

## Some thoughts before COP26

- In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis reminds us that God is deeply in love with his Creation abundant, diverse, and beautiful. And we are a part of that Creation.
- And let us remember: although the present focus is on climate change, God's Creation is threatened in many ways including loss of biodiversity and pollution. Think of all those plastics in the sea.
- Importantly, as again emphasised in *Laudato Si'*, it is the poor and marginalised of this world who will suffer most, who are indeed already suffering most, as a result of these evils. We need to hear both the 'Cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.'
- So the leaflets that you have today set out several suggestions of things we might ourselves do. Some are more demanding than others. In a few minutes we will have an opportunity to reflect quietly on these ideas. But also take them home and talk and pray about them in your family. I'm sure you will also have your own ideas.
- Listen to the children and younger people. It is their future which is at risk, not that of old people like myself.
- It would be wonderful if we formed a little parish group to discuss these things in more detail.
- We may think, what difference can I make, with my small gesture? (I often feel that way myself and I certainly don't follow all the suggestions in the leaflet). But as Christians we can offer the world Hope and Joy: God can change us and can change the world in ways that are impossible for us to imagine.
- But God can only work through us and through other good committed people across the world. What we may do will be like dropping a pebble in a pond – as small gesture but one that can ripple out in ways we cannot and do not expect and our ripple will join with thousands and millions of other ripples coming from other pebbles dropped in the pond.
- A final thought. Today is Mission Sunday. Many of us here in this congregation and out parish would not be here if it were not for the work of some missionaries, perhaps hundreds of years ago. So let us also remember that the missionaries who set off for far-away places all that time ago probably had that same feeling as we may have today: What difference can my small work make?