



"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

*Romans 8:19-23*

## 01 March Revd Deborah Dalby

# Lent2021

Walking alone during the first national lockdown, I stood still for a moment, faced tipped to the sun and closed my eyes. I was struck by something overwhelming – the sound of nature. Not obscured by voices, traffic or airplane noise, with no hum or alerts from technology, I like others heard birdsong like never before. I recognised the scuttle of mammals in the hedgerow and caught the commotion of insects. We were all delighted by worldwide reports of diverse wildlife moving into urban spaces.

A crisis, whose negative impact was singularly felt by humans, reminded us of the impact we have on our planet. For a short while the groan of nature turned to a riot of rejoicing, as we were pushed back into our restricted habitats, the natural world seemed set free!

Jesus is our pivot, allowing us to turn our lives around and be set free from the bad that we think, say, and do. This redemption, however, is not ours alone but for all of creation. During the pandemic, we have come to recognise that our neighbours are also animals and plants. The importance to love all our created neighbours as ourselves couldn't be more clearly illustrated than when we share the disaster of forest and fell fires, floods and drought.

Good news from the pandemic is that we can change behaviour and experience the benefits - allowing the harmony of nature to emerge frees us all. The starting point for change, as always, is to sit back, open our hearts and listen.

**Revd Deborah Dalby, St Andrew's, Grange**

## Information Point

Do you struggle to know how to pray powerfully and constructively for the Earth. Try this website Pray and Fast for the Climate.

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

## A prayer

Loving God,

Help me to love your creation and give me the wisdom to stop and hear what you are saying through the wonder of nature today.

Amen