

# Stewardship

What is stewardship?

Stewardship means being responsible for caring for all of God's creation.

What is respect?

Respect means having a high regard for something and so treating it with consideration.

What are the world beliefs on stewardship?

All world religions advise us to look after the planet we live on in sacred scripture and have a similar **moral vision** when it comes to the earth.

*'A moral vision is seeing that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and allowing this to help us shape our moral decisions'.*

It can be said that this vision is based on the principle of stewardship.

Judaism

- God created the earth and every living thing on it.
- The Book of Genesis contains the creation story and how God created the world in 7 days - creating land, earth, water, the plants and animals.

- Humans were created along side the earth, therefore are considered to be nature also.
- God said 'work in the Garden of Eden to watch over it', as the land is God's property, not ours.

### Christianity

- Christians have the same creation story as Judaism.
- 1998 Catholic Bishops published 'What is happening to our beautiful land?'. This shows the environment is part of Christianity's moral vision.

### Islam

- 500 verses in the Qur'an that deal with nature and gives guidance on how Muslims must view the natural world.
- Humans are guardians of the earth.

### Buddhism

- All life is precious and all life is connected.
- Dalai Lama stated that ' life must be characterised by a sense of universal responsibility, not only human to human but to all forms of life'.
- Bodhi tree - the tree in the founding story of Buddhism.

## Hinduism

- The Vedas contains imagery that values the power of the natural world.
- This polytheistic religion has Gods connected to the earth, sky and water.
- They have huge respect for trees and rivers i.e. The Ganges River
- Mahatma Gandhi was one of the most famous Hindus who preached about the importance of living a simple life with the earth.