



13 March Revd Jane Proudfoot

Lent2021

I was taught as a child that patience is a virtue, but my patience, like everyone else's who is concerned for the health and flourishing of the planet, is being sorely tested.

The parable of the fruitless fig tree reminds me that in the waiting there is work to be done. The gardener has to tend to the tree, feed it and prune it to encourage its growth. He can't expect the fruit to come without his patient attention being paid to it. As Rudyard Kipling said, 'Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade.' Throwing our hands in the air and saying that our small contribution is not important is a dereliction of our stewardship of this beautiful planet we call home.

God has placed in our hearts a sense of awe and wonder in his creation and given us the means to take care of it. Mending what we have broken will take time and patience but we each have a part to play. What will your contribution be?

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Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Luke 13:6-9

Information Point

Tearfund has some brilliant tools and resources to help Christians explore the issues around climate change.

<https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/series/reveal-toolkit/reveal-toolkit-climate-and-environment>

A prayer

Lord God,

Be patient with me. Make my heart yearn to nurture and love the earth and forgive me for the times when I've taken your beautiful gifts for granted.

Amen.