Thank you!

We’re delighted you’re looking at these resources.

Harvest is a special time, full of opportunities to celebrate all the good gifts we have been given – and to share them with others, just as God wants us to. So we’re praying a special blessing on you and your church to enjoy an inspiring and challenging time together as you plan your celebrations, hold your special service and/or gather round your supper table.

This guide tells you everything you need to know:

• **See section 2** to find out how to sow seeds of change with us so you can plan what you want to do, and which resources will help you most.

• **See section 3** to find out how and where to find all the pick and mix resources referred to in section 2.

However you decide to sow seeds of change with us, thank you for remembering families living in poverty in the Middle East this Harvest.

Thanks to a microloan from Embrace’s partner, Think and Do, Hana had the seed money she needed to get her bread-baking business off the ground. Now she’s growing a new, life-giving future to support her family!
How to sow seeds of change with us

It’s really easy to grow new futures with Embrace and our partners on the ground in Egypt this Harvest. The central idea works the same whether you’re able to devote the majority of your service or event to it, or just a few minutes alongside your local food collection or other key priorities. Simply:

Catch the vision for growth
Start by sowing seeds of inspiration in your own mind and heart. Spend some time reading, and praying with, our pick and mix Worship resources to:

- encourage yourself with our story: ‘Growing new futures’
- get re-inspired by Bible passages and prayers linked to our theme
- help you with growing a heart for Egypt, its Christians and those they serve.

The more inspired you are, the better you’ll be at envisioning everyone else!

Prepare the ground

- Decide when your Harvest service, supper or other event will be, and how much time you will have to sow seeds of change with us.
- Go through section 3 of this guide carefully to get a sense of the rich supporting resources we’ve created for you. Then order and/or download everything you want to use.
- Display our poster to help spread the word.

embraceme.org/harvest
Get everyone sowing

- Give every person or family a pen, a Seed prayer card, a Gift Aid envelope and a Seed packet.
- Tell the story: ‘Growing new futures’ from our Worship resources to explain how Embrace’s partners in rural Egypt put seed money into the hands of enterprising individuals like Hana. With these microloans, they can get brand new businesses off the ground to support their families!
- Encourage everyone to write their own prayer for Hana, Egypt or Embrace’s partners there onto their Seed prayer card.
- Ask them to put their prayer in their Seed packet.
- Suggest that anyone who can also use the Gift Aid envelope to sow practical seeds of money alongside their prayer.
- Explain that Embrace will take every Seed prayer card received to Egypt and give them to our partner Anafora, on behalf of everyone we work with in Egypt. This is the perfect place because it is a retreat and training centre that’s part of the Coptic Orthodox church whose team follow a daily rhythm of prayer, as well as running projects to serve those in need. The seeds of prayer you sow will therefore be both potential-packed prayers to God, and a powerful message of encouragement to Christians in the Middle East as they carry out their important work.
- Say all the seeds of money received will be sown into Embrace’s partners’ work in Egypt. This practical help is vitally important for supporting our partners to continue enabling more people like Hana to grow new, life-giving futures.
- Give people time to fill their Seed packets with their prayerful and practical seeds of change.
- Collect all the full Seed packets so you can pass them on to Embrace and our partners to sow into Egypt. (You’ll find some great ideas for how to do this in our Worship resources, such as using a large plant pot and/or laying out your seed packets as if they were being planted.)

After your Harvest service or event

- Use the instructions on the donation form to return all the seeds of change (including the Seed prayer cards) to Embrace.
- Rest assured that all the seeds of money and prayers given will be sown into Egypt to support our brothers and sisters’ faithful service there.
- Put a note in your diary so you don’t forget to check embraceme.org/sowseeds in early December. We’ll do our best to share some photos of our partner Anafora receiving the prayerful seeds well before Christmas.
Where to find all the tools you want

If you’re reading this guide as part of a printed Harvest resource pack you ordered (rather than online) you should already have some (or all) of the printed resources you need. But check through the details here to make sure, and to see what else is available online.

Order the printed resources you need

Whether you’re reading this from your pack, or online, the most important thing for really bringing ‘Sow seeds of change with us’ to life this Harvest is ordering enough:

• **Seed packets**
• accompanying Gift Aid envelopes for everyone coming to your service or event.

Visit embraceme.org/harvest or call 01494 897950 to order these items now…

‘(Our Seed prayer cards are available to download – see right.)

But do also add our Harvest resource pack to your order if you haven’t already got one, and would like printed versions of:

• our seeds of change poster
• a Middle Eastern recipe booklet to add a delicious flavour to Harvest supper celebrations – this includes an Egyptian dish called ‘ful medames’, and a recipe for flat bread from the wider Levant region, similar to Hana’s ‘aish baladi’.
• a donation form and Freepost envelope (to return all your seeds of change to us).

Browse and download the full range of rich and inspiring content

Visit embraceme.org/harvest to access online supporting resources:

• **Seed prayer cards** (available in sheets of four to print, photocopy and guillotine)
• our Worship resources including:
  o the story: ‘Growing new futures’
  o an engaging all-age talk that helps bring to life the key themes of Harvest
  o written prayers for different points in your service and a Harvest grace for your supper
  o more information about Egypt, Christianity there today and an introduction to the Coptic Orthodox Church’s New Year celebration, El-Nayrouz.
• further downloadable resources including:
  o a Children’s activity sheet suitable for 7-12 year olds
  o two PowerPoint presentations with photos illustrating our story, and our written prayers
  o a table mat for your Harvest supper featuring a special grace, and some highlights from our ‘Growing new futures’ story and its surrounding context.

‘If you can’t access the internet, you’re struggling to download anything, or you have any questions, don’t worry. Just call our friendly Supporter Care Team on 01494 897950 and they’ll be happy to help.'