

Care of Creation Blog – December 2020

Each month we submit this blog to our Auckland Diocesan website to tell about what some of our people are doing to promote this fifth Mark of Mission: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

I write this as Dr Richard Milne plans to move from Auckland and would like readers to remember how he was quick to tell of how Quakers and others shared our concern. Now we can see the lengths to which some groups are going. Consider the cost of moving a single elephant from giving rides to people at Auckland Zoo to retirement with a wild herd, or the political pressure being put upon our Government to have cameras put on our commercial fishing boats to make sure crews are not dumping fish or endangering birds and other creatures. In our country there are already laws being enforced against people who fail to care properly for their animals.

This morning I read about how LanzaTech and two partner firms, starting from waste gases in factory chimneys can end up with plastic bottles. No doubt these can be recycled. Other news tells of China producing electric vehicles. There may be conflicts over politics, but the truth comes out eventually and let's have more of it. China also makes improvements in agriculture and tree planting.

So now, where are we in Auckland? ACAN has been disestablished after a long season of involvement. Young people like Cathy Bi-Riley are working with the sustainability champions doing new things in parishes which spill over first of all into things to do at their church like putting up solar panels, growing food gardens, arranging teaching occasions. In the community one sees electric scooters parked ready for action and the city plans for light rail and for powering vehicles with hydrogen. A Rocha is not alone in caring for endangered plants and animals, and the group has now launched their Eco Church initiative in partnership with a growing number of New Zealand churches and other groups.

The first diocesan event next year will be a Sustainability Champions Workshop on 6 March featuring a session on Zero Waste Church. The green message is getting through. I just comment that something is missing if we do not see God in all this. Our greatest prayer is a Eucharist, a thanksgiving to one who cares for all.

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