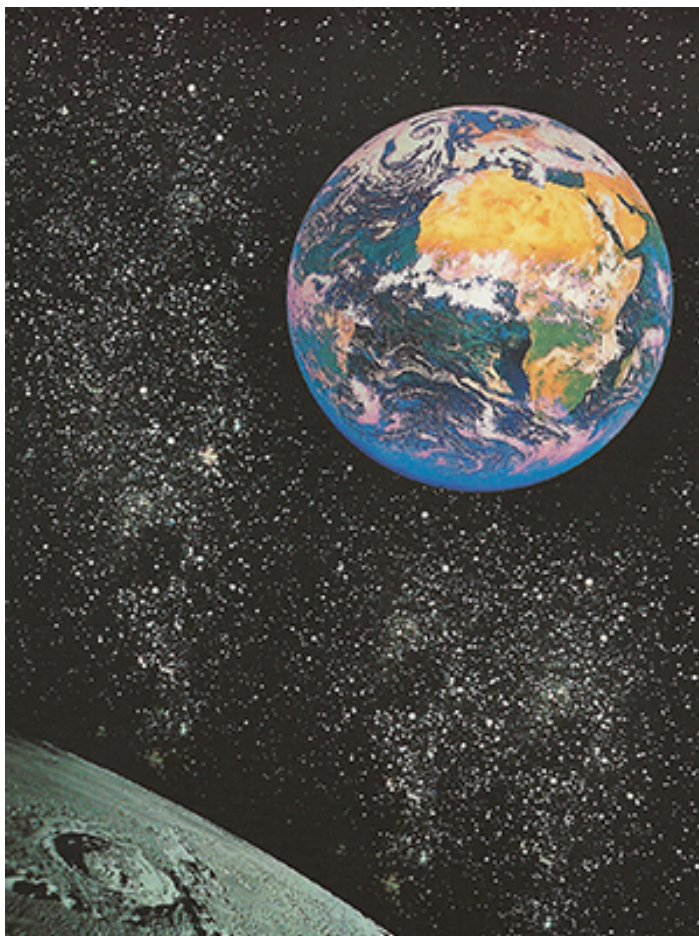


'CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD'



Autumn 2021

10th Edition

Contents

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Campaigning for Planet Earth | Page 2 |
| Wild Life in the Churchyard | Page 4 |
| All Saints Burton - Carbon Neutral? by Cathy Birtwistle | Page 5 |
| Sustainable Farming by John Wilson | Page 6 |
| Humans for or against Nature | Page 9 |
| Looking Forward. | Page 10 |
| Westminster To Glasgow Via Bentham 6TH OCTOBER (Camino Pilgrimage) | Page 11 |
| Praying With The Psalms | Page 13 |
| More from 'L is for Lifestyle' by Andy Ive. | Page 14 |

CAMPAIGNING FOR PLANET EARTH

Hear the Cry of the Earth and Hear the Cry of the Poor – Pope Francis in his 2015 message *Laudato Si'* – on *Care For Our Common Home*, published 2015.

And take note of the latest review of the climate situation by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which urges governments, businesses and others to take serious action to reduce carbon emissions, to restore biodiversity, and to help nations in the Global South adapt to a warmer world. Climate change is happening now. We are already seeing wild fires, droughts, floods, etc, leading to the loss of life both human and animal, the destruction of people's livelihoods, a likely increase in refugees – as well as the reduction of

biodiversity on which we all depend, together with increases in the acidity and temperature of the oceans and so rising sea levels....

