

Rewilding talks



Holistic Restoration

Miriam McDonald

7.30pm Wednesday 25th March 2020

Fellowship Room, St Matthews Church, Darley Abbey, Derby DE22 1EF

A talk exploring the relationships between the restoration of our climate, wildlife and food systems and the underpinning role that our land plays in this. How can our gardens and community areas best be harnessed to capture carbon, shelter our wildlife and produce healthy food?

Refreshments and plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.



Miriam McDonald has a background in ecology and conservation and has worked in the agricultural sector for the last 10 years as an organic grower, agricultural contractor and grazer in Derbyshire.

www.holisticrestoration.co.uk

LENT 2020 - Peter writes ...

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This year's *#LiveLent* challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature. If you have a smartphone you can download the app, or you can sign up for daily emails at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/len-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>. There are also a few copies of the little booklets in church - please take them.

The Campaign has been inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio (SPCK). This is the book that we are using for our Lent Course (at Clive and Gareth's on Monday afternoons, and at the Vicarage on Thursday evenings - details on the church website). The author is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund (but don't let the job title put you off!) and Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral. In the book she draws on the Days of Creation (Genesis 1), as she relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern. It would be good if you have the book, but it is not essential.

The book is available from the Sanctuary (the Cathedral shop) and other booksellers, and online. I will write some notes for each of our study sessions, and I'll put them on the front page of the church website - <https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/>. If you would like a paper copy, do ask Caroline or myself. I'm aware that not everyone can get to a group, so hope this might be another way of people being involved.

If you follow church news, you will know that General Synod has committed the Church of England to being zero carbon by 2030 - read the press release at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/general-synod-sets-2030-net-zero-carbon-target>. Here is an opportunity to look at the theology of it all.

Genesis 1.1-2.3

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2.1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.