

Welcome to Issue 2 of the Creation Care ezine.

Thank for signing up to receive this CC ezine. Please do share it with others who might be interested. They can sign up to receive it by replying to the covering email.

Shalom,

Ethel

Who are we, that God should be mindful of us?

Have you ever watched 'Powers of 10'¹? Many of us find it difficult to scale up to, for example, the size of the universe, or down to the size of atoms in our minds. I wonder if it's an occupational hazard that scientists have mind-maps that distort reality so that they can work at these scales? Recently I watched 'Horizon: How big is the universe' on BBC 4². Beginning with the technical difficulty of photographing the Milky Way, we ended up meeting scientists who are looking for evidence that our universe has collided with other universes – bruises! Along the way the programme covered how galaxies are held together by dark matter, which I knew off, and how the universe is now believed to be expanding faster than it was previously thought, which is being attributed to dark energy, and which I hadn't heard off. We never returned to our '... utterly insignificant little blue-green planet ...'³. Given the insignificance of Earth on the scale of the universe, a pale blue dot⁴, might we try to re-scale our thinking to include **all** of Earth as our home, and not just the tiny patch of it with which we are intimately connected? In the words of the astronaut Michael Collins, who died on 28 April, *"The Earth appears 'fragile,' above all else. I don't know why, but it does. As we walk its surface, it seems solid and substantial enough, almost infinite as it extends flatly in all direction. But from space there is no hint of ruggedness to it; smooth as a billiard ball, it seems delicately poised in its circular journey around the Sun, and above all it seems fragile."*⁵ We are miniscule on God's scale. Psalm 8 poses 'What is a human being that You are mindful of him/her?' If God can be mindful of us, are we mindful of what He has entrusted to us? How can we be more mindful about how we rule over the works of His hands?

¹ <https://youtu.be/44cv416bKP4> - a 2019 version which ends abruptly; and the original 1977 version <https://youtu.be/OfKBhvDjuy0>

² <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01mgllj/horizon-20122013-4-how-big-is-the-universe> (available until 19 May)

³ Douglas Adams' description of Earth in 'The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy' <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/639593-far-out-in-the-uncharted-backwaters-of-the-unfashionable-end>

⁴ <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/resources/536/voyager-1s-pale-blue-dot/>

⁵ <https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1429591/michael-collins-dead-apollo-11-astronaut-quotes-description-earth-from-moon-nasa-evg>

Organisation: This month I'd like to introduce you to **Climate Stewards**, part of A Rocha:
<https://www.climatestewards.org/>:

'Climate Stewards encourages you to calculate your carbon footprint, reduce it if you can, and offset the rest. Offsetting means compensating for every tonne of CO₂ you emit. We do this by supporting community forestry, water filter, solar and cookstove projects in the developing world.' (from the website)

360° Carbon is their Church programme, which is also worth checking out.

Forthcoming events: Earth Day has come and gone – I actually hadn't known about it when I sent out the last ezine ☹️ A friend told me of an event marking the day in her church and introduced me to Olivia, who is studying Environmental Management and Sustainability at Plymouth University. Olivia has shared her Ideas Bank on 'How to care for creation' with us. You'll find it attached to the email along with this ezine.

Climate Sunday is coming up <https://www.climatesunday.org/>. There's no set date, the call to churches is to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021).

Learning opportunity – '**39 Ways to save the planet**' is an ongoing series on BBC Radio 4 available on BBC Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qwt3>. Each 15 minute episode looks at an idea that is addressing or could address climate change and its effects.

Fascinating fact: Did you know the ground beneath our feet is not solid? Well it might be if it's man-made or we're at the Giant's Causeway. But if we're in our gardens, or in a field, then **good** soil will be about **50%** space, i.e. void. Poor soil will have less void. The void is absolutely vital. Pores and cracks allow air and water to move, roots to grow and the amazing biological life in the soil to flourish and make the soil healthy.

And **finally**, I spotted (sic!) this woodpecker preparing its nest recently. What a privilege!

