

# Thoughts on Life and Faith

## October 2022

### CARING FOR CREATION

I am writing this in early September as our rather overwhelming summer is coming to an end and our churches in Alresford, Elmstead and Thorrington are starting to celebrate the Season of Creation - Creationtide. This runs from the beginning of September to 4<sup>th</sup> October. It includes Harvest Festival and ends on the day that St Francis, the unofficial patron saint of nature is celebrated.

All through September we will be reflecting on, and giving thanks for, the wonders of God's creation and celebrating the beauty and resilience of the earth. We will also be reflecting on, what is widely acknowledged to be close to catastrophic damage humanity is causing to the delicate balances in the natural world that sustain us and the other creatures with which we share this planet.

As part of our commitment to honouring God's creation our churches are working towards Eco Church recognition. This means that we are looking at how we use the land and buildings we have responsibility for. But not just this we are also thinking about how we live our lives and how the whole village can work together in initiatives, big and small to help our communities live a more sustainable life. As well as this we are also considering how we can campaign for planet friendly initiatives in this country and around the world.

It would be easy for these things to drop down the agenda as we all face huge rises in the cost of living, but we can work together on things that help each other out and also contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle. Our churches are committed to doing what we can to make this a reality. Whether you are a member of the village church, feel some connection with the church building or even if your never darken it's the doors we need to work together to help one another in this difficult time. Please let me or our Rector, Rev Andrew Fordyce know if there is something that we can work on together.

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