

Church Together

All Good Gifts Around Us...

5th October 2025

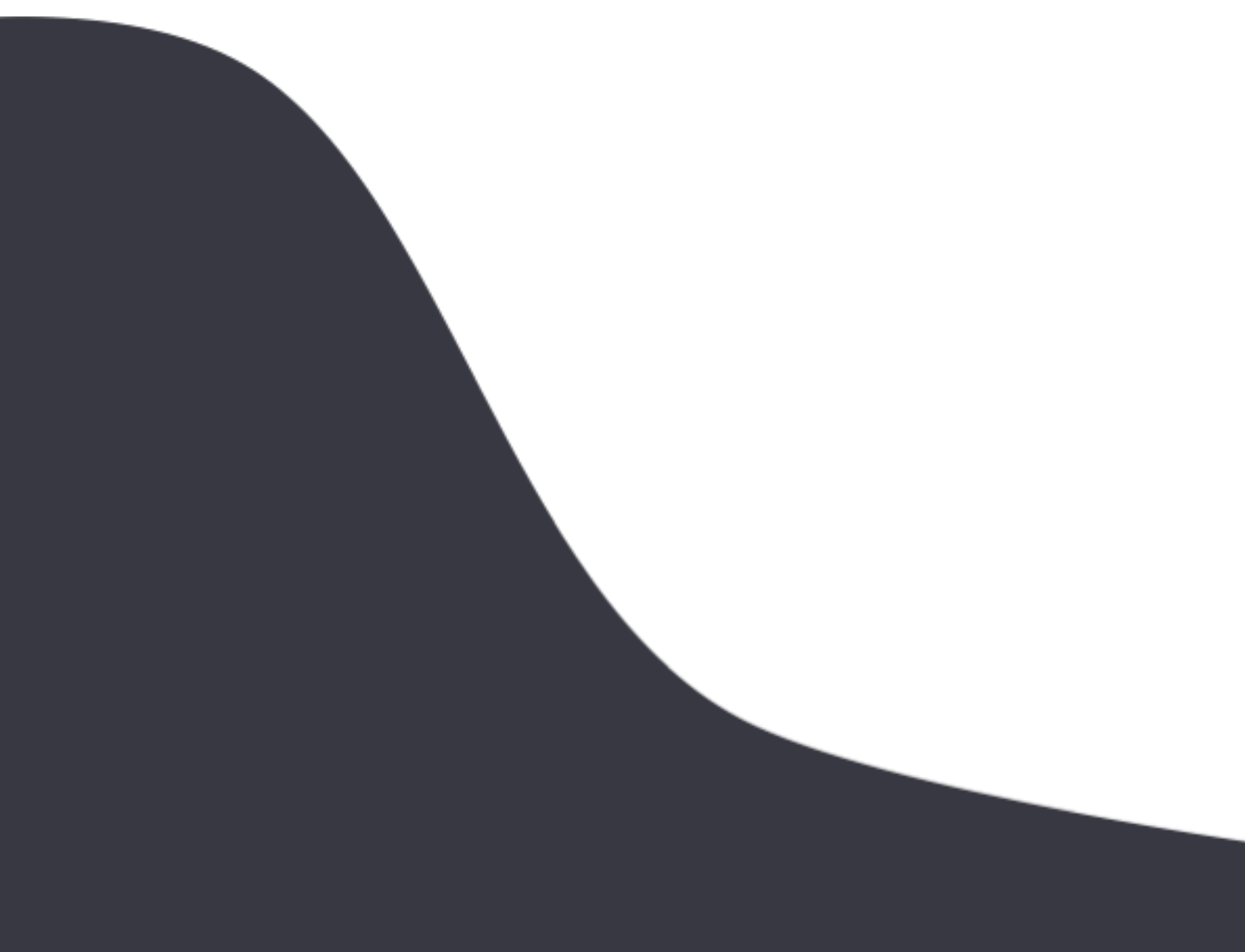


Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **Luke 12 v. 13 – 21**

The theme for our service today is: **All Good Gifts Around Us...**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Know That God's Provision Is For Everyone And We Play A Part In Providing For Others!**



Call To Worship

Psalm 95 v. 1 – 7 NLT

Come, let us sing to the Lord!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come to him with thanksgiving.

Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods.

He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains.

