

Pastor's Patch



About this time of the year the garden is on fast-forward with growth of flowers and shrubs. Every day I go out I will spot new buds, flowers, stems and colour.

Sadly this isn't limited to the good stuff, for there's also an abundance of weeds. They too will be thriving and taking over any spare piece of soil or even poking up above and wrapping around the flowers themselves.

Imagine then the frustration of the farmer's workforce discovering weeds in the crop fields they had spent many hours of labour and sweat in planting. Worse still they then see that weeds are also taking over.

This is the scenario in one of Jesus' parables we find in Matthew 13. The distraught servants come to the master to report numerous weeds were mingled in with the wheat. "Where did the weeds come from?" they ask. The master suddenly realises that this is no accident, but an enemy has come and deliberately sown weeds amongst the wheat. Ever willing to please, the servants ask "Do you want us to go and pull them up?", to which the master wisely and calmly responds that they should let the weeds and wheat grow together or risk pulling up the valuable crop. But at harvest time he tells them to first gather and burn the weeds, then gather and store the wheat in the barn.

It's an important lesson for all followers of Jesus intent of serving Him. We will find challenges and frustration as we are serving the Lord as individuals and also as a church. The unexpected illness, tragedy, breakage or theft. The failure of friends and family, the unforeseen pressure on finances or resources that require a change of plans. However, that is the time to remind ourselves and each other that we worship and follow "the Lord of the harvest". Sinners and powers of darkness will be dealt with in the fullness of time, but our focus should always remain on the harvest of souls that He wants us to labour for.

POINT TO PONDER

Where have we encountered hurt or frustration lately? Could it be this is not the deliberate failure of those around us but actually the work of the enemy to discourage and distract us from continuing to serve the Lord?

Darrell Holmes

SOUTH WEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TORBAY CLUSTER

On 6th June 2026 the SWBA Baptist churches are gathering in local clusters to hear and share exciting news from across the region.

Our Torbay Cluster will be gathering at Upton Vale and we encourage you all to come and see what the Lord is doing among us.

Arrive to refreshments of drinks and cakes, share in praise led by local musicians, hear from all the churches and Pioneer Ministries of the joys and challenges in Torbay and marvel at the goodness of our Heavenly Father.

We hope to arrange local transport, so just sign up on the list if you would like to be included.



**1 BIG
AGM**

6TH JUNE 2026

**JOIN WITH CHURCHES
ACROSS YOUR CLUSTER
AS WE CELEBRATE
TOGETHER**

OUR LOCATION

**UPTON VALE BAPTIST
CHURCH**

DETAILS

**STARTS 1:30PM
CAKES & DRINKS**



**UPTON VALE BAPTIST CHURCH
TORBAY CLUSTER
STARTS 1:30PM – CAKES & DRINKS**