Church leaders in this country have backed positive responses to the latest warnings from the IPCC: a Roman Catholic bishop says, “This is a time to look after the common good, not ... self-serving politics.” An Anglican bishop says that the message of the report was loud and clear... “We are already seeing the effects of the climate emergency around the world – and it is the world’s economically poorest people who are already suffering the most”. These calls for action are also supported by Ruth Valerio representing Tearfund and author of Saying Yes to Life which some of us have used in a recent Zoom bible study, by the climate-policy lead at Christian Aid, Dr Kat Kramer, by the director of the Nairobi-based think tank, Power Shift Africa, Mohammed Adow, and by others. [from the Church Times, 13 August 2021]

The Green Alliance has 3 main objectives for the next 3 years:

- To turn UK political ambition on climate and nature into rapid action, because the time for words only is over
- To promote effective solutions for a fair transition to a green economy [sometimes linked with the “circular economy”], because the disruption of this time [Covid pandemic, Brexit, etc] is a unique opportunity to address inequalities across society and the regions
- To push the boundaries to find new answers to complex environmental problems, because we still don’t have all the answers, but are in a unique position to generate new thinking and convene great minds to develop them

They also emphasise the links between the different issues involved: "Climate change can only be addressed in tandem with restoring nature" And as we pointed out in the Summer edition of Caring For God’s World, we need to use a variety of resources and call on all those involved to play their part and cooperate, for example, on flood prevention schemes.

The planet is not a complex machine which we can easily control, but rather a complex ecosystem or ecosystems in which the different species, with all that makes up the Earth, are inter-dependent.

We also need to keep before our eyes a vision of the planet Earth, our so-called environment – as part of God’s creation, existing in its own right and in its own way praising God our Creator – and of ourselves as creatures who are dependent upon all the others, and yet “made in the image of God.” We are part of Nature – and Nature is part of us, while at the same time we have been set apart – by God – to be his stewards, his estate managers.

39 WAYS TO SAVE THE PLANET

Tom Heap has presented a series on BBC Radio 4 daily at 1.45 pm – showing that our response to the climate and nature crisis cannot rely on one or two feats of technology. But there are some simple solutions out there waiting to be used and extended, for example encouraging seaweed, especially kelp for fish farming, compost – rather than peat. Seaweed also has industrial uses, can be included in animal feed – and helps to sequester carbon (sequester = store so it does not leak into the atmosphere).

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9. I saw “four living creatures around the throne of God... one like a lion, one like an ox, one with a human face, one like a flying eagle.... Revelation 4:7

WILD LIFE IN THE CHURCHYARD

Thanks to Mike and Sue FitzSimmon, Judith Johnson, Joyce Knapp with Norah Armstrong who took part in the “Churches Count on Nature” week for St John’s, Bentham, counting lots of wild flowers, some ferns, grasses, lichens, mosses and 15 trees including both kinds of yew, the English and Irish - and a number of birds. With help from Doris Cairns and Judith Allinson and David Channing we identified

about 50 wild flowers including the delightfully named Ivy-Leaved Toadflax, Sweet Ceciley, Fox and Cubs, Ribwort Plantain, Lady's Smock, Bugle, Bistort and Common Spleenwort.

Many wild flowers were or are used in herbal medicine, and the needles from the English Yew can be used to produce a treatment for cancer.

God saw everything he had made and indeed it was all very good. Gen. 1:31

[Summary of Cathy Birtwistle's article]

ALL SAINTS' BURTON – CARBON NEUTRAL?

By Cathy Birtwistle

All Saints' Burton in Lonsdale people are aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint and care for God's world and are also fully aware of the problems of maintaining a cold and draughty church like All Saints'! But, Cathy Birtwistle says that they have taken steps already under the Eco Church scheme on things like Fair Trade products, wild life in the church grounds, reducing waste and recycling, choice of cleaning materials – and have so far been awarded Silver status .

To reduce their dependence on fossil fuels for heat and light, All Saints have joined with four churches in the Skipton area on a project, Towards Carbon Neutral Churches in Craven (TCNCC). They are working at the moment on feasibility studies funded by the Rural Community Energy Fund.

Cathy writes, "The solution is to focus heat on the person rather than the building", so, "Solutions which are being considered are infra-red wall heaters, under seat heating, even heated pew cushions..." To reduce draughts, they could check the fittings of windows and doors, hang curtains and carpet the floor.

