



Barbon Fell Wherside and Ingleborough



River Wenning after flood



Wild Flowers near the river

'CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD'

No 2 – JUNE 2019.

This newsletter has been initiated by the Revd David Mann with contributions also from Andy Ive and the Revd Timothy Fox. Churches Together in Bentham have agreed to sponsor this venture, a quarterly publication for free distribution around the churches in the Bentham and Ingleton area, by email and printed copies as requested. Donations welcome. Readers are invited to send letters and comments in reaction to the articles here to the Revd Timothy Fox at weningfoxes@btinternet.com
Revd. Timothy Fox



Timothy Fox



Andy Ive



David Mann



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Businessman: Well, then you could buy a bigger, better boat, and catch even more fish. You could even employ other people to do the fishing. My word, you could own a whole fleet of fishing boats - if you weren't so lazy!

Fisherman: [politely] Why would I want to do that?

Businessman: Well, if you owned your own fleet of boats and employed other people to do the fishing, you would have as much money as you could ever dream of.

Fisherman: [politely] Why would I want that?

Pause

Businessman: Well, then you could spend the rest of your life just doing whatever you wanted to do, sitting in the sun, relaxing and enjoying yourself with no worries...

This suggests various questions to me. What do you think? What do we expect from life in the future? And what about those who really struggle to make ends meet, and would love to have time to sit about in the sunshine? Would not they appreciate an enterprising fisherman developing his business so that he could employ them? So what did Jesus mean when he told people not to worry about their life or where their next meal was coming from? See Matthew 6:25-34.

Doesn't setting our hearts on the kingdom of God (or heaven) mean working for the common good and thinking of others – and trusting in God?

Revd Timothy Fox

Rod Everett runs a fruit and veg. organic farm including what used to be rare apples grown in Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire, in Roeburndale above Wray. He has also done a lot of work on his land to prevent flood damage – since the Wray Flood of 1967.

Do you know of any other organic farms?

The Fisherman's Dream

Narrator: A fisherman once sat in the midday sun, gazing out to sea, watching his little fishing boat riding at anchor, and thinking to himself how good it was to sit in the sun with no worries, watch the waves breaking and enjoy God's creation. Suddenly his daydream was interrupted by a smartly dressed businessman coming up to him and asking him:

Businessman: *[loudly]* What are you doing lazing around at midday? Why aren't you out fishing?

Fisherman: *[surprised]* I've done my day's fishing. I've taken my fish to market, and now I'm relaxing in the sun.

Businessman: But why don't you put out to sea again and catch some more fish?

Fisherman:*[politely]* Why would I want to do that?

Businessman: Well, then you would make twice as much money.

Fisherman: *[politely]* Why would I want to do that?

Welcome to issue number 2 of caring for Gods World. It has been an interesting couple of months from my point of view, mostly to do with climate crisis. It seems that the Extinction Rebellion have brought the climate catastrophe to the very forefront of people's minds. That said the reporting has been very one sided towards how awful that people are being made late for work, when the other side of the coin is the end of civilization as we know it!! A few degrees of temperature rise does not seem to bother people as much as it should. Rather, airport expansions and increasing the GDP take centre stage, in a theatre that may not be here in 20 years. I wonder what God thinks of all of this? Glad to see the government have declared a climate emergency, but what that will mean is anyone's guess.

On another issue I have decided to re-wild part of my garden. I have an acre of ground that we are going to let go back to nature. Why? Well I read a book recently, *Rewilding* by Isobel Tree, about the incredible increase in biodiversity when you take your hands off the wheel, so I decided to let it go. And as another plus, I have halved the amount of mowing I have to do.

And what about Eco Bricks? Have you heard of them? I was introduced to them by my daughter, and it is a way of getting rid of all of the non recyclable plastic film from food packing, crisp packets, etc etc. The principle is simple, Get plastic bottles and stuff them full of the plastic, ramming down as hard as possible to fill all the gaps. These are then used by local organizations to build with. Simple!

Have a look at the pictures. We have reduced our kitchen bin to almost nothing now.

Andy Ive.

