

'Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" Genesis 1.26

This term, during assemblies, we have been celebrating God's wonderful world and His generous gift of its stewardship to humanity. Year groups presented to the whole school facts, figures and some difficult, contentious issues that today's world faces, issues that threaten many unique species and habitats. Climate change is nothing new but the speed at which it shifts is of grave concern to many. Students challenged us to continue changing behaviour in the way we use the earth's resources, recognising the effect we have on the environment and they suggested simple and practical adjustments to help lessen and potentially reverse this negative impact on the planet.

Since the beginning of Lent the focus changed in our Monday assemblies, from the corporate responsibility we hold before God as stewards of creation to the call St Paul makes that Jesus' followers should be messengers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5.11-21). The process of restoring broken relationships begins with the acknowledgement of wrong doing, feeling its weight and regretting its hurts. From that place of remorse, a confession of regret may further the course of reconciliation to reach its final goal, forgiveness, a new compassion and fresh beginnings. The healing found in restored relationships can be powerful and life giving, real in the emotional affairs of humanity, but, also, in our stewardship of the physical world.

Jesus, dying on the cross, offers the deepest reflection of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation, it is the abundance of resurrection life.