

**Subject:** Walking in solidarity

**Date:** Friday, 5 February 2021 at 15:08:19 Greenwich Mean Time

**From:** St Edmund's livesimply group

**To:** Parish



**our  
common  
home**

Dear Parish,

Welcome to the February *livesimply* e-newsletter.

Our goal this Lent is to raise as much as we can for communities who have limited or no access to clean water for drinking or sanitation, by walking in solidarity with them. The UN estimates nearly one billion people are affected.



For example, Abdella who lives in Afar, one of the hottest places in Ethiopia. Every day he has to walk for 10 hours to collect water for his family. And there are millions more like him.

*'access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity. [Pope Francis, Laudate Si', 30]*

## Our two fund raising challenges

Please help us to do our bit to relieve water poverty  
and reach our fundraising target of £1,000

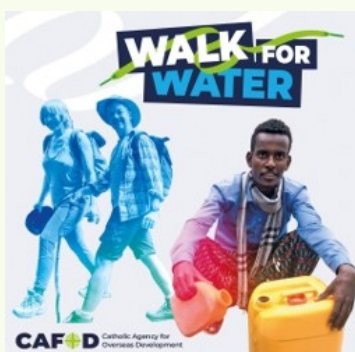
### St Edmund Big Walk for Water on Saturday 20th February



Sadly, we can't walk together, but whether you walk alone or in your bubble, in your garden or further afield, we can walk in solidarity with those who have to walk for water every day.

Please email [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com) to let her know that you are taking part and help us reach our target by donating [here](#)

### 10,000 steps a day. Every day. For 40 days



If you are a keen walker this should be an easy challenge for you! But whether you hop it, skip it, run it, jump it, dance it, or stomp it - it really doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you put your heart and soul into it! You can also team up with a friend or family member and add your steps together.

To get started sign up [here](#) to set up your own JustGiving page and then link your page to the [St Edmund team page](#).

And if you're not able to join us, please click [here](#) to sponsor the team instead.

Let us know that you are taking part and share your JustGiving page on social media to encourage your friends and family to sponsor you.

Thank you for your support!

'Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community.' [Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti]

## Urgent Donations to the Food Bank

There is an immediate need at the food bank at St Marks for the following items:

- tinned meat meals (meatballs, sausages, chilli, stew etc)
- tinned vegetarian meals (vege version of ravioli, sausages, chilli etc)
- pasta (not macaroni)
- tinned peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes
- wet wipes
- size 5/6 nappies

Please drop off items in the collection boxes at church or deliver directly to the food bank on Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday 9.30am-2pm and Thursday 10am-1.30pm, at St.Mark's Community Centre/Church, Franklyn Rd, Godalming, GU7 2LD T: 01483 418741

Financial donations are also helpful to fund bulk food orders for the food parcels. You can make an online payment: St Marks Community Centre, Sort code: 40-22-12 Account number: 91277766

*The GTC Community Store at the Wilfred Noyce Centre, to which the Tuesday Trolley deliveries are made, aims to support people who have recently been made redundant and furloughed, whereas the food bank supports people in difficult circumstances and long term hardship and is receiving many more referrals at the moment.*



### Fairtrade Fortnight

22nd February-7th March

During Fairtrade Fortnight try to select products which have the fairtrade logo. Look out for the logo on wine, chocolate, clothing and much else!

We can make a difference to the lives of those in poverty by buying FAIRTRADE products.

The climate crisis has already started to hit Fairtrade producers, and is one of their biggest challenges. Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back. Fairtrade gives them higher income so they can meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges of climate change.

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### Sign the petition 'Reclaim our Common Home'

**This year, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks.**

As Prime Minister, Boris Johnson must push world leaders to show the ambition we need to keep temperature rises below the disastrous 1.5-degree threshold. This means that all countries must play their part. Wealthy nations, who bear the greatest responsibility for the crisis, need to step up.

With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. **Sign the petition now by clicking [here](#)**

### Pray without ceasing for our Common Home

We urge you to pray without ceasing in the run up to the COP26 summit for a fairer, more just society, where the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and our common home can be restored for future generations. <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-without-ceasing>

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### Saving water

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#### Save water using this hand wash

BECO hand wash doesn't need to lather, saving over 88 litres of water per bottle – that's the equivalent of 440 cups of tea! BECO is stocked at Boots, Sainsbury's, Coop and Waitrose and every bottle provides jobs for people in the UK who are visually impaired, disabled or disadvantaged.

