



25 March Revd Mike Loach

Lent2021

Right from the very beginning, our relationship with trees has been a deep and existential one. From Eden to Amazonian rainforests, our wellbeing, indeed our very survival seems to rely upon our being willing to uphold the integrity of our woods and forests. On the eve of inheriting God's promised land, the Israelites are reminded of the need to act sustainably, recognising their duty to honour God's gifts and to resist short-term planning that focuses only on immediate wants.

Tragically, our world has been blighted by such short-termism, with eco-systems being destroyed in the interest of profits that will benefit only a few. Every four days it is estimated that an area of forest roughly the size of our Diocese is cleared, often to be replaced with crops planted to satisfy the demands of Western consumers.

In the face of such vast losses, it may seem that our efforts are futile. Yet, reforestation schemes are now springing up all over the place. And while protecting our ancient woodland remains vital, in time, our own small contributions will hopefully combine to help slow the rate of global warming. At Christ Church, we have recently planted an orchard of two dozen native fruit trees and in their first blossom, we read a sign that God was with us!

Revd Mike Loach, Christ Church, Higher Bebington

"When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them?"

Deuteronomy 20:19

Information Point

Considering further study then you might be interested in the CRES course. This is a two-year certificate in Christian and Rural Environmental studies.

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

A prayer

Lord,

Help me to examine the everyday choices I make, to consider their impact on your creation and to do all that I can to honour what you have entrusted to my care.

Amen