

Care of Creation July 2017

What Can We Do?

More and more people are doing voluntary work and urging their governments to take action in the cleaning up of rivers, preserving of rare species, proper care of animals, protesting about the amount of waste plastic in the sea. In our Diocese we have our own branch of A Rocha taking part. People feel close to nature. Jesus asked us if we could see. We begin to do so. Good. We can praise God who created all this.

There is the bigger picture which includes all of the above and more, Climate Change. What can we do about our mistakes? Jesus has shown by his Crucifixion and Resurrection that we will not be held to account if we ask for forgiveness and turn to doing what is right. Sad to say in many matters we are not listening. Dirtying the land and the beaches and allowing pests and dangerous fishing practices to destroy native creatures has set some of us on to cleaning up, but polluting the atmosphere and affecting the climate affects everyone and everything and we are doing little.

The answers from what we might call Big Science are impressive but include risks - increase cloud cover, fertilize the ocean, set up material in the stratosphere to blot out some heat from the sun.

The things that involve ordinary people are simpler - plant trees, maintain forests, turn waste wood into biochar and use it to improve soils, avoid use of fossil fuels, use solar, wind, wave power, walk, bike. Watch the science – there is now a weed that grows on poor soil which airlines find can be turned into jet fuel - see Carinata. As I see it Jesus is showing us the way to go.

In our Diocese we have Anglicans CAN previously known as the Diocesan Climate Change Action Group, with its own website Cherished Earth Papatuanuku. Up to now this group has assumed that the Church is behind it and gone to synod with motions advocating our having no investments in the oil industry and such things as insulation of church buildings and efficient lighting

At present there is a desire to have a person in each ministry unit who will keep the people informed on the Climate Change situation. We have much shared information on Sunday Schools and Bible study, we usually have some person or people telling us of missionaries we support, and those keeping us aware of the needy in society and matters of justice. Please, reader, let me know of a person in your ministry unit on who would cooperate with Anglicans Climate Action Network in letting people know of the Climate Change part of our Christian witness. This I ask as a beginning, to get the picture. Later we may ask Archdeacons to advise on a structure.

Jim Hunt, for Care of Creation Committee blog.

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