

Good News Parish Magazine

for High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd

SEPTEMBER 2025



- 3rd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th Evensong
Eastling Church 5.15pm
- 9th Eastling Parish Council meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 10th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 10th **NEW** Bible Study Group begins
Doddington Vicarage 7.30 - 9pm
- 13th Cycle Ride and Stride
Around Kent Churches 10am - 6pm
- 15th **NEW** Faversham Foodbank
Eastling Village Hall 1.30 - 3.30pm
- 17th Mid-week Holy Communion
Wychling Church 11am
- 20th Copy deadline for October 2025
Good News: goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 21st Charity Tractor Run
Riggs Hill Farm 10.30 for 11am
- 24th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 26th Together in Boots walking group
Doddington Church leave at 2pm
- 28th Harvest Festival
Throwley Church 10.30am

OCTOBER

- 4th & 5th Harvest Flower Festival
Eastling Church 11am - 5pm
- 5th Harvest Thanksgiving
Eastling Church 10.30am
- 11th Harvest Supper
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 12th Harvest Thanksgiving
Stalisfield Church 10.30am

Harvest Festivals in our Churches

Sunday 28th September

10.30am in Thowley Church

Harvest Thanksgiving with Communion
followed by a Community event with refreshments
A collection of food and other items will be made
closer to the date which will be donated to
Catching Lives in Canterbury

Sunday 5th October

10.30am in Eastling Church

Harvest Thanksgiving with Communion
Refreshments after the service

HARVEST FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 4th open 11am - 5pm

Sunday 5th open 11.30am - 5pm

Sunday 12th October

10.30am in Stalisfield Church

Traditional Harvest Festival

Charity Tractor Run

IN MEMORY OF

Joey Ward-Bates

IN AID OF

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FIGHT KIDS BRAIN CANCER

21st September 2025

Riggs Hill Farm, Otterden, Kent,



Meet at 10.30, Departing at
11am
finishing up back at Riggs Hill
Farm
Refreshments will be available

For any information please
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Joeyarmy13@gmail.com
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Message for the Month

Every autumn, many churches and schools across the UK fill tables with tins and fruit, sing about gathering crops and give thanks for what has been provided. Harvest Festival, with all its colour and comfort, remains one of the few church traditions that still connects our everyday lives with the land, each other and with God.

While most of us no longer work the soil ourselves, many of us still find something deeply meaningful in this annual moment of gathering and celebration. A moment to say thank you, to replenish the food store, to give generously to others and to mark the turning of the seasons.

But in 2025, in a world shaped more by ideas, information and services than by physical sowing and reaping of crops, we at St. Mary's Church have been asking ourselves a few questions and we'd love to hear your thoughts too:

Where does Harvest fit today? How do we align it to our current cultural climate and 'off the shelf' modern lifestyle? What might it offer as a 'spiritual food' or discipline, especially around stewardship, generosity and of gratitude?

In the New Testament, the concept of harvest often takes on a more spiritual dimension. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of God as a field

ready for harvest (Matthew 9:37), connecting the theme with the call to share the Gospel.

St. Paul encourages believers in Galatians 6 verse 9 *"not to grow weary in doing good"* and pointing to a future harvest of righteousness and reward for those who have sown wisely and steadfastly. He also uses harvest language to speak directly about financial generosity, urging the church to give freely and faithfully: *"Whoever sows generously will also reap generously"* (2 Corinthians 9:6).

So, while many of us no longer plant literal seeds, the pattern of sowing, tending, and reaping remains a deeply Christian rhythm. It is one that still speaks into our spiritual lives and needs, our relationships, and even our finances.

Harvest is a natural moment to give thanks for what has grown, it may be a time for spiritual and financial reflection, but it can also invite us to ask deeper questions: What am I investing in - this harvest to come? What kind of fruit am I hoping to see? What am I storing up for the future?

For those of us working in offices, caregiving, teaching, or tech, the agricultural imagery might feel distant. But the spiritual practice it reflects is timeless.



Harvest prompts us to pause, to reflect and to review. And, in our modern age, that might mean looking prayerfully at how we live our lives, our priorities, our financial habits, our patterns of generosity and most especially our dependence upon God who ultimately provides for us.

