

# EASTLEIGH PARISH

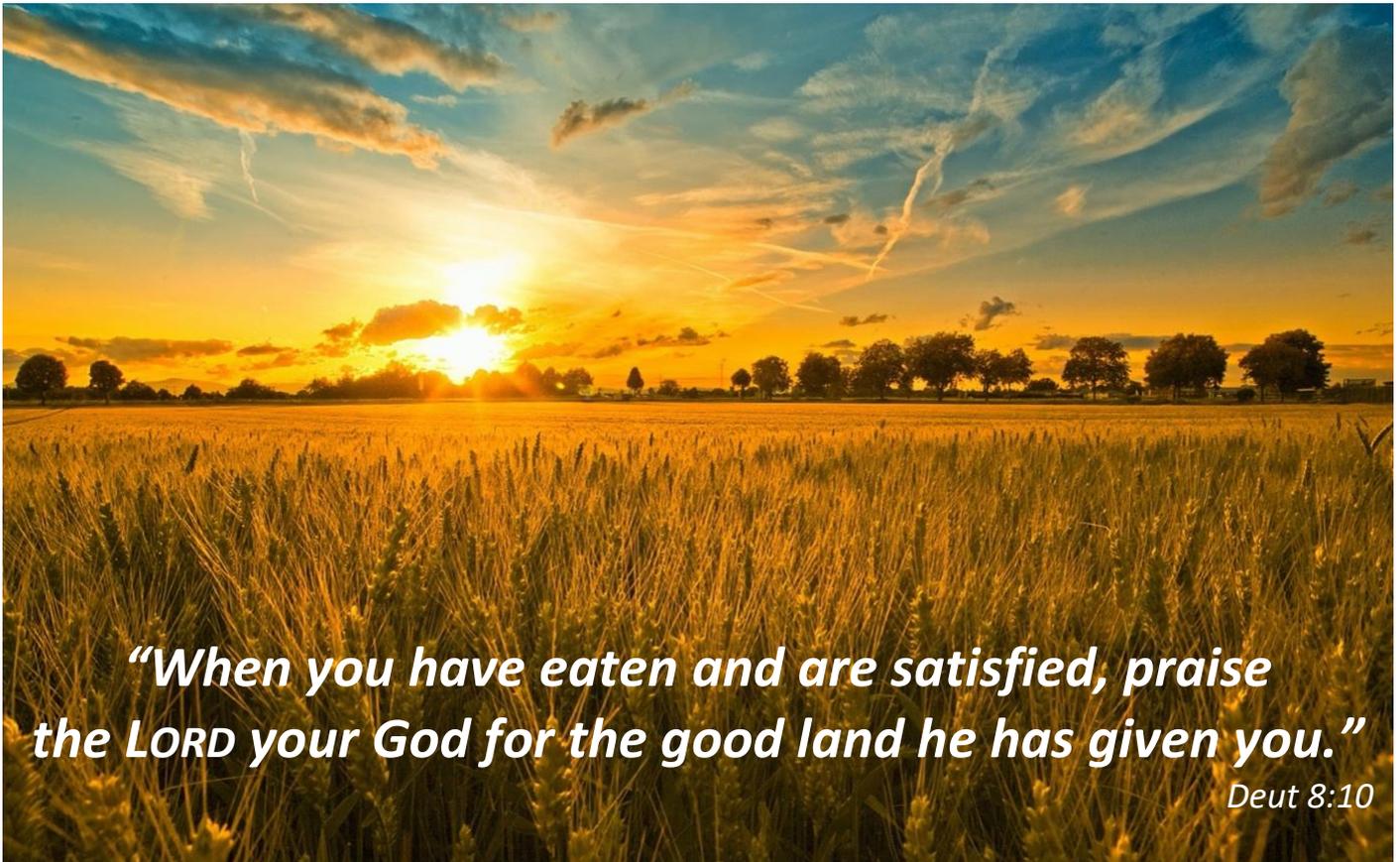


## Outlook for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

**\* Don't forget to put the church's annual meeting (APCM) in your diary: 9:30-11am Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Oct \***

Welcome to another edition of Outlook. In a few weeks' time, we hope to give Outlook a bit of a face-lift, including a new logo. So watch this space for a refreshed-looking weekly church update. All being well, the new logo – and some new, regular, items – will begin to emerge from Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October. This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after our APCM (the parish's annual meeting) at 9:30am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, at which we plan to share some new plans for the future. Please do make every effort to be there!

