

Thought for the week from Roots Resources

We are rarely mindful of sharing Christ's kingdom with others and, when we do find ourselves thinking about it, we still give primary position to our wants and demote the needs of other beings to second rate. Some of us are good at caring for the other, non-human beings who share our planet. Perhaps we provide spring nesting boxes, winter hedgehog boxes, piles of leaves for worms to plug their burrows, logs to provide homes for bugs. These are the refuges of the non-human. God created this earth; he does not deny love and care to any part of it. We have just got used to assuming God offers it to us alone.

At this time of the year, some of us are busy putting our gardens to bed – trimming back trees and shrubs, sweeping up leaves. But perhaps in our pursuit of 'tidiness' we are depriving some other creature of a winter refuge.

Likewise, every time we turn the ignition key of our cars we may not think of islands in the Pacific lost because of climate change. But, if we're not conscious of the environmental impact of some of our actions, we may be depriving someone else of a habitat and refuge. Christ is their King too. When we buy a ready-made sandwich in plastic packaging, do we think of an ocean full of single-use plastic and the creatures who have lost their homes as a result?

How can we *really* show God's love by extending the God-given refuge we know to others? How would we feel if God withdrew from us his promise of refuge? Worshipping Christ as King, we need to acknowledge that we share one world with other human beings and creatures. Let's put the needs of others before our wants, so all might live in shalom in God's kingdom.