

## Easter Exploration of how we are “Crucifying” Creation

Otley Parish Church took a differ look at Easter this year exploring the link between the sufferings of Christ to that of God's Creation and looking at how Jesus' resurrection offers hope for the whole of creation to be renewed.

Vicar Rev Graham Buttanshaw and curate Jimmy Lawrence initially thought of this idea and approached Dave Cherry, Environment Rep, to lead a series of talks during Holy Week.

Each evening featured a reflection and worship developed by Jimmy, thoughtful intercessions and prayers led by Graham and a talk by Dave. There was then time for a question and answer session. The Topics presented were:

- **Monday:** *Highlighted the impacts of Climate Change and also man's destruction of ecosystems, that affects global availability of water & food.* This talk described how God's Creation has been damaged, resulting in ever increasing stress for clean water supplies and production of food. The following worship reflected upon the Last Supper & Christ's thirst on the cross and made comparisons with the above topics.
- **Tuesday:** *Highlighted the injustice of Climate Change and how the poorest nations who have tiny carbon footprints, suffer the most serious impacts of climate change.* This second talk described how God's Creation and its poorest people are suffering disproportionately from floods, droughts, storms & sea level inundation. The following elements of worship reflected on the injustice of Christ's death on the cross.
- **Wednesday:** *Highlighted the current Mass Extinction of Flora and Fauna, caused mainly by man's destruction of habitat and to a lesser extent, climate change.* The third talk described how God's Creation is rapidly dying, with 52% of global flora and fauna lost between 1970 & 2010. The following worship reflected again on Christ's death on the cross, but also that *his resurrection provides real hope of new life and that God's Creation can recover.*

“Few people seem to realise how serious our Climate Emergency and Mass Extinction events have become.” Dave commented “I've been encouraged by my wife Carol and others at Otley Parish Church to follow my heart and passion to further raise awareness and indicate how we can all help to combat serious Climate Change, become more resilient also how to improve flora and fauna habitats.”

A number of environmental organisations in Otley and the local area are starting to work together. Working with them, Otley Parish Church hope to offer their good conference facilities by hosting a major Climate Change/Mass Extinction conference/debate, describing what is happening, why and what we urgently all must do to help.