## Harvest Sunday 2020



**Are you able to give towards the stocks at Eastleigh Basics Bank this Harvest Weekend?**  
Every supermarket in Eastleigh has a trolley near their checkouts that can be filled with whatever you'd like to contribute. There's a list of the most-needed items in Outlook.

## It's Harvest Weekend!

This weekend will see our annual Harvest Services take place. As disciples of Jesus, we always want to live lives of praise and thankfulness. Like Paul said,

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."*  
(Philippians 4:12)

But even though we aim to be ever-thankful, it is good to set special times aside to particularly thank God for His goodness to us; and this is the purpose of our services this weekend.



Earlier this week I had the pleasure of visiting Kate & Andrew Ross at the Highbridge Community Farm that they both set up, and continue to help run. Although I had an idea of what they did, I was blown-away by the size and scale of the operation they oversee. Sited just half a mile beyond Allbrook, they and their team of volunteers have laid out a beautiful herb garden, a small lake, countless rows of vegetables, dozens of covered fruit cages and tunnels, and all manner of good things. Fifteen years ago, these 4 and half acres of land were largely-neglected, but thanks to the love, care, hard work and fortitude of the team, the Highbridge Community Farm is a living example of what can be achieved when a whole community takes seriously the process of sowing and reaping (and with that, the necessary tasks of weeding, digging, pruning, planning, storing, etc.).



Some of the neat rows of produce at Highbridge Community Farm

Throughout the Bible, a connection is made between physical and spiritual harvests. One such example is found in 2Chronicles 7:14,

*“<sup>13</sup> ‘When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.’”*

Perhaps more than anyone, Jesus regularly used the land (and harvesting in particular) in his teaching ministry (e.g. Matthew 13). Today then, as we bring our thanks to God for all that He has blessed us with, it is only right that we pause to think about spiritual harvests as well as the physical gifts we see around us. And as we look around us, may I suggest you think of all that has been demonstrated so beautifully by the team at Highbridge Community Farm? As the Bible says,

*“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”*

2Corinthians 9:6

### **Bible Reading 18<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:6-18**

*<sup>6</sup> Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup> a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig-trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup> a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.*

*<sup>10</sup> When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. <sup>11</sup> Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. <sup>12</sup> Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup> He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. <sup>16</sup> He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. <sup>17</sup> You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ <sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*

### **Whole-Church 24hrs of Fasting/Prayer – This Week**



The next 24hrs of whole-church prayer/fasting has been set by the PCC to take place on **Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>/Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October. Please put it in your diary now!**

We'll be meeting for half-an-hour of prayer between 8:30 and 9:00am on Saturday morning on ZOOM (just before the APCM).

*“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

2 Chronicles 7:14

## Light Party at Home – Oct 31<sup>st</sup>



Although we can't hold our regular Light Party this year, Michael, Kayleigh, Katie & others have been busily organising some special items for Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

We plan to prepare a 'Light Party in a Bag' and hope to deliver many of these party bags to homes around Eastleigh. Inside the bag will be all that is needed to get a Light Party started in homes (crafts, games, etc.). Full details can be found online (Facebook & website).

