NOTES FOR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING *17.11.19*

Ecology is the study of wildlife in their natural habitats, their homes. ***Eco*** means 'home' ***-*** hence ***Eco-church* -** andhas its roots in the Greek ***oikos*** - an extended family unit that consists of the house, members of the family, farmland,

and all property.

It is well known that the climate breakdown through which we are now living will continue. The severe weather extremes will become more severe and will happen more often. It is the issue that will challenge us in Wellspring, our nation, our world more than any other event in history.

**As Christ-followers** we have a duty to care for that which God made and gave to us – our home, this third planet from the Sun.

You are probably inundated (exasperated?) with ideas and suggestions for things you can do as an individual or as a family; and here too at Wellspring and other community groups we are called to make changes.

But we can only do so much, we can only do what we can do and it is so important that none of us feel any sense of guilt if we aren’t apparently doing as much as other people – or as other organisations. There are many restrictions on what we can do - affordability & practicality being two key factors.

 Change is always a slow process and we need to accept that the change we desperately need in terms of climate breakdown remedies will only grow slowly. It does nothing to take away from the huge change that is represented by our overall Vision, so we hold onto that as our guiding light while we patiently, but never stopping, do our little bit to the best of our ability and resources.

 As you know, our church, a corporate unit (as opposed to all of us as individuals) has embarked on the ***Ecochurch*** work on the five categories and before Christmas I hope to be able to submit our '***end-of- term report'*** to A Rocha to see if we qualify for the first level award - bronze.

 But this whole idea of becoming an eco-friendly church is really to do with **us**, in our local community. And I do pray that you can feel that **doing all this together**is the best way to proceed from now on, not just us doing our bit in our life-styles, but contributing to the work of Wellspring as a gathered community of God-followers. The Eco-church initiative that we are following just now is simply a spur to lead us on, to encourage us towards taking action thoughtfully with care and with love.

 These notes simply remind you of the whole idea and shape of what we will now call our **Project Care.**