

## Introduction

Last week at Thriplow's Harvest service we heard from David Walston about this year's harvest. It seems it was pretty bad. At every stage of the growth cycle the weather was wrong – too wet when the seed should have been planted, too dry when the seed was germinating, there were beetle larvae eating the crop and because of the weather conditions the quality of crop was poor. I said to him that last year's experience must have been a bit like our battle with Covid 19, continually changing circumstances and different action to be taken. His response was that farming is always like that.

For most of us who get our wheat and potatoes at the supermarket or farm shop we don't really notice or understand the continual struggle against nature that our farmer engage in. Though with my veg this summer where the tomatoes have been prolific and aborigines and corn the opposite I have a vague idea.

So it is easy for us to miss how radical Jesus's words to his disciples are in Luke 13. He tells them: 'and so I tell you not to worry about the food you need to stay alive or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is much more important than food and the body much more important than clothes. In a situation when a year's crop can be swept away by a single storm or drought these words are much harder to accept.

So what does he mean. Well these words immediately follow the parable of the rich fool where he tells of a man whose crops are fruitful so he decides to build vast store houses to hold his wealth. Yet that night he dies and gains no benefit at all from the stored up wealth.

Jesus understands that those he is talking to need food to live and clothes to wear but his point is that they are not the most important thing in life. In fact in God's view they are very unimportant. God knows his children need these things and Jesus wants his followers to trust God to care for them and put

**Readings**

**Psalm 65:8-15**

**Luke 12: 22-34**

**Purses that won't wear out**

**Foxton/Fowlmere Harvest**

their main energy into serving him rather than in chasing wealth. He tells them, `