

Sharing Together on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
during a service led by the Evangelism & Service Group

Readings: Leviticus 19: 1-4, 9-18; Mark 12: 28-34.

We decided that I would tell a certain story during Sharing Together today: so I have ... looked at pictures of turnips.



I've found turnips in the market.



I've looked at recipes containing turnips;  
you'd be amazed by the things you can  
make with them!

I may - or may not – have ... crocheted a  
turnip.



But, unfortunately, I haven't had time to  
grow one, as that could have taken me a  
couple of months.



However, I do know a story about someone  
who did...

THE  
ENORMOUS  
TURNIP

There was once a farmer, who planted lots of different types of fruit and vegetables, including  
turnips!



Having looked after the seeds, and then the plants, she decided it was time for her to pick her them. As she walked across the field she spotted small turnips, medium turnips...and an enormous turnip!

'Hmm, well, I'm now going to need a bit of support with this job.'



'Here I am', said her partner.



The farmer gripped onto the turnip, her partner gripped onto her, and then the farmer shouted... 'Pull!'.

onto them, and then the farmer shouted... 'Pull!'.



But no matter how hard they pulled, it just wouldn't budge. So they called over to the duck pond, and a friendly duck came waddling over.



But no matter how hard they pulled, it just wouldn't budge. So they called for the farm dog.



The farmer gripped onto the turnip, her partner gripped onto her, the dog gripped onto them, the duck gripped onto the dog, and then the farmer shouted... 'Pull!'.



The farmer gripped onto the turnip, her partner gripped onto her, the dog gripped



But no matter how hard they pulled, it just wouldn't budge.

So, as there was a hare hopping by, they asked her to help them.



The farmer gripped onto the turnip, her partner gripped onto her, the dog gripped onto them, the duck gripped onto the dog, the hare gripped onto the duck, and then the farmer shouted... 'Pull!'.



But, no matter how hard they pulled, it just wouldn't budge.

Everyone was getting frustrated now, and so the farmer looked round, seeing if she could find something, or some one who could help solve the problem. Her eye was caught by a mouse, sitting nestled on a pumpkin leaf, and she asked if she might help.

But the dog, duck and hare weren't very happy; 'How can something so small help us get this enormous turnip out of the ground?!'.



Eventually the farmer persuaded them to give it a go, and the mouse was invited over to help.



The farmer gripped onto the turnip, her partner gripped onto her, the dog gripped onto them, the duck gripped onto the dog, the hare gripped onto the duck, the mouse held onto the hare and then the farmer shouted...



Finally, here was a loud pop...and out of the ground came the enormous turnip!



After they celebrated, the duck started asking, 'But what are they were going to do with this turnip now, it's just so big?!'. They discussed various options, but eventually decided that they would roll the turnip back to the farm house and make a big, big, BIG...pot of soup. They called all their friends, their families, everyone who lived and worked on the farm, and in the surrounding area, and enjoyed a happy evening together.



Now then –

*Sometimes it feels like there are lots of big problems in the world, especially at the moment. There is one that often feels very close to home, often just on the other side of those windows at the back of the church.*

Poverty, and it is proving so difficult to solve. We can feel powerless. we can feel so small, just like the farmer's friendly mouse.

Our efforts are just a drop in the ocean. And we wonder how we can solve anything.

But as we read in 1 Corinthians 12, all of us together form Christ's body. And the very smallest of us, no matter how small we feel can play our part working together to make a difference.

If we combine all of our little efforts, like the farmer did, working with the mouse, her partner, and their other friends, we are much more powerful. And bit by bit, maybe we can make some changes.



Hopefully, putting our wills and hopes together. By using our voices and prayers, we can encourage organisations, charities, and governments to work together in the same way so that poverty may eventually be eradicated.

The powerful thing is having the will to work together.

May we remember what Desmond Tutu said; 'Do your own little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good that overwhelm the world.'

Jess Uden  
October 2022