The sea belongs to him, for he made it.

His hands formed the dry land, too.

Come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is our God.

We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care.

Introduction

A very warm welcome to our Harvest festival service today, when we give thanks to God for all his good gifts, and especially today for the provision of food. But as we celebrate today, we're very mindful that although we live in a wealthy country, the fifth richest in the world, around one in seven people are facing hunger – and the inadequacy of social security, particularly in the face of the rising cost of living, is driving more and more people to the doors of food banks.

Today we will be thinking about our call as Christians to be in solidarity with people facing hunger and hardship – and there will be an opportunity to support the work of our own local Food Bank.

These food banks provide people in our communities with emergency food parcels, compassion, advice and practical support. They also campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

Unfortunately, as the level of need has increased, donations have not kept up – and some food banks are struggling to meet this rise. That's why our support is even more vital.

Thank you if you've brought some goods to donate today. There will be an opportunity to bring those up later, and to think more deeply about our response to God's call to be compassionate and generous towards people who are struggling.

A Special Prayer For Harvest

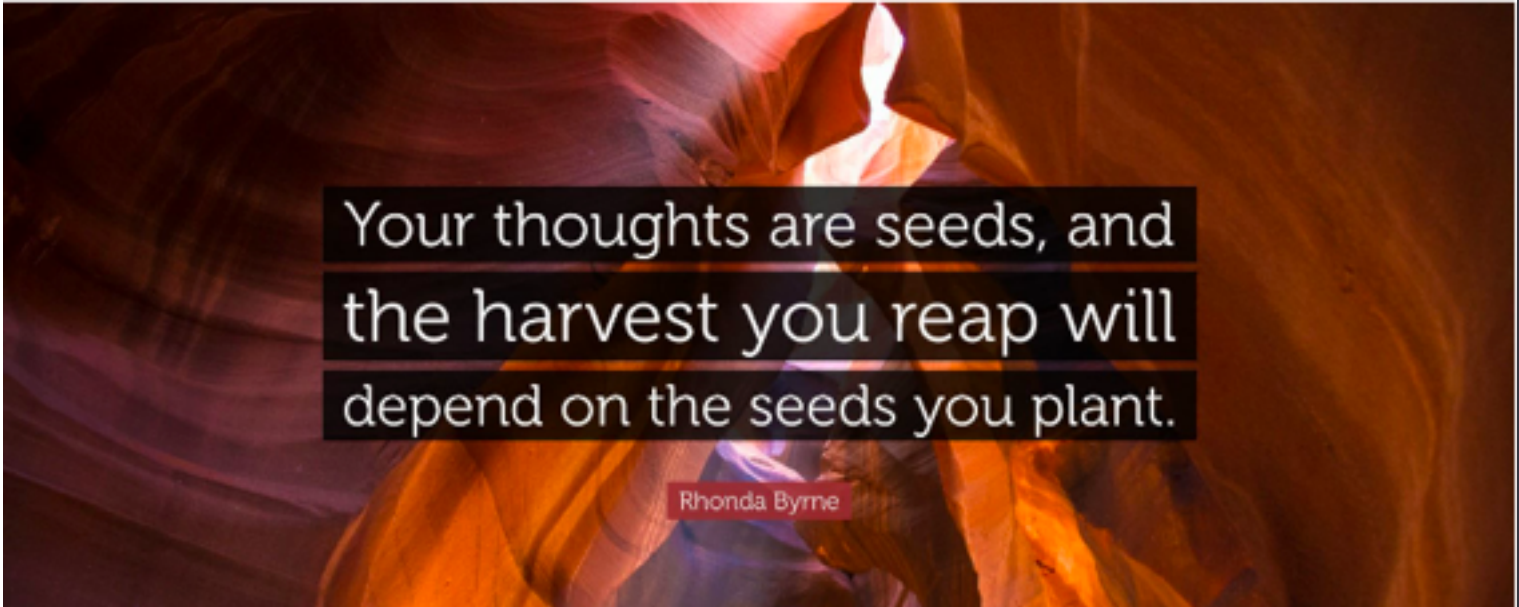
Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, to benefit everyone we share our community with: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Song Suggestion

We Plough The Fields And
Scatter





Your thoughts are seeds, and
the harvest you reap will
depend on the seeds you plant.

