



Left: Congratulations to **Rowenna Woodward** of Burstow Scouts (*centre*), who was presented with the British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey in Cophorne last month.

Right and below: At the February meeting of **CAMEO** members had a fantastic time talking about pancakes and trying out different flavours and fillings, both sweet and savoury. At the March meeting, Nicholas spoke about his time in the Sinai desert. The guests at the meeting on **1 April** will be Yukon the dog and his human helper Pat, who will talk about the work of the charity Canine Partners. All are welcome: 2pm, Smallfield Church Hall.



Left: At Epiphany Nicholas gave bulbs to the Burstow congregation. Jo Coulson-Davies is charting the progress of hers – an appropriate sign of life for Easter: “Now the green shoot riseth.”



Windmill United Benefice

The parishes of Burstow, Horne and Outwood

Rector: Revd Nicholas Calver
(nicholas.calver@btinternet.com)

March 2016

Mothering Sunday in the Benefice



Mothering Sunday was celebrated around the Benefice with posies made and distributed at all three churches, and at Horne, cake, too! At Burstow, the Scouts and their families took part in the service and in all three congregations, people of all ages enjoyed the special day.



Taking care of God's world: a focus on creation



Morning Worship at Burstow on 14 February, led by Ann Wright, focused on our role in caring for our world

Recent services in all three churches focused on the creation and our role in caring for our world. This was based on a display that had originally been used at Christ Church, South Nutfield and is now making its way around the deanery.

We looked at the beauty of the world that God has made for us to enjoy, and gave thanks for the places that are special for us. The captions on the boards reminded us that the people of the Old Testament were full of wonder at the power and beauty of creation, reflecting its Creator. They saw themselves as God's guests on the land – 'for the land belongs to me, and you are strangers and guests of mine' (*Leviticus 25:23*). God wanted them, and us, to share its resources with the poor, and hold the land in trust for future generations.

The second section looked at the way that humans are damaging the beautiful world that God has given to us, by the way we live and the choices we make. Images of flooding, drought, storm damage and glaciers retreating underlined the way that the climate is changing. This will affect us all, but the poorest people generally will be most affected – and especially those who live in less economically developed countries. This led us into confession about our responsibility for the damage done to creation.

However, there are grounds for hope! Once-polluted rivers now teem with fish, recycling is becoming easier and more effective, and we are all more aware of the consequences of our actions. We have a role to play and even small changes can be effective if enough people are involved. We want to celebrate God's creation in our worship together, and do what we can to avoid the worst effects of climate change. A short video of 'Beauty for Brokenness' asked God to bring hope from despair and to 'change our love from a spark to a flame.'

Ann Wright

'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it' (*Psalm 24.1*)

A prayer from Iona: Garden Gatherings

In the stillness of this garden
we are held
in this moment
together

with eyes to see beauty,
ears to hear distant sounds,
feet to touch the ground beneath us.

We taste the wild strawberry,
and smell lavender.

We are called forth to delight.

Gentle God of gentle earth,
you invite us to behold your wonders,
you beckon us to step into your embrace,
you caress us with acceptance.

We dare to respond,
tiptoeing with awe,
feeling our way
into your abundance,
laughing with the breezes,
engaging with your generosity.

by Elizabeth Baxter, found in *Bare Feet & Buttercups: A Resource for Ordinary Time*, Wild Goose Publications, 2008

"The present challenges of environment and economy, of human development and global poverty, can only be faced with extraordinary Christ-liberated courage."

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Enjoy the earth gently,
enjoy the earth gently,
for if the earth is spoiled,
it cannot be repaired.

Enjoy the earth gently. Yoruba people, Nigeria
Prayers Encircling the World (SPCK)

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

*God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame*

*From a hymn by Graham Kendrick
for the 25th anniversary of Tearfund
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Father of all creation,
we thank you that you
have given us a world
rich in resources, and
made us stewards of your
mysteries; help us to act
responsibly, not wasting
or destroying what we do
not need, nor polluting
the earth, or sea, or sky,
that we may act with love
towards all things, and so
reflect the great love that
you have for all the world.

David Adam,
The Rhythm of Life