



During October we are running / hosting a series of events giving thanks for God's creation and focusing on our need to care for it.

Each week we will look at a different aspect of God's creation. **This week – Water.**

Verses and thought for the week:

Genesis Chapter 1 verse 2

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Psalm 65 verse 9

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

Water covers 70% of our planet but only 3% of the world's water is fresh water. According to the World Wildlife Fund by 2025 two thirds of the world's population may face water shortages.

The WWF also says that agriculture consumes more water than any other source and much of that is wasted through inefficiencies. For example, the National Geographic states that the production of one quarter pounder uses more water than 30 average showers (based on American showers!)

So, what can we do to try and conserve water?!

Ideas and action:

- According to the National Geographic one of the easiest ways to reduce your water footprint is to eat less meat and dairy (or to choose grass fed rather than grain fed meat). Why not go meat and / or dairy free for one or even more days each week?
- We are fortunate in the UK to have access to clean water. Check out a water charity like www.wateraid.org to make a donation or give an alternative birthday or Christmas present from their website.
- Investigate some of the water saving tips on various websites eg, www.nationalgeographic.com or www.wwf.org.uk. For example, only run a full washing machine or dishwasher using a lower temperature cycle, install a water butt in your garden for use on your plants, try steaming your vegetables rather boiling them as it uses less water and preserves more nutrients too!