

It's that time of year when everything is starting to burst back into life, perhaps you've seen spring flowers in the fields, buds and blossom in the trees and heard the sounds of hundreds of birds in the hedgerows. Whatever you have seen you can be certain that there is the same amount still unnoticed. Mice, shrews, hedgehogs, rabbits and stoats, perhaps a squirrel – it's no wonder we start to feel so energised as the days get longer and everything turns from shades of brown to vibrant greens. There are other things that also go unseen – the melting of glaciers and icecaps, the rising of the seas and the average global temperature, growing piles of plastic and rubbish underneath those hedgerows; the sea birds that mistakenly eat litter instead of fish.

This weekend why not take a walk outside and try to spend at least ten minutes noticing? Take the time to find the wild flowers, wait until that rustling in the hedge reveals itself – is it a squirrel or a blackbird? Notice how thin the wren's legs are – how did God create something so delicate? And then remember, God created this and entrusted it to us. Saving the planet is a global requirement but each of us can play our part – perhaps this spring can be the time when we really take on board how precious this spinning ball of rock is, thank the Lord for His generous gift and make sure that we are doing everything possible to preserve our world. **Genesis 2:15 ESV** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

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Do you polish your shoes? Nowadays polishing shoes is less of a ritual but once upon a time on a weekend everyone would be polishing their shoes, making sure they were ready for the week ahead, bright, clean – and with good care, a pair of boots could last years. Perhaps this weekend you could try, find your best pair and give them a proper polish; your boots will thank you and if you keep it up they'll last a lot longer too.

Once they're polished put them on and go out. Take a walk with your newly gleaming boots and have a fresh look at our world – this world that God so freely gave. Notice the birds in the trees; notice the buds, perhaps a blade of grass. Feel the touch of the breeze on your skin. It doesn't matter how often we walk or even if we walk the same route every single day because it will always be different, always be magical. Why? Because God entrusted us with His creation and it's only because we forget to look that we don't notice (and appreciate) the wonders of His world. So, this weekend let's try three things; polish a pair of shoes, take a walk and notice all the beauty around and then, thank Our Lord for His fantastic gift of life, in all its glory.

**Genesis 13:17 ESV** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."