



View of Moons Acre from Birkwith Lane

'CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD'

This newsletter has been initiated by the Revd David Mann with contributions also from Andy Ive and the Revd Timothy Fox, but we are asking the Ingleborough Team and Churches Together in Bentham to sponsor this new venture. We are intending to make it a quarterly publication for free distribution around the churches in the Bentham and Ingleton area. We suggest a donation of 50p please. Readers are invited to send letters and comments in reaction to the articles here to the Revd Timothy Fox at wenningfoxes@btinternet.com. A Green Christian leaflet, Nine Ways to Care for the Planet, will also be sent to all the churches.



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This was the second of such services, the first being led by David Mann last September. The Ingleborough Team are planning a lambing service late May or early June. Ingleton St Mary's will have an "eco" service in September.

Open Farm Sunday will probably happen early June. Look out for announcements.

In the meantime, don't forget Summer Time begins on March 31st. Clocks spring forward one hour. Easter Day is late this year, April 21st. Easter means Dawn, the anticipation of new creation. And May 26th-29th is Rogationtide when traditionally we ask God's blessing on the crops, the gardens, fields and orchards.

St John's Bentham are working to become an **Eco-Church**. This is part of our call to mission, "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth". We will be looking at ways of incorporating a greater sensitivity to the needs of the world on which we depend – in our worship and teaching, in our buildings, in our churchyard, in our community and global engagement and personal lifestyle. This is a project from A Rocha an international environmental movement and is supported by many churches including Leeds Anglican Diocese.

St Mary's Ingleton are an Eco-Church and are about to receive the Silver award.

consumption". See also Justin Welby's *Dethroning Mammon*, Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful* and John V Taylor's *Enough is Enough*.

Do we need everything that we buy? Is cost the only criterion for our shopping choices? Can we reduce waste? Can we reduce the "increasing strain which human activities are placing on the earth's soil, water supplies, biological diversity, atmosphere and climate?" *Leeds Diocesan environmental policy, June 2017*

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UPDATE ON LOCAL ECO MATTERS

Over 30 people attended an evening service about caring for God's creation in January at the Methodist Church, led by Timothy Fox with David Mann and Andy Ive with the theme, Are humans the chief predator or stewards of God's creation? As children of God we are motivated to care for God's world. See elsewhere [page 8] for an article on motivations. Thanks to all who took part and for the collection of £130 which was sent to Practical Action. This is a charity that used to be called Alternative Technology, and they encourage low-cost, simple, locally made equipment to help the poorest communities to make a living, for example, floating farms in Bangladesh, and solar water pumps in dry areas of the world.

'GIVING NATURE A HOME'

For those of us privileged to live in this glorious area, we only need to open our eyes to see nature all around us – mountains, fields, woods, rivers, marshes, lakes and, not far away, the coast, cliffs and the sea - and all of it filled with countless treasures. There is however one other place that is literally on our doorstep – our gardens and they are our very own nature reserves.



One of the objectives of Caring for Creation is to encourage those who have gardens to make them wildlife friendly. It doesn't mean we want them to be totally overgrown but just to have

wildlife in mind. There are many ways to do this and we shall be looking at these in future editions of this magazine.

To set the scene let me give you two illustrations of how gardening with wildlife in mind can make a real difference to wildlife and to us.

In the 1970s and early 1980s the numbers of Goldfinches in Britain declined substantially, largely due to dwindling natural food supplies. But, since the mid-1990s, a wider range of bird food has become available and two of them, sunflower hearts and nyjer seed, have attracted the Goldfinches into many gardens and, as a result, their numbers have grown substantially. It is indeed 'a charm' to have these beautiful little birds around us.

Feeding the birds is as good for us as it is for the birds. Recent research by Exeter University and the British Trust for Ornithology found that people living in neighbourhoods with more birds, shrubs and trees are less likely to suffer from depression, anxiety and stress. In the study common types of birds including blackbirds, robins, blue tits and crows were seen, but the main benefit for mental health and well-being came from people simply interacting with birds, making them feel more relaxed and being more connected with nature. Jesus said the same thing: “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (Matt.5.26-27). Go on, look at the birds of the air, be a birdwatcher and relax!

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of the divine love and wisdom, working for the fulfilment of all things, the completion of God’s purposes.

But we are also adopted as God’s own children, and called to model our lives on the life and death of Jesus.

Our status is as temporary tenants, with responsibilities to hand on our heritage to future generations in good order, and accountable to God. We act out of love for our neighbours including those far away and those yet to be born; and wanting justice for those most affected by the pollution and degradation of the Planet, but who are least responsible for it.

