



Harvest Reflection - Blessed to Bless

One of the things I most enjoy when cycling is going past fields of wheat gently waving in the sunshine. It always reminds me of the goodness of God's creation. As we remember the harvest this week in our services, it is a time when I encourage you all to reflect on the good things that we have been given by God, and there are so many to be thankful for.

But Harvest also reminds us about giving away. It's great that St Paul's and St Barnabas have both been able to support charities this year who serve some of the most vulnerable people in our area, and I am sure that we will give a great offering. However, if you are anything like me, giving away like this can sometimes be hard. We often find it hard to have our fists prised open to let go of our things.

I admire Heather my wife, as often when she is given a present her first instinct is to share it with other. And this is important as everything we have is a gift from God, with which we have been blessed. But the blessing is not solely for us. We are to share, and as we do, then we actually are blessed more. Genesis 12:2 reminds us of this as God speaks to Abraham:

'I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'

At harvest it is the prime time to remember how blessed we are, but also through our gifts to others to be a blessing back to those most in need. And though we emphasise this most during this season, of course this should not just be at one point of the year. Indeed as followers of Jesus, at all times we should be living in the knowledge of how blessed we are, and seeking to bless others in return, so they discover the greatest blessing of all, a life in Christ.

Harvest prayer

Heavenly Father,
All things are yours and given to us as a gift.
Render in us compassion for those with little.
Vanquish selfishness.
Engage our hearts to be your everyday followers and
Reveal to the world, through us, your blessing.
Amen.