

Reverend Lotwina Farodoye Christ Church West Wimbledon
All Age Homily, 10am Service 5th October 2025
Scripture: Luke 17 vs 5 to 10
Sermon Title: “Harvest Festival”
Trinity 16

Introduction, A Conversation of Gratitude

Good morning and a very Happy Harvest Festival!

To start, I'd like you to turn to someone near you and share one thing you're thankful for today. It could be anything, food, friends, family, or even chocolate!

Now, let's hear some examples. Shout them out, and together we'll respond: **“Thank you God!”**

Already, we've begun our celebration with gratitude, and when we give thanks, joy grows in our hearts.

Harvest – A Season of Thanksgiving

Harvest is a time to pause and recognise God's provision. We give thanks for the food we eat, the farmers who work hard, the soil, the rain, and the sun.

It's so encouraging to see the donations you've brought today, these will go to **Christian Care, Merton Refuge, and Wimbledon Food Bank**, blessing families in need. Don't forget to visit our **Fairtrade stall run by Ian, and Lucy**, supporting growers to receive a fair share. And our collection today in the blue envelopes is for **A Rocha**, helping care for God's creation.

Harvest is not just about food; it's about sharing and trusting God's provision.

The Wonder of Seeds

All of this abundance begins with a seed. Tiny seeds hold incredible potential: a small acorn becomes a mighty oak; a sunflower seed grows tall and golden, brightening the landscape.

Look around, our gorgeous flowers in harvest display put together by Elaine, Julie and Wendy all began as small seeds.

Seeds don't just become flowers; seeds become the food that sustains us. Wheat becomes bread; rice feeds millions; potatoes, beans, and peas all started as small seeds.

Sometimes seeds lie hidden in the soil for weeks or months. Nothing seems to be happening. But then, at the right time, life bursts through.

Seeds and Our Lives

In many ways, we are like seeds. God has placed potential within each of us: gifts, creativity, compassion, the ability to love. Sometimes we feel small, powerless, or stuck, buried in dark, heavy soil.

But just as the farmer trusts that the seed will bear fruit, we too can trust God.

By His Spirit, He nourishes, strengthens, and draws us toward His light. In His time, He brings us into growth and fruitfulness.

This brings us to Jesus' teaching in our gospel reading for today in Luke 17.

The Mustard Seed of Faith

The disciples said, *"Lord, increase our faith!"* They wanted more, bigger, stronger faith. But Jesus said, *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."*

A mulberry tree is large and deeply rooted, yet even tiny faith can move it. Jesus is teaching us: it's not the size of our faith that matters, but the One in whom we trust.

Even a small flicker of faith, placed in God, is powerful.

Faith can help heal relationships, bring hope in hard times, and overcome obstacles that seem impossible.

I've seen mustard-seed faith in action.

Mums example:

My mother, had a dream to help children in the community where she was born in rural Zimbabwe. It started small, one person's heart to serve, and grew into a whole school block where children now learn and thrive and I was blessed to visit the school on my recent annual leave. That is the power of small faith offered to God.

Our Syrian Refugee family is another example.

Harvest Lessons for Faith

So what does this mean for us?

Every apple, pumpkin, and loaf of bread began as a seed. Seeds need soil, sunshine, water, and time. The harvest comes after patience and care.

Faith works the same way. Our little seeds of trust must be planted, nurtured, and lived out.

Acts of kindness, prayers, and gratitude are all seeds of faith.

- Saying grace before a meal is a seed of faith.
- Giving thanks for your daily bread is a seed of faith.
- As a church, sharing harvest gifts or helping others plants seeds that may grow in ways we never see.

Planting Seeds of Kindness

Now, you'll find a mustard seed in your row. It's not just a souvenir, it's a challenge. This week, I ask you to plant a **seed of kindness**.

Do one small act that may seem insignificant, but God can use to bless someone else. Write a thank-you note. Share food. Pray for a friend. Offer a smile or a word of encouragement.

One little seed of kindness, offered in faith, can grow into something amazing. Just as the farmer plants in trust, so we plant seeds of love and trust God for the harvest.

Conclusion – Living the Harvest

So today, let us:

- **Give thanks** for the food we eat.
- **Live generously** with what we have.
- **Plant seeds of faith and kindness** in our daily lives.

With faith in God, even the smallest seed can change the world.

Amen.