Sermon:

Climates are always changing. But most see that today humans are a main cause, releasing CO2 into atmosphere which forms a blanket to keep the earth warm. The effects are:

[1] warmer atmosphere 🡪 to changing weather patterns (storms, more/less rainfall, etc)
[2] melting ice 🡪 to sea level rises; and this can lead to

[3] further temperature changes (eg Gulf Stream switching off)

Relevance to Harvest? Changes in what could be grown, how much water/land there might be.

God provides so much, yet we might, by exploitation, spoil it all, even if inadvertently.

Of course we are not absolutely sure of all the effects, but there will be some, and some not so good.

How does this fit with Parable of the Sower? It has several layers of meaning:

1. Literal sowing/harvest. Harvest is something we should celebrate. Without the praise of God for the harvest the rest is merely politics, but putting praise first gives context.
2. God’s harvest and sowing the seed of the gospel.
This is also important as it drives our purpose as a parish. The gospel is good news and good news is worth sharing, in as many ways as we can manage.
3. You reap what you sow, this is how life works, including climate change. If you drive like a maniac someone, sometime will get hurt. A bickering, cliquey church will lead to spiritual casualties and eventually fall apart.
However, this also works positively – a careful driver will save lives, a truly warm and accepting church will become a hospital for the casualties of life, sometimes from other churches.

What is the ‘message about the Kingdom’ in 13.19ff? It is not explained in the parable.

The question is: what kind of ‘message of the Kingdom’ do we want to share in our world/church?

Whatever the message it is easy to want the results now, but harvest takes place a long time after sowing.

To get a healthy, loving world/church, then we must sow good seeds now, even if we never see the harvest.