Rhonda Byrne

Bible Reading

Psalms 67 v. 1 – 7 NIV

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us 2 so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. 3 May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. 4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. 5 May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. 6 The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. 7 May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Why Hold A Harvest Service?

Harvest festivals or services may seem like a very ancient tradition, but it was actually a Victorian innovation by the Cornish clergyman, Reverend Robert Hawker (1803 – 1875). Reverend Hawker wanted to revive the Lammas tide tradition of giving thanks for the ‘first fruits’ of the wheat harvest. Lammas tide traditionally took place in early August, but Reverend Hawker moved his Harvest festival to early October and instead made it a celebration of the ‘gathering in’ of all the harvest.

A Harvest festival today is an opportunity to give thanks to God for his provision for all our needs, and to take practical action to help people in need. Our service today focuses on the work of food bank centres, one of which is located here in Huddersfield. They are working to raise awareness of the reasons people have no option but to turn to a food bank, as well as campaign for a future where everyone has enough to cover life’s essentials. As the cost of living continues to soar, food banks have seen a decrease in donations alongside an increasing need in their communities for support.

This service is an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the work of our local Food Bank and others like it across the country and to invite donations (of goods and money) to support this work.



You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

Psalm 65:11

Harvest

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Bible Reading

Luke 12 v. 13 – 21 NIV

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” 15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

16 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

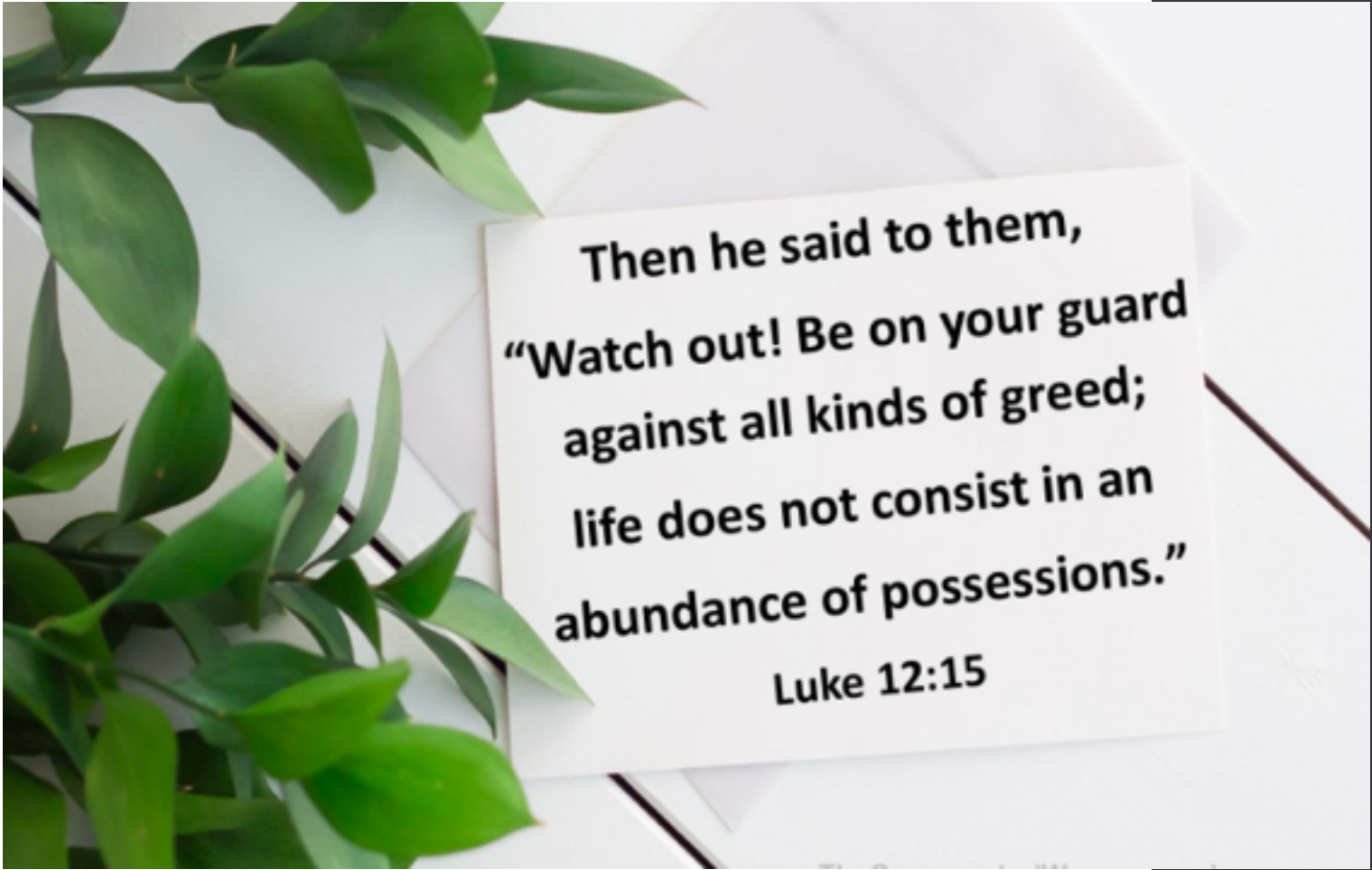
20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Song Suggestion

