

Clergy Letter - 'Every Little Helps'

It cannot escape anyone's attention that we are living in a world that is increasingly polluted, and increasingly 'warmed', by human activity.

It is a popular subject but one that is particularly important for Christians to engage with.

The psalmist wrote these words thousands of years ago

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it; Psalm 24:1*

And yet we have treated the earth and everything in it, as if it belongs to us and is there simply for us to use and abuse.

One of the most recent concerns has been the amount of plastic found in the environment. Apparently, there is now more plastic in the sea than fish. That plastic is also appearing within our bodies even without us being aware of it.....

On average, each one of us now ingests about five grams of plastic each week – or the equivalent of eating a credit card.

Such is the rather startling news from WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). Research at the University of Newcastle in Australia has found that we are consuming up to 102,000 tiny pieces of plastic less than 1mm – around 250 grams – each year. Nearly 90 per cent of that is coming from our water, both bottled and tap. Other foods with high plastic levels are shellfish, beer and salt.

Alec Taylor, Head of Marine Policy at WWF, said, "Plastic is polluting our planet... and now we know it's also polluting our own bodies."

Recently, our congregation has been encouraged to consider 'Plastic-Free months' although of course it will take more than a month to sort the problem. We also recognise that it is very difficult not to use plastic at all, but to coin a phrase: 'Every Little Helps....'



Apart from the pollution of plastic we recognise the dangers of global warming and the devastating effects that is having on many of the poorest people in the world.

At a recent TGIS service each family was given a roll of toilet paper to take home. (please see www.uk.whogivesacrapp.org for details of the company) The paper is not made from trees and is from recycled sources. Added to that, 50% of the profits is donated to build more toilets in developing countries. By changing our toilet roll provider, we could perhaps save a few more trees and help those whose lack of sanitation causes

untold misery. 'Every Little Helps'.

Finally, to combat the pollution of our local villages, we also have two 'Village Litter Picks' planned for 21st September and 16th November. 9.30 – 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to join us. We will meet outside All Saints Church in Little Bookham. 'Every Little Helps'.

Our next move would be to become an Eco-Church.... watch this space for further details.

Your Rector,

Reverend Mandy