



The West Hereford Team Ministry
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Hello everyone,

As we start toward autumn the church is preparing to enter Creationtide where we celebrate God as 'Creator and Sustainer' of all life. This season includes the more traditional celebration of Harvest, but widens the view to ask not just 'what do we gain from creation?' but 'what can we give to creation?' or 'how can we better care for it?'. Perhaps for those who have lived in the midst of the countryside for years, or worked in agriculture, those answers are intuitive. However, many have become ignorant of our dependence on nature and the damage that our actions are causing. This is a time to remember that God cares not only for humanity but all of the earth, and he works not only in our hearts but throughout all of creation. To treasure and safeguard creation is a part of the Christian life, as well as attending services, praying or reading the Bible.

Included in your mailing this week is a booklet of reflections for the first week of Creationtide, which starts on 1st September. Perhaps you might like to use it to guide your own thoughts and reflections in the week to come?

On a very different note, last week we trialled a different way of holding a holiday club – we invited the children and young people to join us 'online' via the popular game 'Minecraft'. Minecraft is a little bit like digital Lego, so you can build almost anything you want in it. The children were able to collaborate and play together. Supported by both of us they were able to build their own church, deciding what needed to go in it, explore a bible story and found new ways of saying prayers. We had some really good conversations – with the children sharing their insights – and they have worked to produce a service to be shared with the Diocese.

You may have noticed the weather taking a turn for the worse and so we have made the decision to move this Sunday's service at St Michael's indoors. The weather has been too changeable recently to be confident of the good weather necessary to hold an outdoor service. We are looking for other ways to support those who cannot attend services face-to-face, please do get in touch if you have any particular needs or bright ideas.

We would like to continue to reassure you that we will produce and send out resources for you and provide the online service for as long as we need to, so that those who don't feel it is time to physically attend are still part of our worshipping community.

In your mailing this week, you will find a sermon written by Jo Burden, prayers of intercession and the weekly readings and Team intercessions sheet

Don't forget you can ask for a chat, or prayer, by phoning 01432 273086 or your Pastoral Coordinator.

We hope these resources help you feel connected as we worship as a scattered Church. And as more of the restrictions ease during lockdown, please do stay safe and well!

God Bless,
Ruth and Jo