

The Big Blessing: Climate Emergency Focus

Stirley Community Farm Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

I am very fortunate - richly blessed - to have retired with my husband to Newsome Ward in Huddersfield - part of the borough of Kirklees and remarkably a visionary ward with 3 Green Party councillors (Jeremy and I are Greens too). Two of the councillors joined us, and members of four local churches at Stirley Community Farm YWT on May 26th for our fourth annual "Big Blessing" service. We were hosted by the Farm Manager Steph Turner, with whom I regularly volunteer when there are school visits to Stirley.



Wherever I have been in ministry, I have loved leading outdoor Rogation Services, drawing on traditional and contemporary prayers and hymns and readings from scripture as well as poetry and prose.

We have had a particular theme since 2017 - tree-planting one year, the River Holme last year and Climate Emergency this year - our speaker was Cllr. Andrew Cooper, who helped Kirklees Council to publicly declare a climate emergency.

We prayed for God's blessing on the farm and its community and machinery, on the beef shorthorn cattle who live here, the training allotments worked by community volunteers, the bees (we scattered bee-friendly seeds), the orchard. And we committed ourselves to "touch the earth lightly", to care for soil, soul and society.

Debby Plummer