Come You Thankful People
Come



A photograph of a white envelope with a green plant branch on the left and a white card with text on top. The card is placed on top of the envelope, and the text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The plant has several green, oval-shaped leaves. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**Then he said to them,
“Watch out! Be on your guard
against all kinds of greed;
life does not consist in an
abundance of possessions.”**

Luke 12:15

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Thought

This is a parable, a story told by Jesus to illustrate a point. It is worth noting the context in which Jesus tells the parable. He has just been asked by someone to intervene in a dispute about a will – two siblings are quarrelling about an inheritance. But instead of responding with advice, Jesus tells his questioner to not let his or her actions be guided by greed (**v. 15**). He then goes to tell the story that is the focus of our talk today.

The story starts with a bountiful harvest. The weather conditions had obviously been right, the crops had been strong, there had been no devouring pests and, we are told in **v. 16**, ‘the land produced abundantly’. We are told that the farmer was already rich (**v. 16**), but his first response isn’t ‘Do I really need to keep all this food for myself? Can I share some of it with others?’ Instead, he starts to fret about storage space. He doesn’t have barns big enough for this huge crop.

So, his thoughts turn to ripping down his existing barns and building even larger ones. Some might say that he was just being a wise steward by carefully storing away his crop to last out the lean times. We might want to wonder what we would have done in the same situation. The rich farmer seems very pleased with his plan (**v. 19**) – the abundant harvest will see him through for a good few years and he won’t need to worry about working. He seems to be really looking forward to relaxing, eating,

drinking and being merry. Perhaps this sounds like an attractive proposition to many of us? Not having to work for our daily bread! Surely this man has won the lottery! However, this is a parable, a story intended to illustrate a point. We remember the words of Jesus back in **v. 15**: 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.' This story has a sting in the tail, and it comes in a dramatic way in **v. 20** – God intervenes and tells the man that that very night he is going to die and there will be no need for all those stored goods. Then comes the moral of the story, the punchline as it were, in **v. 21**: 'So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

As is common with parables told by Jesus, we have to reflect on how all this applies to us today. We might be feeling quite smug as we hear all this – we might think we are nothing like the rich farmer. And I'm sure many of us are more generous than him – we share our resources – we may give to charity or volunteer at our local food bank; we do our bit to support people in our community. But what if we saw it a different way? Perhaps this parable is about our dependence on God. Our life itself, all that we have, all our worldly goods, ultimately come from God – as the Psalm we heard earlier puts it: 'The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.' (**Psalms 67v. 6**) In the ancient world, and even more recently in rural communities, people prayed to God for a good harvest and thanked him when it was all brought in safely – as the words of one of the traditional Harvest hymns put it: 'Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our maker doth provide, for our

wants to be supplied.'

If we live in an urban area, it might be harder for us to be aware of the changing seasons and the precarious nature of growing food – although recent coverage of the impact of climate change on food production may have reminded us just how fragile our eco – system can be and how easily harvests can fail, causing shortages and even famines in parts of the world.

This parable reminds us that it doesn't matter how much we store up for ourselves on earth – we can't take any of it with us. And as Jesus says in **v. 15**, our lives, our value as human beings, aren't determined by how much we have or own – or they shouldn't be if we are living as faithful followers of Christ.

