

From the Rectory...



God meant each one to have his share...

On my 'Ride 'n Stride' I headed up Kithurst Lane and at the junction with Kithurst Park, there's a path on your left which takes you through fields toward Kithurst Farm on your right. The path opens up onto a field which will take you to Coldharbour and from there up onto the steep wooded escarpment and the Downs... As you get to Coldharbour there is a stile to cross. On the stile you will find the plaque pictured above. I have no idea when it was placed there or by whom. Clearly, it was put there to convey a message felt to be important. I guess it was fashioned long before we spoke of environmentalism, sustainability or had any sense of climate change and the reality of climate crisis – or even eco-theology!

Nevertheless, it speaks simply of a deep Christian truth: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof" (Ps 24). Last Sunday I preached on that truth as *essential* in our capacity to speak of how, as people of *Christian* faith, we have a distinctive contribution to make in the current debate about environmental responsibility. The earth is God's gift, a most exquisite and precious gift and we are to *treasure and delight* in it because it is a *sacrament of grace and God's love incarnate*.

We also reflected on that last telling line, 'God meant each one to have her or his share.' It is the golden rule we learnt as cradle Christians, '**Love your neighbour**'. Growing more confident in our faith isn't only developing personal discipleship and acquiring greater theological understanding, it is the way to find renewed hope and a know the power in Love calling us in the Spirit to leave the world 'sweeter where you pass....'.

Yours in growing faith, hope and love
Jonathan, Rector of Storrington

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