

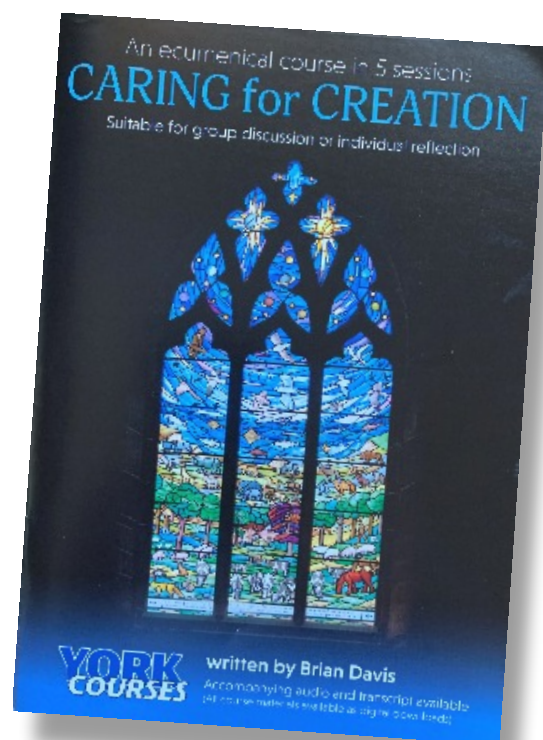
Caring for Creation

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it: the compass of the world and those who dwell therein. *Psalm 24:1*

'Caring for Creation' is the title of an ecumenical York Course over 5 sessions which we studied in our Home Group. We each had a copy of the booklet and we managed the course on Zoom. This meant that we kept the same leader, who downloaded the audio component of the course. We were able to hear the contribution of 4 international participants: working for Tearfund, A Rocha, Renew our World and Creaturekind. They discussed issues from lifestyle to farming and animal welfare.

The course is biblically based, but it would suit people with no Bible knowledge because all the participants would still have in common our concern for the planet and it is full of current evidence and information.

Starting with the environment and the issue of 'dominion' over it or responsibility for it, the course moves on to global warming and climate change; the age of humans; then facing the crisis; and it finishes with hope for the future. Each session has questions for debate and these encouraged lively discussion. If someone missed a week it was easy for them to read through the session in the booklet and catch up.



'One thing we have learned from our time in isolation is to count our blessings and to re-connect with nature'. To value the natural world more highly. We have also learned that we are not in control and that we need guidance. We need to face up to where we have gone wrong and what we need to do about it.

'Our faith in Jesus Christ should help us overcome ... selfishness. The way of Jesus is unselfish sacrificial love ... our planet will only be saved if we learn to act ...

thinking less of ourselves and more of others'. Particularly emphasised is the need to be working and acting together.

The timing of this course complemented All Saints' aim to become an Eco Church which was achieved this year. Both are very helpful in raising our awareness so that our daily choices become more significant for us. There are many helpful suggestions in the course. At this time of the year our government seems to be trying to facilitate the usual over-consumption at Christmas once again, whereas we should be looking to live more simply so that others may simply live.

If you would like to borrow a booklet please ask, but the addition of the audio component makes the course even more interesting.

Pat Otter

To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish.

This month's eco suggestions

- ☑ Look for opportunities to **share cars** or use **public transport**
- ☑ Try to buy things which are **eco-friendly, ethically-produced, and fairly-traded**

Churchyard

I was unable to join the team in October, but they managed a few hours work before the forecast rain arrived. The area along the front wall has been strimmed and a lot of weeds removed from around all areas. The wet weather has certainly kept everything growing, so not too many leaves down yet.

We hope that we will get some good weather over the winter to catch up with the areas in need of our attention.

We continue to meet on the first Saturday from 9.30am to noon, and all help is much appreciated. The next few months' dates are 6 November, 4 December, but I think we will delay the January date to 8th and not have to be there on New Year's Day!

Many thanks
Barbara