## Bible Study Materials



There are lots of great Bible study resources on the web – many of which are free to use. Here are 2 great sites for you to use should you want to dig a little deeper into the Bible:

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

## 2020 Vision



Are you able to remember as far back as Lent 2020? If so, well done! During that season we discussed and prayed about what God's vision for Eastleigh Parish Church might be. As you'll appreciate, this year has not turned out quite as any of us may have planned (!), but the Ministry Leadership Team / PCC Standing Committee (Ian & Sue, Adrian, Phil & Bronnie) have been working hard to take seriously all

that was shared and suggested by you all during the vision-discernment process – and then to see how this might relate to future plans for the parish.

One of the common themes that was helpfully highlighted during the vision process was how we might pastorally care for one another. Other themes included how we can train and teach new Christians, and how we can better connect with people from quite different contexts, for example both house-bound church members *and* young families who may have little or no relationship with the church.

When we gather for our APCM at 9:30am on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, not only will there be a chance to elect new members to the PCC, etc. and to hear a financial report from Adrian (our Treasurer), but Ian will be sharing some specific plans that we have for EPC. These plans not only take seriously the really helpful feedback that we have gathered from the vision process back in Lent (particularly including the Vision Day on Palm Sunday), but they also seek to respond to this hugely-changed world we now find ourselves living in as a result of COVID-19 and its many repercussions.

The plans that we have will need to be refined and tweaked in the months ahead. Although we think that we've got some good 'shape' to the vision that we have discussed as a whole church family, we'll continue to need your help on the issues of detail that will inevitably arise as we try to put into action some new ideas and ways forward. Please do keep your helpful feedback coming. It is most appreciated.

**APCM: 9:30am Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October – via ZOOM and at All Saints'**  
(APCM: Annual Parochial Church Meeting)



**Our APCM will take place at 9:30am on Saturday 24th October.** We plan to finish by 11am. There really is a great deal to give thanks to God for in the life of EPC in the church year 2019-20, as well as some exciting ideas on the horizon for 2020/21 that we'd like to share. With this in mind, the APCM should be a terrific meeting for all of us who care about EPC.

You'll be able to attend (and vote, if necessary) both online and in person. The APCM is the annual opportunity for us to take stock of 'where we are' as a parish, and to elect Church Wardens & other officials. If you consider EPC to be your 'spiritual home', please will you make sure that you're signed up to the Electoral Roll (see note above) so that you can play your part at the APCM. Also, if you'd like to know more about serving on PCC, or as a Warden, please speak to Ian or any member of the PCC.

Please see the separate attachment from a few weeks ago regarding the Electoral Roll – are you on it? Would you like to be added to it? Speak to Dot Chadwick (Electoral Roll Officer) for more info on 023 8069 6591.

**>>> All paperwork for the APCM will be available electronically on our website this week. <<<**

**Harvest Festival**



It would be great to give a bumper crop to Eastleigh Basics Bank this Harvest. Below is a list of the items that they have specifically asked for:

- Tinned meat meals
- Corned beef
- Spam
- Tinned ham
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned fish
- Cook-in-sauce jars
- Instant pasta sauces
- Instant noodles
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Rice pudding
- Custard
- Desserts
- Sugar
- Spreads
- Coffee
- Squash
- Cereal
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Deodorant
- Loo rolls

The Basics Bank team would also love to hear from you if you had the time (and the transport) to do some bulk-buying on their behalf (from local supermarkets). They are able to promptly reimburse you for everything you buy. If you can help in this way, speak to Dan on 07563 609994.

**Keep in Touch**



**Ian (Vicar):** 07809 668 118 & **Sue:** 07502 427 693  
**Phil Watson (Church Warden):** 07966 159 684  
**Adrian Nance (Licensed Lay Minister):** 07973 232 872  
**Keith Pickering (Deputy Church Warden):** 07905 249 860  
**Michael Weatherall (Youth & Children's Minister):** 07311 820 975



At the foot of Outlook you'll find some Bible verse memory/colouring sheets on the theme of Harvest.