It reminds us that giving is often slow and unseen, deliberate work that requires faith, fortitude and patience. God sees the seeds we sow, even when the fruit is not yet visible, in our produce, productivity and in our good deeds.

Harvest is not just a tradition to be remembered. It's a rhythm that can shape our whole life; our hearts, our spirits in a way that helps us to review, recommit and re-invest in our rootedness.

Mark Harlow

Prayer Pointers

Sundays - As we give thanks for the harvest in our church festivals, we pray for those whose land has been destroyed by war or the effects of climate change.

Mondays - Pray for those seeking a new job, especially those made redundant at short notice.

Tuesdays - Give thanks for Foodbanks across the country and pray for those needing help, especially those attending the new sessions at Eastling.

Wednesdays - Pray for people in this country and abroad who are persecuted for their faith.

Thursdays - Give thanks for those who helped us on our Christian journeys.

Fridays - Pray for those who are unwell, especially for all working through cancer treatment.

Saturdays - Give thanks for the lives of loved ones departed from this world.



Eastling Church Flower Rota

Sept 7th - Suzie

14th & 21st - Pim

28th - Julia M

Oct. 4th & 5th Flower Festival for Harvest

If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.



Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

August's meeting of Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. was a 'Fare to Share' theme. The majority of the Membership attended for some varied food supplied by us all, making the evening a lovely summer social occasion.

The outing for August was to Belmont House for a Meet the Head Gardener Tour. Alisa has stepped into the shoes of retired Gardener,

Graeme, and conducted us on a 2 ½ hour tour of the Gardens which date from the 1790's.

Much work was undertaken by Graeme over the 25 years the Garden was in his charge and now Alisa has more plans to redesign and develop various areas. Despite the wall having collapsed in the Walled Garden, we were able to still view this area together with the Pinetum, Nuttury, formal and kitchen gardens. Alisa certainly knows the subject of horticulture and was an excellent guide. We are planning to visit the gardens at a different season next year and tour the House at a later date. We finished the Tour with a visit to the Tea Room where we were supplied with Tea and a lovely lunch.

By the time you read this piece, hopefully we will have recovered from serving the Refreshments at Stalisfield Village Hall at the annual Fete on 23rd August. Our produce is always popular for attendees and helps to raise much needed funds for the running of the Village Hall.

We will have a Speaker at our next Meeting on Wednesday 3rd September commencing at 7.30 p.m. at Stalisfield Village Hall. The subject is 'Lewes Bonfire Night Capital of the World' given by Andy Thomas who has made numerous radio and TV appearances on The One Show, Richard & Judy and other programmes for the BBC, The History Channel and The National Geographic Channel. Andy takes us to his birth town of Lewes, renowned for its huge Bonfire Night Festivities, giving insights to this place of mystery, controversy, folklore and tradition.

Guests are welcome at a small donation of £5 to cover refreshments. If you would like to join our Group, please contact Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or Secretary Ellie Cameron on 07775 649337.



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

Wednesday 10th September at 2.30
at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close
TN27 9DS

Architecture of Mughal India: Palaces, Mosques, Gardens And Mausoleums.

*Our lecturer, **Dr John Stevens**, teaches British Imperial History, Indian History and Bengali Language at the School of Oriental and African Studies.*

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. Membership costs £45 for 10 lectures. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website

www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES

FROM 10th SEPTEMBER

After the popularity of the Lent Studies, and responses by those who took part, we are continuing to offer shorter studies, of five, weekly, sessions on Wednesday evenings at Doddington Vicarage from 7.30 – 9 pm

We will meet on
September 10th & 24th,
October 1st, 8th & 15th.



We will be studying "Acts for Everyone" by Tom Wright, one of the world's leading Bible Scholars; The study says; "The mysterious presence of Jesus haunts the whole story of Acts. Jesus is announced as King and Lord, not as an increasingly distant memory but as a living and powerful reality, a person who can be known and loved, obeyed and followed, a person who continues to act within the real world. We call the book "The Acts of the Apostles" but we should think of it as "The Acts of Jesus: Part Two". These studies help us to do so, and to see how Jesus' acts through the apostles inform and empower our acts today."

