

Thought from the Rectory October 2019

We are in the season of celebrating Harvest in our Churches and in our schools, with Whaddon Harvest Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 29th September, Harvest at St Mary's in Horse Road at 4pm on 6th October and Harvest Communion with Junior Church at St Michael's in the Knap at 11am on Sunday 13th October. The later time at St Michael's is because there will be a Ploughman's Lunch following the service. Do come along.

Harvest is a time when we thank God for the many good things we have and think of all those who work so hard to produce our food and others who ensure we can buy it. It is also a time when we particularly think of those who don't have many of the things we regard as necessities. For example 10% of the world's population don't have access to clean water and 25% don't have adequate toilet facilities.

Jesus told parables or stories using illustrations from everyday life that would have been familiar to the people of his time. The topics are still relevant today. In the parable of the rich farmer, he taught about the importance of paying attention to the needs of others and of not being greedy.

He told the tale of a rich and successful farmer, who grew so many crops that he did not have enough space to store them. He decided that he would rip down his existing barns and build bigger ones in order to store all his grain and goods. He thought he would have plenty of good things for many years by doing this. He would be able to take life easy; to eat, drink and be merry.

But God called him a fool, for he would die that very night – and would not benefit from his greed.

God calls us to be generous towards each other. In the parable it is not the success the farmer had that is criticised, it is the desire to possess at the expense of others.

God, who is so generous to us, calls us to respond to his generosity in thankfulness to him and in generosity to other people.

Thankfully many people want to make a difference. For example in our Churches we have collecting boxes for the Storehouse Foodbank and we hope that Drop in for Coffee and Friendship Group at St Mary's provide opportunities for people to get together: for details see elsewhere in this magazine.

If you have ideas about other things that we might do, as a village community, to show care for others who need support do let me know.

With best wishes,

John

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