To provide low-level background heat for the structure they are considering Air to Air heat pumps, Air to Water heat pumps, with electricity sourced from ground mounted solar panels.



Cathy says, "Our first phase would be to install the solar panels and make an agreement for payback with an electricity provider for electricity put back into the National Grid", and maybe at the same time installing car charging points.

For more information about this project, please contact Cathy Birtwistle : cathybirtwistle@gmail.com

Her full article will appear on the Ingleborough Churches website: <https://www.ingleboroughchurches.org.uk/aboutus/ecomagazine>

SUSTAINABLE FARMING by John Wilson.

Food has never been cheaper. In the 1950s families spent one third of

their income on food compared to around 10 % in the last decade. Although some of this reduced cost is a result of more efficient farming, the significant reduction is only possible because of subsidies to farmers. Currently these subsidies come in a mixture of the Basic Payment and agri-environment schemes, mainly Countryside Stewardship.



John Wilson Photograph by Richard Wilson

The Basic Payment is paid proportionate to the area farmed and often contributes around half a farm's income. However, this will be gradually phased out by 2027 and replaced by Environment Land Management schemes (ELMS) which will fund farmers to provide the following public goods:

- clean and plentiful water

- clean air
- thriving plants and wildlife
- protection from environmental hazards
- reduction of and adaptation to climate change
- beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment.



The New Hedge Photograph John Wilson

Some farmers may choose to replace the Basic Payment by intensifying production but many, especially hill farmers, will probably continue to increase their income from environmental and public-engagement schemes.

There is currently much publicity about planting trees as the solution to the climate crisis; the government's aim is to have 30,000 hectares planted every year. However, peat and sphagnum moss store more carbon than does woodland, and permanent grassland can store as much or more as the same area of trees. Consequently farmers need scientific research and advice to enable them to decide where to site trees for the

optimum effect. However, without this advice I have planted some twenty oak trees in corners of fields, with a view to eventually providing shade and shelter for sheep but with carbon sequestration and a habitat for diversity of wildlife also in mind. I believe that developing wood pasture is a good means of combining productive farming and environmental improvement. Likewise I have taken advantage of a mid-tier Countryside Stewardship scheme to plant around 180 metres of hedgerow comprising five species. This again has benefitted the farm as we now have an additional, sheltered field which enables greater flexibility of farming practice.

I am currently considering applying for a grant to plant around a hectare of woodland on relatively unproductive grassland and for a scheme to manage around twelve hectares for ground-nesting birds. Skylarks and lapwings regularly nest in this field but in the last two or three years lapwing eggs have been completely predated by black-backed gulls. The moral issue here is whether I ought to take public money for a scheme which is most likely to be unsuccessful or no more successful than at present.

John Wilson

Look at the rainbow and praise him who made it. Ecclesiasticus 43:11. I have set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:13

HUMANS FOR OR AGAINST NATURE?

Have there always been conflicts between humans and wild life – nature in the raw? So for the most part, plants we call weeds like nettles and brambles are uprooted or treated with chemicals or at least cut back. And certain animals are kept at arms length.

But in one part of Southern Africa local people with cattle have built lion-proof corrals to protect their herds at night which is the time that lions usually hunt for their prey. Until now the cattle farmers have shot

lions that they thought were killing their cattle. Now there has been a sharp reduction in the numbers of cattle killed by lions and an increase in the lion population which was under threat.

Because of one incident of foxes killing human babies in our country and maybe for other reasons people in urban areas have developed a phobia about foxes which have increased in our towns and cities. That incident was misreported in the media. Generally, foxes ignore humans and they usually feed on carrion and scraps they can find – and, in rural areas on small mammals like voles. I have been reading a delightful and informative book – *The Hidden Life of Foxes*, by Adele Brand, published by William Collins.

