

2023-10-08 ... 10am Harvest Service Talk ... Mrs Jane Rylands

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Harvest is a lot about food and I'm hoping that lots of you enjoy baking and cooking

What do you like to make? Who do you share it with? *(Jane asked round, and several answered the different things they like to make and who they shared it with)*

For all of us food is essential to life.

We can learn to cook

We can learn to grow some things to eat

But most of us don't know how to grow food, whether plant or animal based, in the quantities needed to feed all of us every day but today we thank God for those who do know how!

And none of us can do anything without the seed, the egg ... the starters of life.

In the recent furore over the cutting down of the Sycamore Gap Tree you may have come across a poem called Trees by Alfred Joyce Kilmer

Trees

BY [JOYCE KILMER](#)

**I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.**

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

**Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.**

So this is why we thank God for the harvest – we can only do so much ourselves, and nothing without our Creator's Gifts to us.

The Bible passage we heard is about GIVING. St Paul is making sure that a promised charity collection has been sorted before he turns up to collect it to take it to Jerusalem.

It's very appropriate because this morning we are offering you the opportunity to give in response to what you have been given – food to go to the foodbank or the hospital, or money to be divided between the Farmers Community Network and Water Aid. There will be collection plates and a card machine at the back if you would like to contribute.

PTO

We heard St Paul say a phrase which you may have heard before but not realised it does come from the Bible – God loves a cheerful giver ***‘for God loves the one who gives gladly.’***

God loves a cheerful giver because that is how, by his own example, he has taught us to be.

God has given so much to each of us that none of us, however old or young, will ever be too poor to give some of what we have away.

When someone’s needs are met by the giving of another, by ***our*** giving – the benefit is exponential, the air is filled with thanksgiving.

The people whose needs are met will, St Paul says, thank God, will thank YOU, will thank God for you and will pray for you.

Your gift to another – which is only a sharing of what God has given you, whether food or any other gift – makes for an outpouring of love –

It is like a seed that is planted and produces a plant with maybe hundreds of seeds

And as St Paul pointedly reminded the Corinthians, the planter who sows generously will produce more food than one who doesn’t plant many seeds in the first place.

I challenge us to go from here and see how many people we can feed – either literally by sharing food or by sharing our other skills:

Our cheerfulness to someone needing encouragement

Our strength to someone weaker

Our learning to someone who doesn’t know

Our money to someone who hasn’t enough

AND LET’S SEE WHAT GROWS!