And as it's environmentally friendly and lasts longer, in the long run this hand wash is better value than cheaper products.

Whilst waiting for the hot water save the cold water in a jug as you can use it for filling the kettle, boiling rice and pasta etc

Turning off the tap when you clean your teeth can save around 8 litres of water a minute

A garden hose or sprinkler can use almost as much water in an hour as an average family of four uses in one day.

We use an average of 150 litres of water a day in our homes; our great grandparents managed with about 18 litres.

One dripping tap can use at least 5,500 litres of water a year. Mending the tap washer could save you about £18 a year

To create a pair of blue jeans, about 1,800 gallons of water are needed just to grow enough cotton for one pair.



Are you a knitter? Whether you can knit a basic square, a pair of mittens or a twiddle muff, we would love to hear from you as we are hoping to start a knitting group in the parish to help us support a variety of needs in the community.

And if you haven't tried knitting before, perhaps lockdown might be the time to start? It's known to be a therapeutic activity which can relieve stress, promote wellness and increase feelings of usefulness.

Please also get in touch if you are able to donate any spare wool:  
[godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

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### **Do you or a loved one have medical equipment that's no longer needed?**

Surrey's Community Equipment Service lends out a range of equipment to help people stay independent and safe at home but many items never find their way back.

The pandemic means that the items are needed more than ever. When returned, they will be cleaned and recycled to support someone else who is in need.

The items that the service loans out include: crutches, walking frames, specialist beds, shower and bathing aids, ceiling track hoists and slings, pressure care equipment, ramps and rails and toileting equipment.

Returning the items will help ensure that people can continue to live independently in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

If you can help please contact Millbrook Healthcare on 0330 124 1247 or email [SurreyFeedback@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:SurreyFeedback@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk)

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## Show your love for the climate during February!

### Write to your MP about the UK Environment Bill 2019-21

Ahead of the Environment Bill's third reading, CAFOD urges MPs to:

- Support Schedule 16, an important new addition to the Environment Bill which would help to tackle the UK's complicity in global deforestation
- Support Amendments 26 and 27 tabled by Neil Parish MP, which provide stronger protection for the rights of forest communities and indigenous peoples and address the role of UK banks and investors in financing deforestation
- Support a single robust definition of deforestation that draws on international standards.

Contact your local MP about this bill as soon as you can. You can email Jeremy Hunt, MP for South West Surrey at: [huntj@parliament.uk](mailto:huntj@parliament.uk)

### Make a green heart

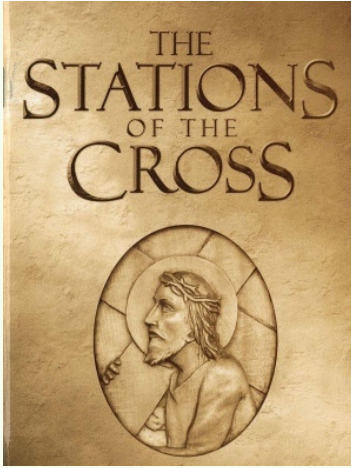
Show the Love is an annual celebration of everything we care about and want to protect from the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Every February people from across the UK use the power of green hearts to join together and ask politicians to tackle the climate crisis. Decorate a window, noticeboard or front garden over the Valentine's Day weekend (12-15 February) to show your love to your community.

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

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Join us on zoom for  
**Stations of the Cross**  
**on Friday 26th February**  
**at 5pm**  
with reflections from CAFOD

CAFOD Lent envelopes for Family Fast Day on Friday 26th February, are available at church or you can donate online to the [Lent Appeal](#)

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**'Come to the water all you who are thirsty' Isaiah 55:1**

Loving God,

we hear your call to all who thirst for a brighter future:  
Come to the water.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and lead us to walk  
alongside one another.

Let a desire for change well up within us.  
May we overflow with compassion and love.

And as a stream wears away stone,  
may we reshape our world together to reflect your kingdom of hope for all.

Amen

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**Livesimply Award Update**

Our parish *livesimply* group meets with the award assessors from CAFOD on zoom later this month and we look forward to sharing the results with you.

**Thank you for your support and we hope you stay well**  
**The *livesimply* team**

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