

ECO Walk

6th October

After the Family Service on the 6th October, we plan to have a final look for the year round the churchyard. As well as looking out for late butterflies and dragonflies (if it is sunny), hoverflies, bees, spiders and birds of course, we will be looking to see what evidence there is of fruits and seeds that have been produced, and how they are distributed.



Some reference books will be in the Committee Room for you to browse, together with my binocular microscope so you can look at the detail of butterfly wings etc. I will prepare a little quiz to test your recognition of some fruits and seeds while waiting to go out. I will set out twenty or so specimens of common fruit and seed for you to identify – there will be a bottle of apple juice for the winner! All are welcome to have a go.

On environmental issues, one of the biggest major concerns is/are(?) the fires that are consuming the Amazon rain forest and the Indonesian forests. Both these areas are possibly being cleared deliberately, although many fires can also be started by lightning strikes in the very dry conditions that prevail currently in the Amazon, and also in Australia.

In the Amazon there have been over 45,000 fires this year, putting many species at risk of extinction, losing precious habitats, and losing the fight against climate change.



The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world. It is a vital carbon store that slows down the pace of global warming, so its value is literally priceless. It is described as the lungs of the earth.

Deliberate clearance of the land in Indonesia, and the Amazon, is linked to the planting of palm oil plantations, as well as growing soya.



Palm oil is a cheap oil. Greenpeace describe it as a 'dirty oil'. The palm trees don't give back much in the form of capturing CO². The oil is used in a multitude of cheap foods, and soaps etc., but it is not considered a 'healthy' oil, and its only merit is its cheapness – a poor return for the loss of indigenous rainforest and habitat.

The orangutan population in Indonesia is falling by 25 individuals every day, due to deforestation, habitat loss, and conflict over dwindling resources.

Fiona Earle