The RSPB reports on the launch of a Pop-Up Shop, the “Inconvenience Store”, to show what the future might look like if we fail to tackle the nature and climate crisis, and to point out how “Nature can revive our world by storing carbon, helping to prevent flooding, and safeguard communities’ way of life while creating amazing havens for wild life that everyone can enjoy”[from the Green Christian Prayer Guide for 17 August].

.... In the image of God he created humans. Gen. 1:27. ... the Lord put him in the garden to till and keep it... Gen. 2:15 ... Jesus is the reflection of God’s glory.... And he sustains all things by his powerful word. Hebrews 1:3

LOOKING FORWARD

September is Creation Season in the Church’s year and Sunday 5th September is National Climate Sunday. We need to be praying urgently for governments, businesses and others to take wise and effective actions to reduce our emissions of CO² and methane. This means adapting our industry, agriculture, travelling, shopping habits – our

lifestyle. We need wise and effective actions to restore biodiversity, wild life, the health of the soil and water including the seas and oceans. We need to help nations in the Global South to adapt to climate change that is happening now, nations who have done least to damage the Planet Earth. Pray especially for the November Climate Conference in Glasgow, “COP 26”, including the commitments made and actions to be taken before the conference.

And then there are the lamb sales and soon it will be tuppings time, and the shepherds’ year starts up again plus our Harvest Festivals.

Jesus says, Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink... Look at the birds of the air... Are you not of more value than they? ... Consider the lilies of the field. Matthew 6: 25-28

WESTMINSTER TO GLASGOW VIA BENTHAM, 6TH OCTOBER (Camino Pilgrimage)

Multi-faith group walking from London to Glasgow to raise awareness of climate crisis

On 5 September 2021, up to 40 walkers will set off from London and from Bristol a few days later on a 500 mile journey to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow and will reach Bentham on Wednesday 6 October.

Local Bentham people will be meeting them at the Big Stone above the town on their walk from Slaidburn, providing an evening meal, coordinated by Christine Bosman, tel. 015242 61466 and floor space for sleeping at the Methodist Church in Station Road, Bentham. A big thank you to the Methodists who have offered their chapel and school room for this programme, the meal and the event following. All times to be confirmed later.

All are invited to meet the walkers at an evening event after the meal when we will be sharing stories, reflections and concerns.

Offers of help welcome. For the evening meal and breakfast, please contact Christine Bosman. For other arrangements, meeting the walkers, preparing the room for the meal and evening event, please contact the Revd Timothy Fox, 015242 62575 or the Revd Nick Trenholme, 015242 – 41924.

The walk has been called “Camino To COP” in reference to pilgrimages made since medieval times. It is inspired by the faith tradition of pilgrimage and great justice marches of the past – such as the Jarrow March in the UK, the Salt March in India and the March on Washington in the US. The aim is to share personal, human stories and inspire others to add their voices to the growing global chorus demanding that governments treat the climate crisis as the emergency that it is.

This is a walk for everyone. Although led by the Extinction Rebellion interfaith alliance, known as the XR Faith Bridge, people from a variety of backgrounds, of different faiths and none, have felt compelled to participate. People will come and go, and local walkers will join for a day or more. Approximately 15 people are expected to walk the entire route (which is about the length of 6,769 football pitches!) over the course of eight weeks, arriving in Glasgow on the eve of COP, 30th October 2021, but 40 people are expected in Bentham on Wednesday, 6th October.

“Here in the UK we are already seeing increased flooding and extreme weather, and in the Global South people are already suffering in much greater ways,” says Steph, from Birmingham, who is walking the entire Camino from London to Glasgow. “We need our government, as well as those of other powerful countries, to step up and make the changes needed to help us minimise the deadly effects of climate change and adapt to the challenges it brings.”

“My ethnic roots are in the small Indian coastal state of Goa and I grew up in the Solomon Islands,” says Melanie Nazareth, age 61, lawyer, mother of 4 from London, Strategic and Spiritual Lead for the Camino To COP “What is happening in these two places connects the ecological crisis and the climate crisis straight to my heart. The

people most affected by ecological and climate breakdown are not being heard. I hope that we can amplify voices like these as we walk the Camino.

