



Caring for Creation # APCM 28th May 2021

Our Home Group recently completed a very challenging course on the topic of **Caring for Creation**. There is huge concern across the world about Climate Change, Pollution, loss of species and habitats and population growth which in future will pose a threat to the human race and which as so often will affect the poorest most vulnerable people the most. From Genesis we know that mankind was given dominion over all the earth. We agreed that did not domination or exploitation – rather it gives us all a responsibility to treat the earth with respect.

The course went into some depth on these great issues which are due to be addressed at a world summit in November. It is tempting to go into denial saying what can we do here in Walberton. However, if the whole world takes that view, disaster will come. Our response as individuals and as communities cannot be no action.

Asking what can we do? led us to find out whether Christian groups are taking the issue seriously. I must say we were pleasantly surprised that the C of E and other groups such as the A Rocha charity and Green Christians have worked hard at making a response over a number of years. We were sad that we had not known that. The issues are certainly political but also they are moral issues and religious issues.

OK, so what? The Group thought it was too important a topic to keep to ourselves – hence this little talk this evening, matched by a good article by Ian Senior in the new Parish News, (see page 43) seeks to put the subject on this church's agenda for action. WE ask the PCC and the whole church to consider how to respond, if at all. Experience elsewhere suggests that this is a subject that the younger generations are passionate about.

Some of the ways in which we could act as a church:

- As we approach the summit in November, choose a Sunday as Climate Sunday with all our services themed for all age groups
- We could sign up to a scheme as an Eco Church, with an environmental audit – e.g. green energy, waste, etc
- The coming Songs of Praise could concentrate on giving thanks for our wonderful world.
- Use the Parish News to raise awareness of how we can all contribute
- We should aim to work as a wider village community in co-operation with the Parish Council

It would be interesting whether these thoughts trigger any reaction? Thank you for listening.