Please email me jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk or ring 01795 890726 if you would like to attend.

Every blessing, Rev'd Jim Pye

Harvest Flower Festival St. Mary, Eastling

Come and admire the Harvest arrangements and art work by the children from Eastling Primary School

Saturday 4th October 11am - 5pm

Sunday 5th October 11.30am - 5pm

Delicious homemade cakes and teas served 2pm - 5pm

Free entry but donations will go to St. Mary's church funds.

Sunday 5th October Harvest Thanksgiving

Communion Service at 10.30am
With refreshments after the service.
Everyone Welcome



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CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

My Dearest, My Darling – Wartime letters between England and India

Marian and Andrew Bond will read extracts from the letters Andrew's father and mother wrote to each other between February 1943 when he left for India and November 1945 when he returned. In all they exchanged some 350 letters but this small sample gives a flavour of wartime life in provincial wartime Britain and in pre-independence India, Ceylon and Burma. They are illustrated with contemporary photographs and Andrew's father's drawings.



Thursday 11th September 2025

Charing Parish Hall, Station Road

Doors open 7.30pm Talk starts promptly at 8pm

Members free - Guests £3. Membership from £10/year



Singing Carols at Christmas

In preparation for the Carol Service on Christmas Eve in Eastling Church, we are gathering together a small choir to lead the singing.

All singers are welcome to join us for practises in the church on Sundays, 5 - 6pm from 16th November.

No need to book, just come along.

More details from Andrew on 07749 403727.



Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk through woodland

Leaving Doddington Church at 2pm and returning for tea & cake at 2.45pm

Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome



On Fridays 26th September, 24th October, 28th November,

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878
lissie1710@gmail.com

STALISFIELD STOMPERS



Social line-dancing at Stalisfield Village Hall on Wednesdays at 10am.

Join us for a morning of boot-scooting fun and general mayhem.

Beginners welcome. All you need to know is your left boot from your right boot (even that's not mandatory is it Ray?).

Mosey on down to join us. Y'all be most welcome! We even stop for elevenses at the chuck wagon!



Stalisfield Harvest Supper

Saturday 11th October at 7.30pm
in Stalisfield village hall.

There will be a raffle on the night.

Tickets £10 adults and £5 for children.

Booking is essential

Please ring Shirley on 07885 827444 for tickets.

Eastling Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th September at 6.30pm in the Committee Room at Eastling Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

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We are Royal British Legion Industries

Most people think they have heard of us, but they most likely haven't. Royal British Legion Industries, RBLI (charity number 210063) is a separate charity from The Royal British Legion (charity number 219279), but we share the same ethos to support the Armed Forces community.

Royal British Legion Industries was founded in 1919, originating in the aftermath of the First World War, to support and care for some of the many thousands of soldiers who returned home suffering from tuberculosis (TB). Our village in Kent was soon established, quickly becoming recognised as the leading national centre of TB care at the time, thus creating a community for veterans to receive care and support.

RBLI is proud to be the home of the UK's largest veteran village, supporting over 300 Armed Forces veterans and their families in Aylesford, Kent. Alongside housing and welfare, RBLI empowers veterans through employment support and career development through our award-winning Lifeworks programme. Our social enterprises in Kent, Surrey, and Scotland provide real job opportunities, where more than 70% of employees are disabled military veterans or civilians.



We have an online shop at RBLI where every item is made or fulfilled by veterans and people with disabilities who we proudly employ. You'll find a variety of products, including our popular Tommy range; you may have spotted our iconic "Tommy" statues in your local area - those were created by veterans working in our social enterprise factories.

You can also buy one of our Wall of Honour Plaques, which would stand in RBLI's Garden of Honour on one of the original boundary walls of the prestigious

Preston Hall estate, erected over 100 years ago. It is a place of quiet reflection to commemorate and pay tribute to those who served, a family member, friend or loved one or simply someone who has been a pillar of the community.

