19 March
Ruth Richards

"The ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank; the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in the kings' palaces."

Proverbs 30 v 25-28

When we watch TV programmes by David Attenborough and other wildlife presenters, we often see the cleverness and importance of many tiny creatures.

Many years ago, I lived in Zambia and was familiar with the enormous mounds made by termites, and I marveled at how thousands of ants working together could build such structures. Thankfully, we did not see the devastation caused by locusts 'marching in rank' as has happened to such a devastating effect across the east of the African continent in the last few years, so we know that not all creatures do work for good. We have of course all seen the destruction of lives caused by a tiny virus as it has spread across the world.

What can we learn from this as Christians this Lent? Firstly, God's creation is wonderful, and we should respect and look after all of it. At home, for example, we have recently dug up part of our lawn to sow wildflowers in the Spring to encourage bees. At church (St Mary's Upton), our pre-school has made a bug hotel. Secondly and significantly these small creatures in Proverbs worked together in large numbers to great effect, so our small contributions to care for creation can have a great effect when we work together.

Ruth Richards, St Mary Upton

Information Point

Joy in Enough is a Christian group trying to help us think through the possibility of a new economic model based on environmental protection. You can read more by following the link;

https://joyinenough.org/

A prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for all the creatures you have made. Help us to see that each person and each creature is valuable in your eyes. Help us to realise that when we work together it can make a real difference.

Amen