

Plain Tales of Home

Worth Pro Earth is a group within Worth Abbey Parish. Its members try to enact the vision of Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, of widespread ecological conversion and care for God's Creation. We are not the only species to call Earth "Home". The other animal and plant species need us to care responsibly for our common home for their sake, for God's plan and for our own long-term survival. We are challenged as Catholics and as citizens to replace the destruction of species and climate with communion between God's human and non-human creations. David Attenborough's recent television programme "Extinction: the facts" shows us living through an extinction spasm of nightmarish proportions with many terrestrial and marine wildlife species now highly vulnerable and with the rate of decline in insect communities seriously threatening plant reproduction and agriculture. The **Worth Pro-Earth** team recognise that climate and ecological crises have combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, and with recent political events such as Brexit, to create an historic confusion in the minds of many parishioners. So we offer parishioners some plain and simple accounts of climate and ecological circumstance, plus stimulating insights from eco-theologians in order to guide prayer, liturgy and action. We call these brief accounts **Plain Tales of Home**. They tell stories of Our Common Home and hopefully echo the spirit of Rudyard Kipling's **Plain Tales from the Hills**. Kipling's stories were indeed plain and simple. They drew on his work as a young journalist in Punjab - then in British India. The pun in the title contrasts the natural wildness of the hills with the troubled civilisation of the plain. Worth Pro-Earth is hoping similarly, through brief accounts, to juxtapose nature and wilderness with the 21st century challenges of technology-based living.