

>>> FRIMLEY BAPTIST CHURCH <<< CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

Psalms 24:1



Small copper butterfly on an Allium

In July, the Creation Care team joined in their very first Citizen Science project: Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count. Citizen Science plays a key role in giving us a snapshot of the species around us, helping scientists and conservationists to monitor trends over time. By tracking these changes, we can see which species are thriving, which are struggling, and what this tells us about the health of the wider environment. The results also help us to understand the impact of climate change and to consider practical ways we can protect and nurture God's creation.

17 adults and children headed out on Sunday 27th July to walk around the church grounds and onto the field next door to see what butterflies we could spot. As part of the count, you have to spend 15mins recording any butterflies that you see and, where possible, note down the species. We did it on a cloudy and slightly windy day so we didn't see a huge number but did record 3 Meadow brown butterflies.

It was a great chance to head out together to see what species were around and we had a fab time. As a Creation Care team we're hoping to get involved in more upcoming citizen science projects including RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch so do keep an eye out for future opportunities to get involved in recording.

>>> DID YOU KNOW?

- When you're heading out for the day and know that you'll be grabbing a coffee to go, why not take along your own reusable cup? A lot of coffee shops (Starbucks, Pret A Manger, and Greggs) give a discount if you bring your own so you can save the planet and your purse!
- Before buying something brand new, make sure to check out alternatives like Facebook Marketplace and eBay to see if you can save an item that someone else no longer needs.

CARING FOR CREATION: A CHRISTIAN CALLING

When you think about Christianity, one of the first things that may come to mind is helping those in need, just as Jesus did. What you might not immediately think about is the environment, although it is in as much need of help as humanity is. There are many important issues that Christians are vocal about and support through mission work and charities such as The Salvation Army or World Vision. However one cause that doesn't always seem immediately linked to Christianity, is caring for the environment—but the Bible says otherwise.

From the very beginning, God gave humanity the responsibility to care for His creation (Genesis 2:15). Scripture often warns us about what happens when we neglect that calling:

- “The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant.” – Isaiah 24:4–5
- “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” – Genesis 2:15
- “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” – Psalm 24:1

Perhaps for us it feels easier to help people directly, because the change can be seen more immediately, and we can clearly sense the impact on someone's life. By contrast, when we think about the whole world, it's easy to feel small. Yet even small contributions to nurture God's creation do make a difference.

There are many Christian organisations, that you can support or research, that make environmental care part of their ministry, such as:

- Tearfund – supporting sustainable development and fighting climate change.
- A Rocha – a Christian organisation dedicated to nature conservation.
- Christian Aid – working with communities affected by climate and environmental challenges.
- Operation Noah – a movement encouraging churches to take action on climate change.

When we take action, in any way, to protect the earth, it is an act of worship and thanksgiving to the God who made the heavens and the earth. Caring for creation is not just “eco-friendly”—it's Christ-like. So let's ask ourselves: how can we, as a church family, honour God by caring for His world in our daily lives?

Piper Bolland

