



16 March Anne Draper

Lent2021

I love the change in the seasons, and the new life which appears every spring fills my heart.

Isaiah speaks of seasons coming and going and that none of us lasts forever. But because God's word endures forever, as Christians, we should be people with a longer-term perspective than our own lives on earth. We must endeavour to hand on to future generations a world that is still beautiful and full of life.

I have been recycling since the 1970s when I first became aware of the finite resources our planet holds. In recent years this awareness has grown stronger as rainforests are destroyed, rare species endangered and air polluted. I pray to God whose "word will stand forever" to help preserve his wonderful creation. I continue my small efforts like picking up litter, planting insect pollinating flowers or another tree. Sometimes there are bigger things we can do together - our church last year achieved its silver Eco Church award. Big or small, our efforts matter, as we follow God's command to care for his creation. The breath of the Lord will blow on us all, but the seasons will, I hope, remain and be there for the next generations to enjoy.

Anne Draper, St James, Audlem

"A voice says, 'Cry!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Isaiah 40:6-8

Information Point

Water scarcity is a huge issue in today's world. The Ecumenical Water Network is an international coalition of Churches initiated by the World Council of Churches to seek to ensure the preservation, responsible management and equitable distribution of water. Find out more by following the link.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/ecumenical-water-network>

A prayer

Dear Lord

Thank you for providing such beauty and so many resources in our world. Help us to be mindful of how we use or abuse them and how we can make a positive difference; so that future generations will continue to enjoy your created beauty and have bountiful resources available to use wisely.

Amen