

On the second Sunday before Lent the Church of England diverges from the lectionary of the rest of the church to provide us with a very strong image. We have heard two powerful stories this morning already – firstly one of three creation stories recorded within the bible – and then the Gospel I just read – a story which reminds us that we need not worry about tomorrow but rather we should remember that God is at the heart of all creation.

It is no coincidence that these two stories are linked. The account of creation focuses on the rhythm of creation and on taking time to notice that all that is created is Good! Jesus is trying to build on this rhythm and this hope as he addresses the crowd – stop worrying about material things, about how you can outdo each other, if you focus on living within the order that God created, giving thanks for each day and living within the bounds of creation – the world will change.

Jesus, as recorded in Matthew, is always trying to help us to see how the Kingdom of God is – or could be – if humanity let go of its need to control and manipulate. It is a challenge.

In our faith we try to live out this Kingdom in many ways, we seek to worship and give thanks; we seek to recognise what has been damaged in creation and work to bring change, and we seek justice for all people. One way we do this at St Anne's is through our charitable giving – this happens in money, people's time and sometimes in goods as well. One of the projects which St Anne's has supported for a number of years is Salusbury World – and it is a great privilege today to have Sarah Reynolds with us to share a little bit of the work they are undertaking to bring about justice for some in our community.

We then heard from Sarah Reynolds about the work of Salusbury World – locally and more regionally.

Some more information is available in their annual report
<http://salusburyworld.org.uk/>