**Saturday 1st August**

Matthew 9.35-38

Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest’.

I love driving through the countryside seeing the fields ripe for harvest. Sometimes, of course, it means being stuck behind a combine harvester too! But it’s that time of year when farmers look anxiously up to the skies and hope it doesn’t rain. The harvest looks pretty plentiful this year and I’m sure there will be storehouses that will be fit to burst in a few weeks’ time. The harvest Jesus speaks of here isn’t wheat or barley – it’s people – precious, unique individuals, that Jesus loved so much that He gave His life for them. Jesus says these famous words after seeing crowds of people looking harassed and helpless. He has compassion on the multitudes, teaching and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. We can still find ourselves surrounded by the harassed and the helpless; people are looking for a saviour. As those who know Jesus, we have the task of pointing others to His goodness, to continue Jesus’ mission on the earth. Let’s have compassion and confidence to proclaim, heal and point others towards the only one who can save. As we do that we become the harvesters, bringing in the harvest that God has sown, into the eternal storehouses of heaven.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for your compassion that led you to seek and save the lost, and ultimately to lay down your life for our sakes. We are living in tumultuous times, and many people feel lost and afraid. We pray that you would give us the compassion and confidence to reach out with your love. We offer ourselves to be a part of your team of labourers, to bring in the harvest! Send more we pray Lord! Amen*

