

## **A Festival of Fruitfulness**

As we enter September we see around us the fruits of our labours. Harvesters in the fields are bringing in the grain and the trees and bushes are filled with fruit.

In church we are reading through the gospel of Matthew where Matthew tries to explain the Kingdom of God in a number of agricultural references. We hear that the Kingdom of God is like a sower sowing seed some of which cannot grow due to the ground it falls on but when the word of God falls in good ground it takes root and is fruitful ten times and a hundred times more than expected. We also hear that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Matthew prompts us to think about how we are growing the Kingdom of God in ourselves and in the people around us. Matthew encourages us to grow as disciples and to encourage others in their discipleship.

This harvest is a time for us to reflect on how we are growing the Kingdom of God here in New Mill. To help us to do this we are having a whole weekend culminating in the Harvest Service with a range of activities to help us grow in our own discipleship and to think and plan for others to grow in theirs. There will be time for fellowship, faith and for fun as we engage in activities, workshops, an all age quiz and worship together.

Starting on Friday 15th of September at 6pm we will have a faith supper with lively worship and time for fellowship, please sign up with Sandra Cowie if you can bring a food contribution.

Saturday the 16th will start at 10 o'clock with lively worship and then a number of workshops including a family fun activity in the community garden, weather permitting, straw prayer dolly making in church and "Table Talk" about our faith, our worship and our church. A picnic lunch will be at 12.30 and then a guided walk with a difference from 2pm. At 6pm we will reconvene for pizza with an all age quiz interspersed with any party pieces our gathering may have, feel free to bring your favourite tippie along. The evening will conclude with a contemplative service at about 8 o'clock to send us out relaxed, refreshed and ready for bed.

Sunday we will gather in the community garden, weather permitting for our annual Harvest Festival where gifts of all kinds will be offered. There will be appropriate seating for all who wish to attend and a mix of traditional and modern harvest hymns. We will then have a lunch of soup and bread made from the produce of the garden. Please do consider coming to any or all of the weekends events. There will be people around over the next few weeks for you to sign up for any events you are interested in and for food for the faith supper.

We all have a role to play in bringing in the Kingdom of God. Over the next few weeks and during the Harvest Weekend you will have the opportunity to think about what your role might be and how you might help to bring in the Kingdom of God in New Mill.

### **The workers are few**

**35** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness.

**36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

# "Festival of Fruitfulness" Harvest Weekend at Christ Church New Mill 15 - 17th September

Come and Join us for our Harvest Weekend events  
including

Faith supper 6pm Friday 15th September  
Workshops & Activities from 10 am 16th September  
Picnic Lunch 12.30 pm 16th September  
Walk from 2pm Saturday 16th September  
Quiz and Concert 6pm 16th September



Harvest Festival 11 am Community Garden Sunday  
17th September followed by lunch