

Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 12th July
Sixth Sunday After Trinity

The soil of heart and mind.

Familiar places can be a joy to revisit. On holiday recently we walked again above the White Cliffs Of Dover where there's always something fresh to see. The Bible is like that. We return to familiar passages and something new catches the attention. The Parable of the Sower is no exception.

The Lord paints a vivid and familiar picture for his listeners with a wonderful touch of humour at the end. The seed falling on *"good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."* Even the very best harvest would seldom reach thirtyfold let alone a hundredfold! The parable is not about literal wheatfields but about the Kingdom of God, for the *"seed"* is the Word of God. The different soils are about the human heart and mind – what kind of soil are they for God's Word to produce a harvest of Christlikeness? Whoever we are, it calls for searching self-examination.

The "rocky place". The Word of God finds no place to take root in hard hearts and closed minds refusing to engage with Scriptural truth. That can happen with any one of us, not just a convinced atheist. Sometimes we put up barriers and no entry signs to areas of our lives because we don't want to face challenge that the Bible brings to them. For example, forgiveness. The Lord's Prayer reads, *"forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."* Jesus goes on, *"... but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."* Ouch!

The "path". Times when we read the Bible or hear a sermon and think *"That's good – I need to act on it."* Yet, by the end of Sunday lunch it's gone from the mind! Or, when challenges or hardship come, what we have read about God's peace is displaced by anxiety.

The "weeds". We separate faith in Jesus from the challenges of life and the pressures from contemporary culture to conform. *"Do not let the world squeeze you into it's mould."* Romans 12:2 J.B. Phillips translation. Where *"weeds"* threaten to strangle spiritual life is precisely the place our relationship with Jesus is both relevant and crucial.

The "fertile soil". It brings a harvest when we long to see the outworking in our lives of the Lord's Prayer, *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* It's about a harvest of obedience and Christlikeness which witnesses to an unbelieving and hurting world of the wonder of Christ's love, peace and hope. It only happens as we open the soil of our hearts and minds to the seed of God's Word daily, as the Lord's Prayer puts it, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* The Bible is essential reading for every day, not just Sundays! *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (abundantly)."* Colossians 3:16a.

Reverend Mike Stear

Readings

Matthew 6. 5-14 Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23

Collect

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

Hilfield Retreat Day

10am-4pm Thursday 16th July

After the popularity of the Winter Retreat Day at Hilfield there was a request to have another day in the summer.

(bring Bible, walking boots, notebook & a packed lunch. £10 per person

Contact Pat Lock on 07736387021
pralock52@yahoo.com

PICNIC

St Andrew's Messy Church

Summer Picnic

All Things Bright & Beautiful!

3.30pm - 5.30pm Sunday 12th July

The Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz

To book a place please contact:
weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

01305 837147

No charge but donations welcome

St Laurence Church

Charity Dog Show

Saturday 22nd August 2026 11am-6pm

Upwey House, 75 Church Street, Upwey

Games, Stalls, Food, Live Music

Fun For All The Family - Free Entry

Lunch Clubs

Angels Lunch Club

Every second Monday at

St Andrew's Church Rooms.

Contact Community Angels on 01305 834866
standrewsangels@hotmail.co.uk

Osmington Lunch Club

No Lunch in August

Every third Friday at

Osmington Village Hall

St Nicholas Lunch Club

Every 2nd Tuesday at

St Nicholas Church, Broadway

Contact: Susana Malik on 07944617553

Hall Hire

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston - 01305 837147 sachurchrooms4@gmail.com

The Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz - 01305 835533

St Francis Community Room, Littlemoor - 01305 832532 anne_field@talk21.com