With new developments like the Centenary Village and ongoing investment in veteran-specific services, RBLI continues to be a place where veterans can live, work, and thrive, no matter their journey.

Jenny Skinner @ RBLI



About RBLI
<https://rbli.co.uk/>



RBLI shop
<https://rbli.shop/>



Wall of Honour
<https://rbli.co.uk/wall-of-honour/>



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Medieval & Tudor Faversham

Sunday 28th September 10:00 am ~ 3:00 pm

Court Street Market Place & East Street, Faversham

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A Perfect Sound

by Audrey Keen

And the wood is seeped in mystery,

And the life within,
private and impenetrable.

The flowers by the neat
wood edge are coy

While a spider there is busy with her web.

Blackberries ripen in the September sun

And only the best I eat,

But the clematis cape shows spines of tender green

And the ferns are graceful as they touch the drive.

And little birds engaged in song remain untroubled

As I strive

To capture with my eyes, the loveliness.

But of all the birds on this day that sing for me

The pigeon's precious sound could no more perfect be.



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Services in our Benefice

7th September Trinity 12

Philemon 1 - 21, Luke 14. 25 - 33

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Tuesday 9th September

Eastling 5.15pm Evensong

14th September Trinity 13

Philippians 2. 6 - 11, John 3. 13 - 17

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

17th September Wednesday

Wychling 11am Holy Communion

21st September Trinity 14

2 Corinthians 4. 1 - 6, Matthew 9. 9 - 13

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

28th September Trinity 15

1 Timothy 6. 6 - 19, Luke 16. 19 - end

Throwley 10.30am Harvest Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

5th October Trinity 16

2 Timothy 1. 1 - 14, Luke 17. 5 - 10

Eastling 10.30am Harvest Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Online Daily Worship Continues

9am Morning Prayer every day on the Benefice
Facebook Page via <https://kc-hd.org.uk>.

More information is updated weekly on
St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

New Bible Study Group

Doddington Vicarage, 7.30 - 9pm

On Wednesdays September 10th,

24th, October 1st, 8th & 15th.

Studying "Acts for Everyone"

Please email me jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk or ring
01795 890726 if you would like to attend.



High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Parish Administrator Joyce Warren

01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
ramshawcaroline@gmail.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator
(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)

E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in
the October 2025 magazine, send your submission by
20th September to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be
viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if
you know of someone who is isolated, alone or unable
to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.
Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:
ramshawcaroline@gmail.com 07799 538 809

News from Citizens Advice



Back to school support

A new school year can put pressure on lots of people's budgets, and if you're feeling the squeeze at the moment you're not alone in your worries. But there is help available.

School lunches: The help you can get to cover school lunches will vary depending on how old your children are and if you claim benefits. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 automatically get free school meals. You can apply for free school

meals for older children if you claim certain types of benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support.

Travel costs: If your child can't walk to school because of special educational needs or disabilities they should get free school transport. You may be able to get help with transport costs from Kent County Council if your children can't walk because it's dangerous or too far.

School uniform: Local charitable schemes may be able to help, for example local community wardrobes. There may also be donations and second-hand sales available through the school itself or Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

You can find out more about the support available at citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/help-with-school-costs

How can we help you?

Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary)

Monday: 10am-12pm: Swale House, Sittingbourne

Tuesday: 10am-12pm: Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)

Tuesday: 11.30am-1.30pm: Murston Family Hub, Tonge Road

Wednesday: 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Thursday: 10am-12pm, West Faversham Community Centre

Friday: 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street,

Telephone advice

Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

Email advice: Contact us online at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice (Monday-Wednesday)

Debt advice: Request a call back from our specialist money advice team at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadviceswale.uk or follow us on Facebook.

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NEW FOODBANK LOCATION!

**EASTLING VILLAGE HALL,
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**STARTING MONDAY,
15 SEPTEMBER**

Every two weeks

1.30pm to 3.30pm

**Monday, 15 and 29 September; 13 and 27 October;
10 and 24 November; 8 and 22 December.**

If you are struggling financially, we're here to help.

