**Review of ‘Say Yes to Life’**

Supper Talk by Ruth Valerio, Global Advocacy Director at Tearfund

29.1.20

This was the title of a talk by Ruth Valerio, the Global Advocacy Director at Tearfund on January 29th. It is also the title of the book the Right Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury asked her to write, and which is his 2020 Lent text.

Ruth was an inspirational speaker. She explained how she used Genesis as her starting point, with its ‘story of the Days of Creation’. This leads on to awareness, and appreciation of, the diversity and

magnificence of the world we live in. Her theme was that Man is here to co-exist with Nature, not to use or abuse it, for his own ends.

Ruth’s talk was complemented by poetry from Laura, a priest, and some distinctive piano playing by Father Azariah France-Williams. St. Mary and St. Peter’s school hall was a fitting venue, with colourful posters showing what thoughts the pupils have had on this topic.

Following a delicious supper, prepared by the catering staff, Ruth answered questions, with topics ranging from, what can we do in our everyday lives, to what is happening elsewhere in the world. It is clear that some excellent initiatives are being taken in parts of the C of E, and it was also interesting to hear that because Islam and Rabbinic scholars tend to see man’s relationship with the environment as one of passing through, rather than living with, less has happened to date in those spheres.

Ruth’s three books were for sale, and evidently selling fast. All in all, it was a most enjoyable and thought –provoking evening.

Peter and Sue Stevens