

## **A SHORT, PERSONAL REFLECTION**

### **- FOR YOUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS & FUTURE DISCUSSION**

#### **30 YEARS A POLLUTER**

Yes, that's me. Just the other day I realised that it's 30 years since I learned to drive. Despite being an obsessive cyclist for most of that time and despite the fact that I haven't needed to commute in a car to work, 30 years of driving round a petrol-driven combustion engine every week, must add up to a lot of polluting. Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, as well as carcinogenic particulates.

Which is why I want to make the next 30 years look a lot different. I'm planning to make 2020 memorable for more than just the coronavirus. My hope is that it will also be a 'turning point' year, a year when I start to undertake a journey of ecological repentance, in order to 'redeem' the last 30 years and to live in a more sustainable way for our planet.

For starters, I am looking at replacing my existing car with a more environmentally friendly one. But I also want to be responsible for planting and growing one new tree, in a sustainable way that is appropriate for the environment, every year that I am on this planet.

Going beyond my own personal responsibility, I want to encourage those around me to take similar steps. And what would be most desirable would be to encourage Carey collectively to engage with drawing up a positive strategy, perhaps called: 'renewing our community with God's creation for the future'. This would help to generate much-needed new leadership in the church, by the church showing leadership about our environment.

This might involve, for example, re-configuring our church buildings so that they are more energy efficient and at the very least, carbon neutral. Perhaps Carey might also partner with a local nature reserve or with a wildlife trust. However, the details of this new strategy will require a lot of further thought & discussion.

There are a whole number of things we have learned from this coronavirus crisis. But it has certainly shown us that:

- 1) Together we can take drastic steps for the global good when needed.
- 2) Humanity cannot just 'revert to type' after the pandemic. That way leads to mass extinction for many other species and ours as well.
- 3) The natural world which we are part of, continues to astound us and we can learn so much from engaging positively with it.

I pray that our Creator and Saviour God will show us the way of life and lead us to build a new future together. And I look forward, once you have had time to think about all this, to hearing your reflections and to discussing this in depth, as we continue to emerge from this pandemic.

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