

*A message  
from Revd. David Jones*

**Moan about the weather.**

I wasn't sure what to write about this month, so I thought I'd have a moan about the weather.



I write on a day when the car has registered 25 degrees (10 May). It is Too hot for me already. It could of course be argued that as this is now the fourth consecutive day of sunshine, it could therefore be that these four days we will look back at and call summer. By the time this is printed a lot could have changed.

We have seen, this week, three rogation days, days when we remember God's command in Genesis chapter one to care for the earth and all that dwells on it, days when traditionally we would pray for crops and vegetation that we may see a harvest. Looking at the news there are some serious fears about this. Not only have we had a very wet winter and spring drowning the seed, we are anticipating a very warm summer and there is concern we will get a very poor harvest.



The consensus of scientist is that this is caused by climate change, an issue we have contributed to as humanity, arguably a failing in following God's instruction. I am no scientist. I don't know if this is fully correct or even partly correct.

What I do know is there is a chance it is true and although we have failed with one instruction we don't need to give up and fail at them all. We have an opportunity and a responsibility.



Jesus said we are to love our neighbour. We know that much of the world is being affected by more than a little weather discomfort. We know that much of the world is more heavily reliant on home grown produce than we are, some are suffering drought, others flood. We know that those with least are affected most by the decisions we all make. We know that much plant and animal life is being eradicated or endangered and many homes and even islands are at risk.

So, even if it is a slim chance we have contributed and continue to contribute, we have a responsibility to show love to all, as is Christ's command. Love always comes at a cost. The cost may be financial or it may be in lifestyle, it might be in political decisions, it might be in



choosing what we buy and from whom. Are we conscious of the miles what we buy has travelled? Is it made in a sustainable fashion? Are we for example buying from China or India and then pointing at them and saying 'their emissions are worse' as if we are not a contributing factor? Do we think that it is somebody else's responsibility?

As you join me in moaning about the weather, whatever the weather is doing, please remember that to many it is more than a conversation starter, it is a matter of life and death.

With warm wishes  
David Jones

Minister in Fromside Benefice and Yate Parish.