



### **Thought for the Month of September 2021 by Rev'd Carollyn McDonald**

I've noticed that many holiday makers are returning back to school and to work, leaving the more flexible and retired people to tourism. The mixing together of visitor drivers and harvest traffic isn't easy for either group, but the business keeps going, weather dependent.

Churches and communities will be celebrating Harvest in September and October. I recall one year in the 1970s living in Scotland near Tain when the harvest wasn't safely in till November and the Harvest Thanksgiving was then held. Of course, we aren't restricted to the harvest season to gather in and give thanks.

In the farming year there are opportunities to reflect and plan ahead - I wonder when the plans are made for the next year, or 3 - 5 years? One part of that planning is feeding the earth and laying the foundations for the future; spreading various doses of fertilisers for next year's crops might be smelly but the investment is needed. We can't predict the weather exactly but we take a chance and hope and trust our decisions.

Concepts of hope and trust are based on our experiences in our past and if we are Christian, on the pasts of God's people. We can read how God protected and provided for the souls and hearts of His people in the Bible. Just as the soil benefits from feeding it with nutrients, so our hearts and souls benefit from feeding them with Spiritual nutrients and these could be Christian reflections, hymns, and Scripture. A regular, small dose is better than 3 years' worth poured over all at once!

As we come into Autumn and plan our days and lives, I invite you to plan-in a little dose of God's encouragement and love for us all.



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