PLANET-POLLUTING PLASTICS

“Zero heroes – Britain’s retail waste refuseniks” is the Guardian Weekly 3 May 2019 headline for a report by Stephen Moss about shops that sell food and household goods without using plastic wrappers and containers, for example The Clean Kilo in Digbeth, Birmingham, The Natural Weigh in Crickhowell. Customers take their own containers to put food, detergents, household cleaners, etc in. Some of these shops get their food, etc from Ethical Supplies Initiative, and reckon to sell at equivalent prices to the supermarkets. One of these, Iceland Frozen Foods, is moving away from the use of plastics.

Do you know of one near us? I can think of Growing With Grace, but they use some plastic wrappers for their salad leaves. And some shops in Bentham and elsewhere use paper bags. But plastic bags and wrappers and clingfilm are still with us, so what can we do to keep the plastic from going into landfill or the ocean?

At the Families@4 in High Bentham we have made a banner with pieces of plastic representing fish and other creatures, turned a plastic jelly mould into a jelly fish, and decorated umbrellas to be used in the Bentham Carnival. Timothy is also collecting plastic for eco-bricks. Wanted! Your one litre plastic bottles please!

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQYsXxHKgMk> for details

Why we need to SaveOurSoils

A massive 95% of our food production relies on rain falling on a thin layer of soil, often only a few centimetres thick. This thin layer of soil covering the Earth's surface is the difference between survival and extinction for most terrestrial life. Despite this, one-third of UK soils are thought to be degraded, with an area of farmland the size of Yorkshire at risk of erosion.



How has this happened and what can we do?

Years of continuous cultivation, synthetic fertilisers and toxic pesticides have taken their toll on the soil. Add to that the increase in greenfield development plus the need to tackle the ever more immediate threat of climate change, and it's clear that something has to give to ensure that farming, and our soils, prosper. We've spoken to select farmers who have adopted innovative solutions to help regenerate the soil that underpins our ecosystems and food supply.

(We hope to include an article from Chris Weston next time about organic farming.)

Why not visit Growing With Grace, who grow organic fruit and vegetables under glass near Clapham. Look for the carrot signs on the A65.

Brocklands Farm at Rathmell is run on organic lines, and the farmer also has a woodland burial site. Chris Weston has an annual Open Farm Day on Sunday 9th June.

parks and gardens. Together they contribute shade, cover, wind protection, food, and gentle climate.”

Trees play an important part in combatting climate change. By protecting and restoring forests, the world would achieve 18% of the emissions mitigation needed by 2030 to avoid runaway climate change. Trees and other vegetation currently absorb around a quarter of the CO2 humans are adding to the atmosphere, softening the potential impact of climate change.

We need to cherish trees.

Top Tips:

Plant a tree in your own garden, or work together with others to plant trees in a local churchyard, school, or park.

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) have annual tree planting schemes for people who just want to plant trees for the reasons above, and for those who want to plant trees in memory of a loved one. Contact YDMT at Clapham, tel. 015242 51002; email, info@ydm.org.

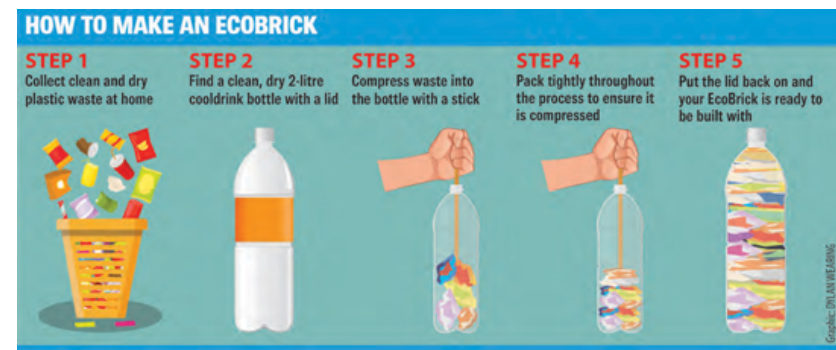
Check out Green Christian’s Rainforest Fund. Could your church raise funds to help protect trees and their interdependent wildlife? We aim to get 100 churches contributing a donation of £100 or more: <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/100churches>

SOIL

Soil is everywhere, yet we often under appreciate its worth. But we recently celebrated **World Soil Day**, a chance to talk about how vital the Earth beneath our feet is to a healthy planet and countryside. To mark the occasion, our new report *‘Back to the land: rethinking our approach to soil’* delves into the state of UK soils, ideas on how to switch to more soil-friendly farming practices, and what’s needed to give soils – and us - a more sustainable future.