ABOUT COP 26:

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. COP refers to the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](https://www.unfccc.org/)). At the summit, delegates including heads of state, climate experts and negotiators will come together to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. <https://www.ukcop26.org/>

ABOUT EXTINCTION REBELLION AND XR FAITH BRIDGE:

Time has almost entirely run out to address the ecological crisis which is upon us, including the 6th mass species extinction, global pollution, and increasingly rapid climate change. Extinction Rebellion believes it is a citizen's duty to rebel, using peaceful civil disobedience, when faced with criminal inactivity by their Government.

XR Faith Bridge is an interfaith alliance across a broad spectrum, from established religions to those who are spiritual but not religious. They are united in the belief that equity and fairness are vital for implementing a way forward that is liveable for every person and species, and that the failure of rich countries and corporations to adequately mitigate human caused climate breakdown is a matter of global justice.

PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS

The Psalms are full of references to the creation and express a variety of human emotions and reactions to what is happening to us. They can be used as prayers and to deepen our relationship to God and his world. So, to express our wonder at God's handiwork, try Psalm 33, and Psalm

89. To thank God for the abundance of life in his world, look at Psalm 19. To express our sadness and sense of desolation at the damage being done to Planet Earth, turn to Psalm 102. To express our hope of restoration – pray with Psalm 126.

O Lord, how manifold are your works. In wisdom you have made them all. Psalm 104:26

More from Andy Ive’s take on L IS FOR LIFESTYLE by Ruth Valerio

P is for Plastic. We all know the massive impact that the Sir David Attenborough documentaries about plastic in the ocean have had on our thinking. Plastic is found everywhere and is increasingly found in the animals we eat. We do need plastic for packaging and medical uses, but the single use plastics can be recycled. In a previous magazine I talked about the Eco bricks we make, and have now built a permanent hedgehog house in the garden. So, buy reusable water bottles and coffee cups, take a look at the Tearfund plastics campaign and write letters asking companies to avoid plastic packaging, as Amazon seem to be doing these days.

Q is questions. The Girl Guides brought out a media critics badge to teach children to ask questions. Asking questions changes business strategies, especially when we do not accept the easy answers. Should we buy beans from Kenya to help poor farmers but destroy the climate because of the transport energy? What cannot be grown here needs to come from abroad. Should we therefore give money to Tear Fund to help that farmer, but buy locally ourselves? ... Look at www.factcheck.org and Gapminder websites to cut through the political answers.

R is for Recycling. We all know about it, but do we always do it? 195 million tons of waste are produced in the UK annually.

- Refuse- Do not buy something that has waste attached to it such as lots of packaging.
- Reject advertising promises
- Reduce- Do you need it, can you find another way of doing the job
- Rent- Can you hire it
- Repair- Can it be repaired
- Repurpose- Upcycling is a great way of using old materials
- Recycle- Finally recycle as a last resort
- Recover- Recycling will recover the usable materials

S is for simplicity. The 10 laws of simplicity are as follows

- Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status
- Reject anything that produces an addiction (computer games?)
- Develop a habit of giving things away
- Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry
- Learn to enjoy things without owning them
- Develop a deeper appreciation of the natural world
- Look with a healthy scepticism at the buy now pay later schemes
- Use plain honest speech. Let your yes be yes and no be no

- Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others
- Reject anything that distracts you from God's kingdom

In John's vision of the new creation, the angel showed him the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the lamb... and the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit ... and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:1-2

Editorial Note by Timothy Fox:

A big thank you to our contributors, Andy Ive, Cathy Birtwistle – Churchwarden at All Saints' Burton, and John Wilson – farmer on Tatham Fells.

Cathy's full report can be found on the website: <https://www.ingleboroughchurches.org.uk/aboutus/ecomagazine>.