a Creator who faithfully sustains us.

Secondly, the season speaks to the spiritual law of sowing and reaping. Just as the farmer must plant seeds in faith, trusting the dark winter earth long before seeing a single green shoot, we are called to plant seeds of grace, kindness, and love within our own communities. A fruitful spiritual life, much like a bountiful crop, requires immense patience, careful tending, and faith in the unseen work of God.

Finally, a true harvest is never meant to be hoarded. The long-standing tradition of bringing offerings to the parish church began as a way to share the community's gleanings with those most vulnerable. Today, as our congregations gather food for our local food bank, we actively mirror the generosity of God. The harvest teaches us that we are blessed so that we might, in turn, be a blessing to others..

Simon

PRAYER POINTERS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 28th September Pray for the volatile situation in the Middle East. Pray it will be resolved as soon as possible.

Tuesday 29th September Pray for the world economy as pressures regarding bonds put risk that inflation may rise as well as interest rates.

Wednesday 30th September Give thanks for the recent debate about housing and infrastructure affecting Whitstable and pray for solutions to be found.

Thursday 1st October Pray for our church as we prepare to enter into a "vacancy" previously called an interregnum

Friday 2nd October Let us continue to bring the people of Ukraine before the Lord, praying for endurance and a just end to this fifth year of conflict.

Saturday 3rd October Pray for Simon and Cathy as they prepare to move to Lenham

Sunday 4th October Pray for our services today, that we would encounter the Lord and be transformed by His call on our lives.