

Reflections for July 12th – 5th Sunday after Trinity

Sowing the seeds

This reflection and prayer read by the Rector, plus a recording of the story of the Parable of the Sower, is available on YouTube, filmed on location at Rectory Farm. These can be found on the following links:

- **Reflection & Prayer:-** <https://youtu.be/f52treHbskl>
- **“The Parable of the Sower”:-** <https://youtu.be/giQM2zrQLJg>

During the last few months, we are told that people have had all kinds of good intentions about how they could use the time during ‘lockdown’ (a bit like when we make new year’s resolutions). Apparently some people have decided to try to read more, to learn a new language or to play a musical instrument, or to cook more at home, to eat a better diet, to take more exercise, to spend more time with their families, or to get to know their neighbours, and do something to help others.

But when we start out with good intentions to do something new, something good, there are some different things that might happen:

we can have a good idea, but it can be gone again in a moment, and we forget all about it, or never get around to doing anything about it

we can start out well, but when things begin to get hard, or someone criticises or makes fun of us, then we give up

we can do well for a time, but when all the demands and distractions of normal life return, we give up and go back to the way we were before

or our good intentions might take root and flourish in our lives, and lead to real change that is fruitful for us and for other people.

Jesus told a story about a farmer sowing seed in a field (in Matthew chapter 13), and he used it as a parable to tell us a truth about God. He said that when we ‘hear God’s word’, when we get a vision of how things could be different and better, then:

God’s word in us can be snatched away

or overcome by trouble or opposition

or choked by worries or distractions

or, if it finds a home in our hearts and lives, then it can be fruitful, and lead to real change for good in our lives, and the life of the world around us.

Revd John Waller

Loving God, who gives us every good thing

to use and share in your service:

help us to sow seeds of faith and hope

so that our lives may be fruitful

for the life of your kingdom

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible readings: Isaiah 55. 10-13; Romans 8. 1-11; Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23