



**Sunday, 30 September 2018 – Harvest Festival**  
**Sermon for 10.00am Eucharist at St Andrew's Parish Church Guernsey**  
**Reading: Gospel St Matthew 6:25-33**  
**Focusing on abundance, thankfulness and praise**  
**Given by Rev Juliette E C Robilliard**

Let me kick off this sermon before I throw it open to you all, as I promised I would in my welcome to this service. In the Gospel Jesus tells us:

“Don't worry about your life, what you will eat, what you will drink, what you will wear. Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”

And looking around the Church this morning we have all the evidence we need. For a start, we're not here naked! We all look well fed and I'm assuming that none of us slept rough last night?

'Harvest Festival' the words conjure up abundance, thankfulness and praise.

In the 'old days', when I was young, I remember one Harvest Festival in particular. Just like today the church I attended then was beautifully and lovingly decorated with flowers artistically arranged. The produce of amazing variety was a riot of colour. We were all looking forward with eager anticipation to the Harvest Supper, which would follow the service: similar to today and our Harvest Lunch.

But! Oh yes! there is a but! That was before the preacher began his sermon. All I remember of that sermon is that he talked a great length about the iniquities of the environmental disaster of the Russian grain harvest. The joy of the occasion was killed stone-dead! We preachers have a great responsibility. As the Preacher in the Book of Ecclesiastes says:

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”

I could talk at great length about the oceans of plastic pollution but although, we do need to be better stewards of God's creation, let's deal with that tomorrow. Today, let us enjoy and rejoice in all that God has provided and to do, here's what you've been waiting for ... let's share our favourites together. Would anyone want to share your:

- Favourite colour? “Red”, “green”, “orange”, “yellow”, “blue” – me too!
- Favourite flower? “Rose”, “freesia”, “sun flower”: so many I didn't catch them all;
- Favourite fruit? “Orange”, “apple”, “banana”, “mango”, “melon”: an endless list;
- Favourite vegetable? “Swiss chard” – Cool! what gourmets we are - “onion”, “artichoke” – hang on, what's wrong with a potato? Ah, good that gets a vote too;
- Favourite Fish? “Brill”, “bass”, “crab”, “lobster”, “plaice”, “skate”, “scallops”;
- Favourite Meat? “Fillet steak”, “chicken”, “venison”, “lamb”, “ham”.

Wow! Thank you for sharing and the point of it all was to note what abundance and variety God gives us to delight the eye and the stomach. We are so fortunate and, therefore, it's right that we share, in diverse ways, our blessings with others who have less.

What more need be said than to quote from the Gradual Hymn "*We plough the fields and scatter ...*" that we sang just a few minutes ago which squares the circle with the Gospel:

"We thank you then, O Father for ...  
our life our health our food.  
*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.*"  
Amen.