



Wednesday 3rd June 2020 - Insects, Bugs and creepy crawlies!

The Welcome

Welcome to Wild Church! Wow and we are suddenly at June. We are very excited as there are many events to celebrate and support nature this month! We will be sharing with you daily posts from The Wildlife Trusts campaign #30DaysWild over on our Facebook page (today's is to build a bug hotel!) We will also add posts in support of these awareness days and weeks coming up:

- * 1st-30th June The Wildlife Trusts #30DaysWild
- * 7th June World Environment Day - 'Time for Nature' #fornature
- * 8th June World Oceans day - 'Innovation for a sustainable ocean'
- * 22nd June World Rainforest Day
- * 22nd-28th June National Insect Week - 'Entomology at Home' #NIW2020



Did you know that over 90% of all known animal species in the world are invertebrates?! Today's theme is about celebrating and looking after the smallest creatures in our gardens and getting you ready for National Insect Week happening at the end of the month. Our focus today is about small things making a big difference. I am going to encourage you to make your gardens insect friendly and to learn more about this amazing world of mini beasts! I will be sharing a reflection from a book called 'God in the Garden' by Philip Eley. This week the reflection is written with the activity filmed and added to our Wild Church YouTube channel.

Opening prayer

Written by Bishop of Norwich, Rt Revd Graham Usher [adapted]

God of life,
we praise you for the beauty of creation,
its richness and variety;
Make us more like Jesus,
treading gently on our common home,
and breathe your Spirit on us,
that we may care more deeply for your Earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

Genesis 1:26-28 (NRSV)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have

dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

Reflection

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.” ~ The Dalai Lama

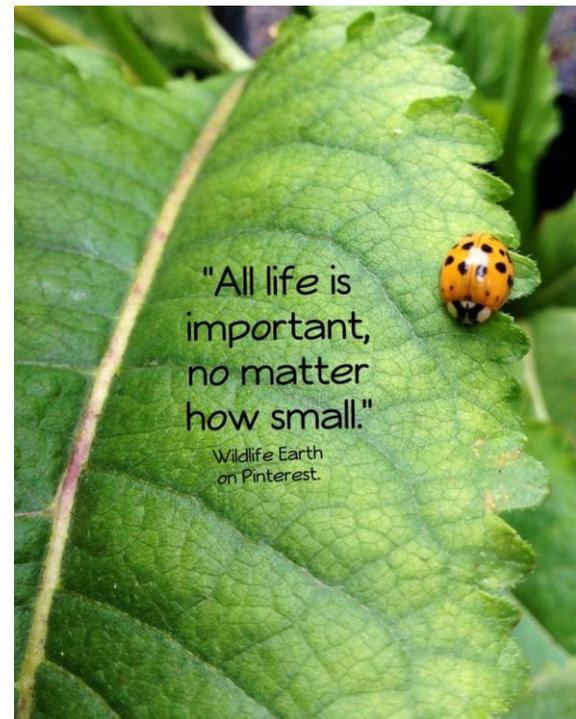
Today’s Wild Church we are encouraging you to help the living things on the small piece of earth God has given you. If you have a garden of any size you have a responsibility for many of God’s smallest creatures. You are the guardian of their habitat, responsible for many of their needs. The little things you do can make a huge difference. Just like these tiny insects have a huge and positive impact upon our environment – they recycle waste, pollinate our flowers and recycle nutrients back into the soil. They are also an important food source for larger creatures. It has been said that if most large animals disappeared from earth tomorrow then the planet would carry on in much the same way but if invertebrates disappeared the world would not last more than a few days.

As we see in the reading chosen for today God has put us as stewards over the Earth. The Diocese of Norwich fifth mark of mission encompasses this: “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.” Basic stewardship is spiritual and biblical and we are **all** called to play our part however small that part seems and however small we think we are. You can make a difference!

So where can we start? The 30 days wild challenge encourages us to undertake daily ‘Random Acts of Wildness’. Getting to know our wildlife and helping it. Today’s suggestion from Wild Church is to create an insect friendly garden. There are many ways you can do this but we thought it would be a fun activity to do with people in your household and make a bug hotel. One of the most important things that can be done to help insects is to provide areas where they can build habitats, from log piles to small patches of wild native flowers, which are left relatively undisturbed. Another thing you can do is to be a little less quick to tidy up! Fallen leaves and rock piles provide much needed shelter for insects.

We can all make a difference:

- Start with the smallest changes
- Start on the small piece of earth where God has called you to be
- Start with the littlest, the least, the lost and the last of the world.
- Start and see what happens.



Activity

This week we are asking you to do something active as an unusual act of worship to the God who made all the wonderful insects. If you are able perhaps you could spend some time building your own bug hotel.

Please see our YouTube Video of us building a bug hotel here: <https://youtu.be/2tX03zw-JZw>

Why not research about an insect you find in your garden? Find out what it eats, where it lives and how you can look after them.



Closing Prayer

Creator God,
Thankyou for all the wonders of your creation.
Thank you that the world is full of spectacular natural sights,
but also thankyou that you created so many tiny insects which quietly get on with their appointed tasks. Help me to be a good steward of your creation. Amen.

Resources

 Sign up to 30 days wild <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildness>

 Philip Eley, 'God in the Garden: Weekly bible reflections for the gardener's year' (Suffolk: Kevin Mayhew, 2019)

 Opening prayer - <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-world-environment-day>

 <https://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/>

 Pine Cone Bumble Bee @thejoyjournal, Laura Brand suggests cutting a strip of tissue paper and twisting it in the middle, then wedging it between the 'scales' of your pine cone and trimming the ends into a rounded shape to look like wings. Then simply tying string round the middle to hang your bee up where it can fly in the breeze.

 Mini beast activity and craft ideas
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/06/minibeast-activities-crafts/>