Walls of a house made of ecobricks



Feeding Garden Birds

Every season has its particular needs for feeding garden birds. In the spring, birds are nesting and feeding young; in the summer, they are moulting and some are preparing for migration; in the autumn birds are preparing for winter; and in winter it is a matter of survival. So, throughout the year, they require high protein foods such as black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mild grated cheese, mealworms, waxworms, mixes for insectivorous birds, good seed mixtures without loose peanuts.

Soft apples and pears cut in half, bananas and grapes are also good. Incidentally, soft, mushy bananas can be a big help to butterflies in late summer/early September.

To make life easy, all the necessary bird food products can be bought in bulk online or in person at the RSPB shop at Leighton Moss, and at garden centres such as at WCF, Claughton. These would include such things as sunflower kernels, fat balls and high energy nibbles. Some extras such as mealworms – live or dried – and bird granola can turn your garden into a first-class bird restaurant. Don't forget to provide a fresh supply of water for both drinking and bathing, and to keep all your feeders clean, otherwise feeding birds may cause more harm than good.

We also need to be careful in what we feed to the birds. Avoid using peanuts, fat and bread in the spring as they can be harmful if adult birds feed them to the nestlings. People are sometimes concerned that putting out bird food can attract rats so if you have food on the ground try to limit it to the amount that your birds will eat in a day. You can always top it up from time to time.

Birds time their breeding period to exploit the availability of natural foods: earthworms in the case of blackbirds and song thrushes, and caterpillars in the case of tits and chaffinches. As we well know, the weather can turn cold and wet in Spring and Summer and there can be severe shortages of insect food, or it could just be that long periods of hot dry weather can make it hard for birds to find earthworms.

In order to help with both situations "Buggy Nibbles" and meal worms can be a valuable help to prevent starvation.

Don't be surprised if the birds in your garden show preferences. Gold finches are supposed to love nyger seeds, but ours ignore them, much preferring sunflower kernels that go like the proverbial hot-cakes! You will soon find out what goes down best when you experiment with choices.

Whilst you are about in the garden look for signs that you may have hedgehogs visiting. Do you know that we have lost half of the UK

hedgehog population since 2000? They are nomadic and nocturnal. and they can travel several miles a night in search of food so having gaps in the garden wall, hedge or fence, can help them to explore your patch. Suitable food can be bought in the same place where you buy bird food, and please also provide fresh water. Whatever you do, don't feed them with bread and milk which does terrible things to their digestive system.

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Trees and Forests

Do you remember the seventies slogan: "Plant a tree in '73, and plant one more in '74"? We were just waking up to the devastating destruction of the rainforests and the loss of trees in our own country. Rainforests are home to an amazing number of animals, plants and insects, from the orangutan to passion flowers, and to small wasps called fairy flies.

Today, there is good and bad news. Deforestation has been massively reduced in the Amazon, but that hasn't happened elsewhere. Large tracts of tropical forests, which hold vast amounts of carbon, are still being lost in central Africa and in Indonesia, largely due to palm oil production. In the UK the Woodland Trust is celebrating the news that our oldest woods have won much tougher protection from the bulldozers. But warming temperatures are also fuelling huge fires in forests in higher latitudes, such as in the hills around Manchester and in Sweden this summer.

Ed Echlin wrote in a recent article in The Universe, "As Christians, we have a special responsibility to lead our planet to mutual friendship and symbiosis. We have special responsibilities because we are tree people. People and trees go together (Gn. 1.11; 2.9). I am always struck by the beauty and fittingness of the trees growing on road verges and in human