

20 February Revd Sue Shrine

Lent2021

I think Jesus is expressing how much God cares about seemingly insignificant creatures like sparrows in this verse. Apparently, these tiny birds were not only sold cheaply, but were probably sold as four for two pennies with one given free. It reminds me of 'Buy one get one free'. How often are we tempted to buy more than we need because one is on offer, then find that we don't need the extra one?

In God's creation every creature has value. At St Barnabas' Church we have bee hives in the orchard behind the Church. We all associate bees and bee keeping with honey and bees wax, products that we can use, but the real benefit of bees to the world is the amazing job they do in pollinating our flowers and crops. Bees are key to making the eco system work, vital for a healthy environment and human life.

Watching our bees, you can't help but realise that colonies of bees are a wonderful example of a community living and working together for the common good. Each part of the community valued, set to work and contributing positively. Bee numbers have dropped dramatically and if there is a sign that all is not well with the world the bees are an alarm call to all of us. We cannot all keep bees, but we can all create an environment where bees can flourish. Something as simple as a pot of herbs or wildflowers on an outside windowsill not only looks good but also makes a bee friendly area, especially if we encourage our neighbours to do it too.

Value the small creatures around us. Especially value the bees. They are a model of community cohesion and despite their size vital to our lives. God rightly cares for the small things.

Revd Sue Shrine, St Barnabas Bredbury

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God."

Luke 12:6

Information Point

Could you join A Rocha's 'Wild Christian' community? Find out what it takes to be a Wild Christian by following the link.

<https://arocha.org.uk/wildchristian/>

A prayer

Creator God,

We praise and thank you for the milky, honeyed, beautiful world you give to us. Give us also, we pray, contrite spirits and fill us with love for your creation. In Jesus' name.

Amen.