

A Time For Everything  
Ecclesiastes Ch 3 v 2b

As we celebrate Harvest it makes me think of farmers. My best friend at college married a farmer. We are still close friends, were bridesmaids at each other's weddings and she is Godmother to my elder son. Since college days we have had very different lives. Being a farmer's wife, despite having her own teaching career, has been a job in itself. There was always an extra task to be done – animals to feed – eggs to be collected and extra meals to be made for the workers. Her husband worked out in the fields from dawn till dusk and was more familiar with tractors and animals than with human beings. He worked alone most of the time.

In biblical times farming was a very common job. Everyone would be knowledgeable about when to sow certain crops and be aware of how the changing seasons affected the growth of wheat, maize and other grains. 'When to plant and when to pull up.' Harvest would be a busy time for the farmers and it would be 'all hands to the task' at certain times of the year. The same is still true. I well remember the look on friend's husband's face when I sang to him the children's song that ends by saying that it is God that makes the crops grow. Having spent a long hard day in the fields he said 'What do you think I have been doing all day?'

At Lower Wyke we have a thriving 'Greenfingers' Group. The group meets monthly to exchange plants and flowers, to share gardening tips and to discuss 'growing things' in general. They also, of course, share cake and coffee. I am sure that they know all about planting and pulling up! Hopefully we are planting a 'Moravian Seed' in their lives!

Just as the farmers, then and now, plant seeds so God plants different experiences in our lives. Some of the times are enjoyable, some are less so. Some are a small challenge and some extremely hard to work through. They all help to make us stronger people and better Christians. We also plant seeds in other people's lives. Who knows what we have planted at our 'Greenfingers Group' or in the lives of our children and grandchildren through Sunday School or even in the lives of those in our local communities just through the way we live our lives?

There are also times when we have to pull up things in our lives. There are prejudices that become deep rooted. There are judgements that take hold of us and sway our opinions. Let us pull them up and let us give way to open minds, inclusive views and equality for all. This notion is entirely in line with the recent resolution passed at Synod of being an 'Inclusive Church'

If we use the Parable of the Sower, let us pull up the seed growing on the stony and thorny ground and on the pathways and let us make room for the seed that fell on the good ground and produced fruit a hundred fold and more.

At this time of year let us give thanks for the bountiful harvest we are lucky enough to share in this country.

For Discussion

1. Who has planted good seed during your life?
2. What do you need to pull up from your life?