**If you have any questions, please call our
answerphone: 0793 872 0604**

Our main Foodbank centre continues every Wednesday and Friday, 1.30-4pm, Gospel Mission, Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JL



Charity registration number 1185413



**Faversham Foodbank will also accept
donations of food at the hall during the above
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Schools to teach children that being worried is not a mental health condition

More children and young people are in danger of confusing the normal anxieties of life with a genuine mental health condition.

So says the government, and it has issued new guidance to schools to try and correct the trend.

The guidance states that pupils should be taught “that worrying and feeling down are normal, can affect everyone at different times and are not in themselves a sign of a mental health condition”.

Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, believes that too many children are relying on social media to learn about managing their moods and emotions. Instead, she says that they need more balanced guidance from their parents, teachers and trained professionals.

The new government guidance comes in the face of a soaring amount of young people being signed off as too ill to do anything. The number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (Neet) has surged to a near-decade high of a million.

And so it is that schools have now been instructed to make sure that lessons help pupils understand and differentiate between genuine mental health conditions and ordinary feelings.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394 or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

For any cyber attacks or scam calls please report it on 0330 123 2040

There seems to be a bit more crime in local areas as of late. Nothing serious apart from the hare coursing that does not seem to abate so please be alert and report anything suspicious on 101 or online, it is easier online. If a crime is being committed in progress please ring 999.

There are many vehicles which do not obey the 30 mph in our villages so please take care, the police are aware and hopefully a speed trap might be forthcoming.

Fly tipping in our local areas has become more of a nuisance and should any vehicles, especially white tippers, be seen in our area carrying rubbish please try and take registration number and let me know.

Have a good month
Take care, Alan



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Defibrillators in our Villages

Ready for anyone to use in an emergency, please find the nearest to you:

Eastling sited at 1 Manor Lees, the Street, Eastling. ME13 0BE

Eastling School (School days only, 8am - 4.30pm) sited in the corridor of Main Building. ME13 0BA

Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY

Throwley sited in the old Telephone Box outside the Old Post Office, ME13 0PJ

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No training necessary



For an unconscious person
NOT breathing normally



Call 999 Start CPR Switch on defibrillator Follow its instructions

Resuscitation Council (UK)





Talk by Rory Harding
Discussing Rewilding
 Nature Recovery Manager
Kent Wildlife Trust
St. James's Church
Sheldwich ME13 0ED
7pm September 17th
Admission Free

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Friends of Kent Churches
Ride & Stride
Saturday 13th September 2025
10am - 6pm

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equally between friends of Kent Churches
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www.kentrideandstride.co.uk



Youth Group **in Stalisfield** for 11-17yr olds.

New Members Welcome

We meet on Wednesdays, usually twice a month, 7 - 8.30pm in the village hall AND it is free to come.

We have music, gaming, craft, table tennis, table football, **outside games in the Summer**, craft table, tuck shop (everything 10 - 50p), free cake and drink.

It is a time when young people can relax, hang out and catch up.

Wednesdays 10th and 24th September

Contact Catherine 07929 928 046 or clnorwood@doctors.org.uk or see our Facebook page for more details.

Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**... The **land yields** its harvest, God, our God **blesses** us."
 - from Psalm 67:5-6

"Honour the **Lord** with your wealth and the first part of your **harvest**."
 - Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God. He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains at the right time. He makes sure that we have the harvest at just the right **time**."
 - from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from heaven and good harvests at the right times. He gives you plenty of **food** and fills your hearts with **joy**."
 - Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things **grow**."
 - 1 Corinthians 3:7

D	E	B	R	E	A	D	C	R	O	P	S
A	P	L	A	N	T	S	G	T	I	M	E
S	L	O	I	J	B	P	R	A	I	S	E
C	O	R	N	O	L	R	A	H	G	O	D
A	U	D	H	Y	E	I	I	A	S	L	S
T	G	R	O	W	S	N	N	R	O	W	E
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
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R	O	T	U	T	S	I	L	S	O	W	O
M	O	U	R	U	R	W	A	T	E	R	S
D	M	A	B	A	R	N	P	I	C	K	
S	U	N	F	I	E	L	D	R	E	A	P

Find the words in bold type in the bible quotes in the wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
 REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING