

3 good reasons why we should care for Creation.

1. After God had made this world and all that it needed in order to exist, the skies, light, water, trees, animals...God saw it and said that it was good! What does it say about our belief in and gratitude to God if we ignore our duties of stewardship in preserving and protecting Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems.
2. Jesus encourages us to care more about our spiritual lives than our material possessions...collect treasures in heaven rather than earth, don't worry about what you eat and what you wear.

But for today:

But the third point that I want to expand on today is a Justice issue and that is why the term Climate Justice is one which is given equal if not more importance than just Climate Change especially in the Christian Church. That's why in 2011, Anglican Bishops challenged Christians to create more compassionate and sustainable economic systems that will support the well being of all God's Creation.

According to WHO by 2050 250000 people will die annually as a result of climate change.

Billions of tons of ice are melting in Greenland Iceland Antarctica raising our water levels up to 8 feet by 2100 Jakarta Indonesia moving!

World map Green/red

The less technically advanced poorer countries mostly in the southern hemisphere who have contributed least to the increase in carbon emissions who are likely to suffer most---way of life and farming more dependent on slight fluctuations in climate..drought, flood etc. but also because they are least well equipped to take preventive measures. (we spent billions on London, Thames Barrier).

The southern hemisphere and so not exactly our close neighbours but nevertheless Jesus told us to love our neighbour as ourselves and these are our neighbours wherever they are . Climate change is affecting our brothers and sisters all over the world and we cannot close our eyes and look away.

The gospel tells us not only of Christ's coming and his extraordinary ministry, death and resurrection but about his solidarity with the vulnerable and those who suffer injustice.....today those are the people whose land is being taken from them for the rich to become richer, or whose islands are going to be submerged by rising sea levels because of what we are doing to the world's climate.

In Paul's words in Phil 2 (one of my favourite parts of the Scripture): Jesus emptied himself and took on the form of a slave. Jesus gave us an unambiguous command to care for the suffering, the sick. The hungry, the stranger, "Just as you did it unto one of these, my brethren, you did it to me."Matt. 25.40 Support.....We can do this through USPG...our own efforts

Our PCC has been considering the 5 marks of mission 1984 of the Anglican Church in our Outreach and Nurture meeting:

Tell-the gospel

Teach-nurture baptise

Tend -the poor , sick

Transform- societies afflicted by injustice ***are we being unjust by the way we live

Added 1990 Treasure the Earth

In the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury at that time: “the climate emergency is the greatest challenge that we and future generations face”. . . It is absolutely clear that following Jesus must include standing alongside those that are on the frontline of this unfolding catastrophe.”

Think of how covid has disrupted all our lives...well Climate change has a far greater capacity to do that in the future for one of 2 reasons...

either because we choose to change our life styles NOW and live sacrificially

OR because we ignore it with inevitable consequences...not for us older ones , and Pippa and all our other younger ones etc..possibly not even in your life time but maybe... MP said...rely on science for better technology, greener fuels ...we can't bank on it!!

This mission calls us to action. It is inspiring to see how across the Communion churches are responding in challenging and prophetic ways:

- The Church of England passed a motion to go to net carbon zero by 2030. Transport and heating of buildings must be drastically reduced to meet this prophetic target
- The Church of South India has been nominated for a UNESCO prize for their inspiring Green Schools programme
- The Anglican Province of Burundi set itself the target of planting 10 million trees in five years

Jesse Mugambi “It is irresponsible to take out of the earth’s natural resources more than the necessities for basic survival. It is also irresponsible to emit more waste than nature can absorb within the limits of ecological balance”.