

The Season Of Creation – a letter from Bishop Debbie

As we enter the month of September, many churches will spend some time focusing on the wonders of creation, with Harvest Festivals or other types of service. For some time now, the Church of England has named the period between 1st September and 4th October as Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, where we can give thanks to God for his gift to us in creation. It was good to witness an uplifting in the recent meeting of General Synod, where further liturgical resources were discussed.

As well as giving thanks to God, this period of time provides us with an opportunity to recommit ourselves to care for all that God has made. As a Diocese, we share in the commitment of the Church of England to become net carbon zero by 2030, an ambitious target, but one that is very important, and reminds us of the fifth Mark of Mission, 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. Maybe this is a month when you might like to think afresh about you can do to help reach the target.

I am so encouraged to hear of churches that are engaging with Eco Church and delight that we now have some 'gold churches' amongst us. What an example they are!

Amongst the resources for Creationtide on the Church of England website, I came across this beautiful passage:

*In every acorn
there is the potential for a forest;
In every apple pip
there is the potential for an orchard;
In every soul
there is the potential for your kingdom
to be established;
full of joy and peace and love.
Lord, may your kingdom come
in us and in all your creation.*

May this be our prayer

+ Debbie

Note from Revd Sue Stanley:

**If you would like to talk please contact Revd Sue on
01327 341307 or stanley.thehole@btinternet.com**