The parable also reminds us that we are to share what we have with people. We are not to 'store up treasures' for ourselves without us thinking about the rest of our community. This is what 'being rich towards God' means (**v. 21**).

Many are struggling financially now, particularly given the inadequacy of our social security system. Trussell Food Banks recently reported a 50% increase in the demand for emergency food parcels, compared to pre – pandemic levels, and a 29% increase since 2021. Between April 2024 and May 2025, food banks gave 2.9 million emergency food parcels – that's one every 11 seconds. Many people are asking for cold food, as they can't afford to heat their meals. We also know that parents are skipping meals in order to feed their children. As one person who had no option but to use a food bank put it, 'I do skip meals. The kids don't, but I do. I can go three days without eating. When I first started doing it, it was like, oh my goodness, I

feel ill. Now I'm used to it.' Yet, as need has increased, unfortunately donations to food banks have decreased – which is leaving food banks stretched and exhausted. Shortly, we'll have the opportunity to bring up our donations, whether food or financial, to help food banks to keep supporting people in their communities – especially as winter, and increased fuel bills, approach. All donations are massively appreciated.

But we're also aware that this is a matter of social justice. Being 'rich towards God' means having values and taking action that align with God's purposes for the world. God loves and values everyone, and it is surely not right that in a wealthy, developed country like our own, the fifth wealthiest in the world according to some lists, there are people in our communities who are pushed to the doors of food banks to feed themselves and their children. Food Banks exists to give immediate support where it is needed, but also to campaign for a better future, where food banks are no longer needed.

At the end of the service, we'll have the opportunity to think about what more we might do to make positive changes in our society – whether that's through committing to giving a regular gift to local Food Banks, maybe giving more of your time by volunteering at a food bank, or writing to your local MP about the situation. So, this Harvest, while being thankful for all we have, let's also commit to 'being rich towards God' in prayer, in word and in deed.

Song Suggestion

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky



Offering Our Gifts

During an instrumental reprise, invite people to bring up their food donations.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR THE DONATED OFFERINGS

Generous God, all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, all things come from you. Thank you for these donated goods and we ask that each gift may be used wisely and may be of help to someone in need. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen

Prayers Of Intercession

Lord of the Harvest, we give thanks for your bountiful provision. Thank you for the flowers of the field, for trees laden with fruit, for fields of wheat and barley. We ask your blessing on all who grow, harvest and get food to us: the farmers, the pickers, the packers and the delivery drivers.

Lord of the Harvest, Hear our prayer.

Lord of the Harvest, we pray for those who run food banks, especially our own local food bank. Thank you for all who volunteer their time to keep them going. We pray that you would energise and inspire them when times are tough. We also pray for everyone who is forced to use a food bank, that they may be sustained in body, mind and spirit.

Lord of the Harvest, Hear our prayer.

Lord of the Harvest, we ask your blessing on the work of the Food Bank in Huddersfield. Give them wisdom as they campaign for change so that food banks would no longer be needed in the UK. We also pray for those in government and all who have the power to bring about a future where we can all afford life's essentials. May they be guided by values of justice and dignity for all.

Lord of the Harvest, Hear our prayer.

Lord of the Harvest, finally we pray for ourselves. We offer ourselves to your service, asking that by the Spirit at work in all of us, together, we may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace.

Lord of the Harvest, accept these prayers in the name of

our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Prayers Of Thanksgiving & Response

of Food Banks, invite people to take the card that they were given and write prayers of Thanksgiving on them. As a promise to God that we intend to hear his word and think about it and live it invite the congregation to come up and place their cards on the table at the front. Explain that the response is up to them if they would like to make it. Explain, too, that there will be time for them to bring their card forward and that when they have done that then you will say a prayer together.

PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for harvest and for giving us your word. We pray that you will help us to listen to you; to consider carefully what you teach us and to live it out, even when we find life difficult. We ask this through Jesus Christ who showed us just how generous you are.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.
Amen



**The land
yields its
harvest;
God,
our God,
blesses us.**

Psalm 67:6

Song Suggestion

Great Is Thy Faithfulness





Blessing

We give you thanks at the end of our time together today for all the ways that you bless our lives: for the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you as our Lord and Saviour and hearing your word.

Send Your Holy Spirit among us so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will and dwell in your house forever.

Amen