We act out of thankfulness for Nature’s gifts, and recognising that we are dependent upon its rich resources and that it is increasingly dependent upon us. And, recognising that God loves his creation and sees all his creatures as good, we try to understand how and where we are mutually dependent and connected (in a relationship that is sometimes described as a symbiosis)... and so:

We act to re-connect with the natural world and the physical side of our nature speaking up for the animals, etc who cannot speak for themselves; to reconcile the opposing tendencies in Nature towards aggression and cooperation, lust and love; to live alongside the wildness of the Universe and to re-order the mess we get ourselves into.

We want clean water, productive soil, unpolluted air, etc – for healthy lives. The Planet can supply enough for our need, but not for our greed.

One of the four principles on the environment adopted by the 1998 Lambeth Conference: *The Sabbath principle of ‘enoughness’ is a challenge to us to rest from unnecessary*

MOTIVATIONS – Why care for Planet Earth?

Note, caring means preventing as well as curing and solving problems, loving and working with nature, and therefore living well... Planet Care is an expression of our love for God and for our neighbour. *1 Corinth. 13* Because of who we are – made in God's image; children of God our Creator; part of 'Nature' and yet set apart from it.



To celebrate all that God gives and all that others have done for us and for the Earth, delighting in everything and everyone, valuing the material and physical, but not worshipping it

We want to see and acknowledge that life has meaning and

purpose in and beyond the merely physical. God sees us as more than accidents of evolution, not just the chief predator, the fittest survivor. Caring for the planet implies that there is a God-given order and design, patterns and rhythms to the universe, but it is not a machine and we are not to treat the planet or anything in it as mechanical and automatic response to chemical events....

Called to be stewards and therefore respecting God's handiwork and his purposes to make all things good ; called to be channels

The C Word! (Carbon)

What is all the fuss about? Well, in a nutshell the world has 512 Gigatons (512,000,000,000) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is left in our global "carbon budget" for humanity to emit before global tipping point when temperatures will rise above 2°C, causing a global meltdown, especially in the poorest communities.



Allow me to elucidate.

CO₂ enters the atmosphere, and stays there, blocking some UV from reaching the earth, and stopping the reflected UV from leaving the earth, giving us a blanket around the world, causing a temperature rise. Simple? No! What about Methane you may ask. CH₄ is 80 times more potent than carbon BUT it is short lived in the atmosphere (if you count 20 years as short lived). Everything we do has a carbon footprint. Here are a few to think about.

10g or less– Emails, a web-search, drying your hands, a plastic bag, a pint of water

10-100g – Ironing a shirt, cycling a mile, a banana, an hour's

TV

100g to 1kg – a mug of tea/coffee, a mile by bus, a punnet of strawberries, a letter, a shower. 1kg rubbish, driving a mile, a pint of milk, 1kg cement

1kg to 10kg – a paperback book, a bottle of wine, taking a bath, a burger, a box of eggs, 1kg rice, leaving lights on, a pair of trousers

10kg to 100kg – a pair of shoes, a night in a hotel, being cremated, a carpet, 1kg cheese

100kg to 1 tonne – insulating a loft, a mortgage, a computer (and its use), a necklace

1 tonne to 10 tonnes – heart bypass, PV panels, return flight to Hong Kong, 1 tonne of fertilizer, a person

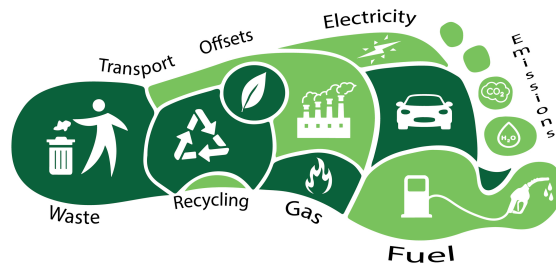
10 tonnes to 100 tonnes – a new car, a wind turbine, a house,

100 tonnes to 1 million tonnes – having a child, a swimming pool, 1 hectare of deforestation, a space shuttle flight, a university

More than 1 million tonnes – a volcano, a bushfire, a war, a country and so on..

(lots of assumptions in this lot, you need to get a copy of the book-see below)

So do we stand a chance? A slim one! Short of blocking volcanoes we can all do a little bit. Half of the world's food and protein goes to feeding animals so we can eat them. And animals have a very high carbon footprint.



I did not make these figures up, they come from a book, *How Bad are Bananas*, by Mike Berners Lee a world expert on carbon footprinting, and the person who has helped the diocese of Leeds put a carbon footprint programme for churches together. So please think about this, and when asked to help with the church carbon footprinting, please do so with God's grace. It is his planet not yours.

Andy Ive

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