

Something to Think about: 18th October

Progress?

Last week I was being cheered by the thought of an urban foraging project with public and private land being used to produce food for the taking, supported by a sense of community spirit working to ensure there is food for all. This week Mike More, in the Herald on Tuesday 5th October, was celebrating progress in the registering of 1000 new cars a day in China! Evidence he suggests of the benefits of globalisation. Clearly Mike Moore and I have very different ideas of progress. I'm with him on the desirability of 'lifting people from extreme poverty'. But we part company on how to measure that. Simplistically, I am concerned with what all those additional cars do to the emission levels, to the pollution of the planet and consequently to our capacity to grow wholesome basic food in ways that ensure communities are largely self sufficient. I was delighted with a sound bite on TV on Monday , night showing a Korean business man providing vegetarian pizza and chocolate puddings as part of his campaign to change eating habits! We need a paradigm shift, a conversion, to use church-speak, to help us wrap our mind around change that will nurture and mend our generous planet. I am struggling like many of my urban neighbours to adapt my lifestyle; use less water, use more public transport, eat out of the garden, eat less or no meat, buy fewer things (I'm rediscovering opp-shops and recycling outlets!). I know that some of what I do is symbolic, but it reminds me daily that I need to be part of healing the planet and not taking it's generosity for granted. My symbolic gestures remind me to care. Theologian Sally Mc Fague uses the image of the earth as 'God's Body' in her writing. That certainly makes me think of how well I am showing my respect for this body of God! And Pink Floyd's image 'just another brick in the wall' encourages me to add my little effort to that of others in the hope of cumulative change.

Susan