

## Of purple dye and many scratches.....

Have you been blackberrying this year? Coming back from a walk with purple finger tips, a scratch or two and a bag (and tummy) filled with blackberries is such a delight! Combine this gathered treasure with some windfall apples, from the pile generously placed in the church porch for sharing, and an apple and blackberry crumble is well on the way. Harvest is always a special time... even for those of us who have not grown our own produce!

Harvest is a time of generosity. We remember God's generosity and allow it to inspire us to be generous too. It is a time of celebration, a time of sharing, and a time of looking beyond ourselves. After our Harvest Services on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (9.30am at St Nicholas' Church and 10.30am at St Peter's Church) during which we celebrate God's Harvest, we will be gathering together at Clarence House for a Bring and Share Lunch. This year's harvest gifts will then be conveyed to two local projects serving those in need in the Bristol area - the 'Loaves and Fishes' project and 'Bristol NW Foodbank'. Both projects have amazing stories to tell, and they both strive to provide food for those in need. To find out more about these two projects, follow the links from our website ([www.portisheadparish.co.uk](http://www.portisheadparish.co.uk)) or give them a call (0117 941 3268 or 07582 749256). There are many ways that we can support – through prayer or volunteering, as well as through food and money.

'It's good to be hungry!' a friend said to me the other day, and I think I know what she meant. There is something wonderful about having an empty stomach, rumbling for food, when you know that you are soon able to satisfy its noisy demands. But hungers that have no hope of being satisfied are far from good, and physical hunger, malnourishment and starvation need to be countered and overcome.

We may refer to people being 'hungry to learn', or 'hungry for justice', these are good hungers – sometimes hunger can drive us forward to better things. As we celebrate God's Harvest, may we be hungry for God's harvest to be realised throughout the world. Let's keep striving for an end to poverty and a fairer sharing for all.

*With love in Christ, **Rev. Christine***