

Days of Creation Walk

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1:1*

To mark the start of our month following a Creation theme, on the afternoon of Sunday, 1 September, we held a two-mile Days of Creation Walk in Springfield and the Chelmer Valley, organised by our Rector, Revd Sally Croft, and Roger McFarland.

Twenty-two people (and one dog) did the walk, twenty from our church and two from neighbouring churches. Both Sunday Special and our traditional congregation were represented. Ages ranged from 8 to late 80s.

There were seven places where we stopped to remember one of the days of

creation with the relevant reading from Genesis and a prayer adapted from the Laudato Si' Movement Prayer Book.

We started in our churchyard at the eastern end of the church. First Day, "Let there be light". We prayed that the strength and light of God's grace might move our relationship with all His creatures.

From there we walked to Pollards Meadow. This was the only time anyone stopped us to ask what was happening. I hope she reflected on the explanation; she didn't join us.





At Pollards Meadow we thought about the Second Day, “Let the waters be separated.” We asked God to transform the deserts of our existence into springs of living water.

It was a longer walk to our next stop at the grassed area at the bottom of Hill View Road. Third Day, “Let the land produce vegetation.” We asked God to help us work to pass to future generations an Earth better than it is currently.

Then we went along the riverside path to cross at the next bridge, which brought us to another grassed area by Anglia Ruskin University. Fourth Day “Let there be lights in the sky.” We prayed that God’s light might enable us to full service of our brothers and sisters through small daily actions.

We walked back on that side of the river and over another bridge before going

under the viaduct to our next stopping place, beside the river again. Fifth Day, “Let the waters teem with living creatures and let birds fly.” We prayed that we would be united in praise and care for all the natural species God has created.

We then had a choice of joining the locally well-known and ancient Bunny Path, which involved climbing steps, or going back up Hill View Road to Arbour Lane and joining the path there. We split into two, with both groups walking to Springfield Green, where we met up. Sixth Day: “Let the land produce living creatures and let us make humankind in our own image.” We prayed that God would help us respect the diversity of His Creation.

A short walk brought us back to All Saints’, where we celebrated the Seventh Day in the western end of our churchyard. This was an appropriate place to end as it houses our wildflower area and a cross

Days of Creation Walk continued

made of recycled plastic bottles. We prayed for peace.

God rested on the Seventh Day and so did we, with welcome tea and cakes. We all agreed it had been a moving and meaningful experience.

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, Keith Otter Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish, Ann Salmon.

This month's eco suggestions

- Fill in All Saints' questionnaire 'How Green is our Lifestyle?' on the centre page of this magazine if you haven't done one already
- Adjust heating controls** if possible to save energy and money

Silence

so perhaps
there can never be silence

if we're always catching
a murmur of traffic
doors, footsteps
a clip of conversation
or unexpected music

and in untamed spaces
darting birdsong
branches loosening
disturbance of bushes
or dissipation of waves

even at night
creaks and adjustments
as the darkness shifts –
a persistent breeze
or rain on the glass

and then, unceasing
there's the voices within –
relentless reminders
ingrained regrets

unfinished pictures
confused pathways
rehearsed frustrations
practised unease

so perhaps
there can never be silence
for us and our kind

unless silence is more
than the absence of noise?
a calm at the centre?
a root for the soul?

perhaps at the heart
of this unquiet spiral
a silence, a stillness
the world cannot give

a gift from God
who will meet us there

he speaks
and we know his voice

Roger McFarland