

## Care of Creation May 2017

### We are shown what to do

We are still in the season of EASTER and reaching out to grasp more fully the meaning of LIFE as shown in the Resurrection. The Bible tells us the story of the empty tomb and the amazement of the disciples as they met the Risen Christ. We look back to stories of the guidance of the Spirit to women and men of pre Christian times. We look onwards to how the Spirit guided the new followers of the way. So much for study and book learning, but what about our own lives? In 2,000 years many things have changed but children still learn from parents and teachers. There are rules laid down to be followed or disobeyed. There can come a time when a person realises that God wants more than obedience to a general rule. We are all different, each with a part to play, joys and sorrows. Now that we have the Easter message we find that Jesus points us to following his example and sharing in his work confident that the relationship between God as Trinity and faithful people continues beyond the grave. Few details are given. The main thing is the glory of God.

In the Church we continue to give glory to God for the wonders around us using ancient psalms and modern hymns. We now see wonders in Creation that were unknown in earlier times. We also realise more and more today that in many ways we are being careless and disrespectful to the Creator. A Rocha is a Christian group in our diocese and other parts of the world, members of which, like Forest and Bird, work to care for endangered birds and animals and plants and sea creatures. This kind of voluntary work is becoming more general and is a great way to get involved and learn more about how we can care for this earth.

As we learn more, we ask more questions. Is there life anywhere else in this vast universe we now observe? No one knows, but planets with an atmosphere have been seen in other galaxies. We are only now discovering some of the tiny one celled creatures on our own planet. Deep down in the earth and deep in the sea are creatures which do not use oxygen as we surface dwellers do. Up in the sky the winds blow living spores from one country to another and birds and even butterflies find their way about in ways we are trying to understand. In our own bodies living cells grow to take their proper place or repair damage by themselves.

Scientists – many of them Christians, warn us of Climate Change and how it is affecting us and other creatures. The Lectionary had us reading Jeremiah in Lent – about people who would not listen. In our time the news media tell us of unusual storms and floods and droughts and fires and many of us have experienced them ourselves. In our Diocese Climate Change is seen as something we are being shown how to deal with. One idea is that we build a network of people, one in each ministry unit, keeping the others informed on what can be done. Sustainable is one key word, the thing to aim for. Mitigate is another, how to counter the effects of rising temperatures. God runs this universe. We need to listen to the people who know what we are doing wrong and what we can do about it.

Jim Hunt for Care of Creation Committee.