



08 March Revd Vanessa Layfield

Lent2021

Like many, I find being in the countryside spiritually uplifting.

My husband Jonathan and I have moved to an old farmhouse. Dating from 1640 it's a bit less roomy than our previous home. However, having more external space has provided an excuse to acquire an elderly tractor. Now the soil is being prepared for sowing seeds in our vegetable plot.

The scenery here is beautiful, with an abundance of wildlife. The greater spotted woodpecker is a daily visitor, and families of kestrels and owls inhabit the nearby trees. I have found that creating a few moments to watch these families has taught me something about life. I watch the adult fly off in search of food for its young. It uses its abilities to see and hunt and, on finding food, returns to share it. I realised that just as the parent has provided for its young, the food has been provided by a heavenly Father.

But what has this message taught me about humanity? Mindful that many parents struggle to provide food for their children, I am a firm believer that we are agents of God's love, that our heavenly Father provides enough resources to feed all people, that whoever sows generously will reap generously and, just like the birds, from the smallest seed an abundance of food can be provided for all people.

So, when you see a bird find food, remember that our heavenly Father has provided the seeds for them and for all people, that the hungry shall be fed.

Spend a moment examining your own heart. How might you share your resources with others?

Revd Vanessa Layfield, diocesan Engagement and Inclusion Officer

Look at the birds of the air:
they neither sow nor reap
nor gather into barns, and
yet your heavenly Father
feeds them. Are you not of
more value than they?

Matthew 6:26

Information Point

The Climate Emergency Toolkit has been put together to help churches make a difference and be ready for the world climate conference in Glasgow in November.

<https://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com/>

A prayer

Dear Lord,

On this journey through Lent, help me to be an agent of your love, to plant the seeds you have provided, and share my resources with others.

Amen