*Can you colour the pictures in, and then learn the verse off by heart?*

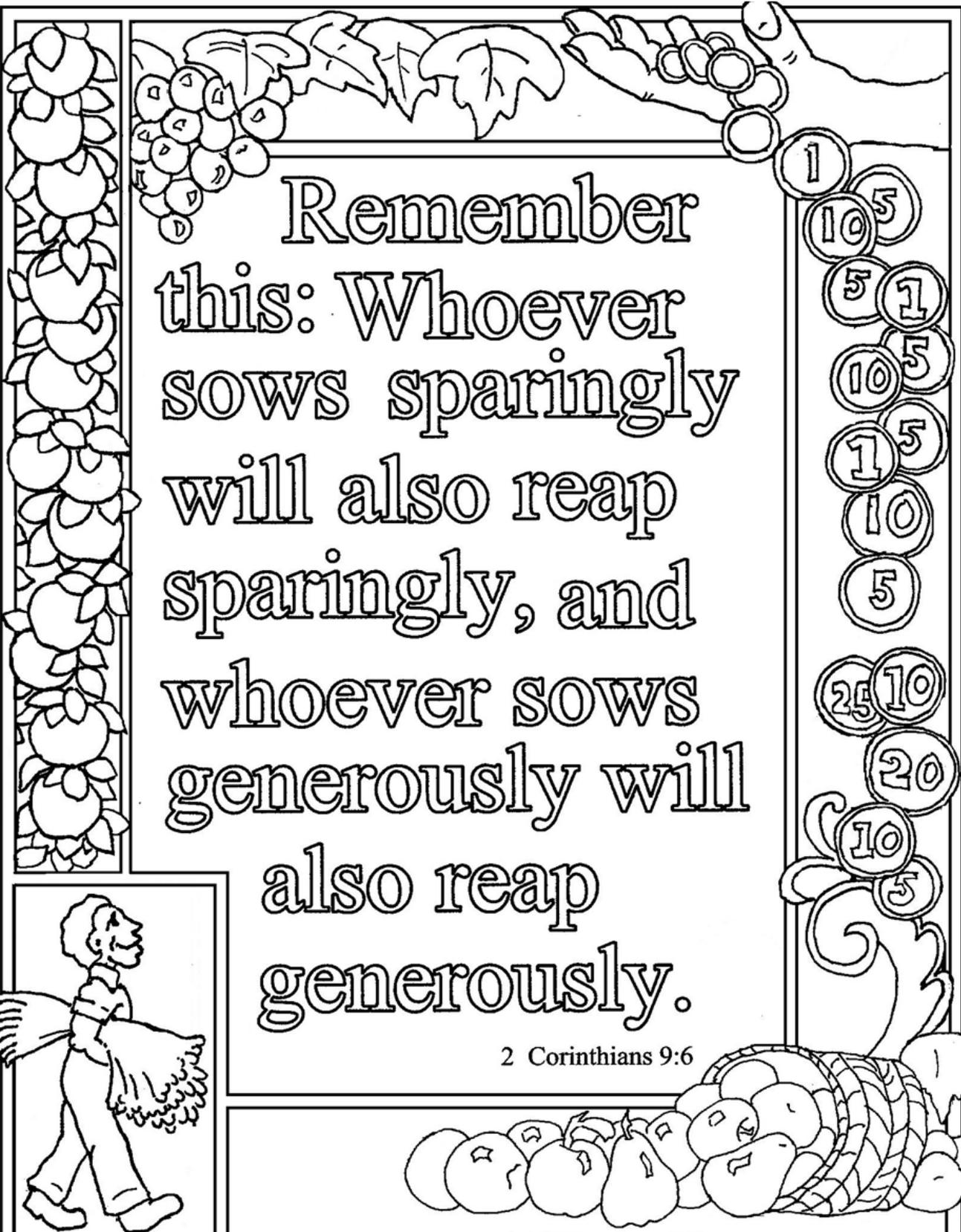
## HARVEST FESTIVAL



2 Corinthians 9:6

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