

July 2021

Reverend Susan writes:

Stewards of God's creation



In a couple of weeks I am finally going to get to 'open' my 2019 Christmas present from Byron – no he didn't misplace it, or hide it – I've just had to wait for the restrictions to ease and the nicer summer weather to experience it, as together we will be enjoying a Meet and Feed the Meerkats experience at Millets Falconry Centre. We love learning more about the animals and finding out how they are cared for by the staff.

I've always loved animals and enjoy little better than being around them or being able to spend time taking in wonderful views of rolling countryside or ocean scenes. One of the relatively new places (for us) that we've discovered over the last couple of years is Devil's Dyke. Walking some of the trails just before dusk is an amazing sight and quite unspoiled by human intervention. Unfortunately though as we've sat near the car park at the end of the day there's clear evidence that people have been around – discarded water bottles, food wrappers etc.

Similarly when we visit Brighton by the end of the day the bins are overflowing and the beach is covered by all manner of rubbish, which is often being picked over by the seagulls and other birds. We hear so much about the rubbish and plastic in our seas and the awful effect it is having on our sea creatures, fish and birds. It may sound like a distant problem when we are told of plastics washing up on an uninhabited Pacific Island but you only have to see photos of turtles ensnared in plastic to realise it should be a concern for us all.

I am aware that many of us here in Chelsfield, Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom are concerned about our environment and I'm sure that

we all do our best to recycle whenever possible and use our “bags for life” but perhaps we can take some extra time as we enjoy our beautiful summer weather to reconsider our choices when it comes to caring for God’s creation. For as Christians we are called to be stewards of God’s creation, to care for all that he has made.

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:11)

Rev Susan

Farewell & Welcome – Dates for Your Diary

Farewell

As you know, we had to postpone Rev John & Janet Tranter’s farewell not once but twice due to Covid restrictions. We are hoping it will be third time lucky as we will now be holding the farewell service for them on **Sunday 8th August at 10am**. This will be a Benefice service at St Martin’s followed by a reception.

Welcome

On **Wednesday 25th August at 7.30pm** the Benefice will be welcoming our new Associate Rector, Rev Michael Gentry, at his Licensing service at St Martin’s.

Please put these dates in your diary and watch the church website, emails and next month’s edition of the magazine for more information about both these events, as we find out what guidance we are required to operate under from 19th July.

Steve McCann

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