

# Connecting Work and Harvest in Non-Rural Churches



Since most people don't make their living by farming, traditional displays of bringing food into the church as offerings may remind us of God's provision of our daily bread, but they don't visually connect to the way that God has chosen to meet our people's material needs. A suburban child does not look at a display of potatoes and make the connection to their father's job in IT.

A contemporary harvest display might involve a range of objects that represent how people are engaged in work such as a hard hat, a baby's bottle, a set of keys, a spade, a computer or a syringe. In one church, the whole congregation were invited to bring an object that represented their work and then were invited to lay it on the altar as a symbolic dedication of their work, their co-workers and their workplaces to God. Children were involved and brought text books or pencils and one unemployed person laid their UB40 form on the altar – a moving reminder of their lack of paid work but also of God's provision through the wider community.

Another church asked people to bring in pictures of themselves in their workplaces and displayed them around the church, as a way for the community to get to know and appreciate the variety of places God has given them work.