



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

6th OCTOBER 2024

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HARVEST OF GOOD



JAMES 3. 13 - 18

Are you harvesting anything at the moment? Some of us may have apple trees which have loved the dampness of this year. Personally, I still have some tomatoes waiting for a bit more sunshine but may need to be harvested and brought in to ripen. I am letting my beans go to seed for next year and will harvest them shortly and I still have some main crop potatoes to lift. Perhaps the majority of us are thinking: *"I have nothing to harvest."* But we all do!

JAMES 2. 14—17

James 3. 18 gives us the image of 'a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace'. Another translation puts it like this: *'Those who make peace plant it like a seed. They will harvest a crop of right living'* [NIRV].

A major theme of James' letter is putting our faith into actions. In James 2. 14-17, he gives an example of someone being naked and lacking daily food, and us saying to them, *"Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill"*. If we do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? We can all see the logic of this argument. Good words, even words of blessing, are not enough. We need to do practical things to meet the needs of those struggling. This goes a long way towards harvesting a crop of right living. However, we can do more.

Our harvest of right living should see our whole way of life transformed. We should produce *'good fruits without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy'* (3. v.17). James talks of having no envy or selfish ambition in our hearts, but instead gentleness (3 v.13 & 17), peace-loving, thinking of others and being full of mercy. We do not know if James had heard of Paul's teaching about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5.22-23, but there does seem to be an overlap. Before giving us the 9 fruits of the Spirit, Paul lists the bad things we do (Galatians 5. 19-21) and then tells us that those who live by the Spirit are guided by the Spirit.

When we are seeking to harvest a crop of right living, God helps us by his Spirit to do this and even guides us in right ways. And when we do this together, like living stones in a spiritual building, we can be even more effective and make more of an impact. As a small example, just think of how our combined gifts of food, tins and money will make such a difference to our community through Burnage Foodbank.

So this Harvest time, let us all get harvesting! Let us ask God's Holy Spirit to help us grow good fruit so that, together, we may harvest a crop of right living.



Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2024: 1 Peter 2:5

“..You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house... acceptable to God” .

This Week– Sunday 6th October 2024:

Harvest Celebration at 10.30am. Matt will be preaching from James 2. 14-17 & James 3. 13-18. The theme is **‘Working together for a harvest of good’**. There’ll be physical donations to Burnage Foodbank & monetary gifts in special envelopes also to them.

Hearing Loop: We now have a temporary solution which gives us some sound for the hearing loop. Please continue to bear with us while we get it back to normal performance. Thank you very much.



Next Week 13th October 2024:

Holy Communion at 10.30am. Matt will be preaching from 1 Peter 3. 1-7 on the theme: **‘Wives and Husbands’**.

BCP Communion at 3pm

October 6th to 12th, Please Pray for:

- People living in May Drive, Arbor Drive & Arbor Avenue.
- Enjoyable Harvest Service after Tuesday Group Harvest lunch.
- Foodbank Trustees meeting on Tuesday with dwindling finances high on Agenda.
- Christians across sub-Saharan Africa being displaced from their homes.
- Primary school RE coordinators to take up offers by Matt & Steph.
- Pearts resuming their ministry in Santa Cruz, Bolivia after time in the UK.
- Dignity Life Groups to continue to show love of Jesus to those around them.

Looking Ahead:

Review of giving to Charities by church: if you are interested in being in a small task group to review this, then please see Angela Stansfield.

Workparty: Volunteers needed for a workparty to clear inside our fence along Church Walk, weather dependent on **12th October, 10am**. See Chris Rogers for details or to offer to help.

HARVEST SHOPPING LIST:

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Corned Beef

Tinned Custard

Jam

Long Life Milk

Dry Lentils

Shampoo

Sugar

Coffee

Long Life Fruit Juice

