

Thought for the day – Thursday 23rd February 2023

By Revd John Marshall

Ashes to Ashes Steven Shakespeare

We're burning the world to ash
to the fag-end of fossil fuel
scorching the skies above
burning the living soil to sand.

We're using it all up now
wearing, tearing it all out
buying, selling, owning
and sending it all to hell.

This is no volcano promising rebirth
no earth rising phoenix-like
from the blackened ground
of fertility and flaming hope.

We have to turn around now
back to the gift of creation
back to the song of the living
shining with the Spirit's dew.

So take the ash upon your head
Know you are a passing guest
feel the fragility of living things
the desert spaces in our soul.
Follow one in whose steps

the desert blooms and rises
the one whose cross is rooted
in the suffering of the earth.

Come Holy Gift Canterbury Press

We have all seen the effect of wildfires. But do you remember swaling when farmers would burn the stubble? Now they tend to plough it in.