

Subject: Announcing our livesimply award + Pete's Plant Sale this weekend

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From: St Edmund's livesimply group

To: sm.stilwell@outlook.com



Dear Parish,

We are proud and excited to share with you that **we are officially a livesimply parish!**

We met with the CAFOD assessors in March and we have received our award in recognition of our efforts to **live simply, sustainably** and in **solidarity with people in poverty**.

Our assessors concluded: *'Well done everyone, it was very encouraging to read and hear about all the good work happening in your parish in the light of the Gospel'*.





Our *livesimply* group would like to thank everyone in the parish for supporting our efforts – we couldn't have done it without you!

We have reproduced some of the comments and commendations from the assessor report further on in this newsletter.

The award marks the beginning of our journey as we now set out to continue our lifestyle of '**living simply**' and encouraging others in the parish and wider community to follow our lead; and always remembering Pope Francis' words:

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." Laudate Si 14

This weekend we are celebrating with **Pete's Plant Sale** and the launch of our **Appeal for Kasanka**, and later in the summer we will celebrate with a thanksgiving Mass and prayers for our continued parish *livesimply* journey.



Pete's Plant Sale - this weekend!

Pete Kelly RIP was our *livesimply* gardening guru and an energetic and enthusiastic member of our parish *livesimply* project. Last year's plant sale in his memory was a great success and this weekend we are holding another plant sale. Please come and choose something for your garden and/or bring your own seedlings/plants to donate or exchange at the sale.

All proceeds of the sale will go towards Kasanka (see below).

The plant sale takes place at **St Joseph's church car park (GU8 5DU)**, from

6.30 pm on Friday 30th April, through to Monday 3rd May. For more information please contact Janet on 01252 702156.

Solar water pump for Kasanka

This year our appeal for Kasanka focuses on access to clean water.



The St Francis Community School in Kasanka urgently needs to upgrade their borehole water pump to an efficient and environmentally friendly solar-powered pump.



Currently, whilst the old pump has broken down, the school staff convey water to the school from the convent pump each day, and it's a huge challenge to run the school without ready access to clean water.



It will cost the community **£2,400 to install a solar water pump** and we would like our parish to be able to contribute as much as possible in support of this project. We know how important water is for our health: not only in food and drink but also to keep us clean - and keeping hands clean has been very important over this last year of the global pandemic! The appeal also ties in

with our CAFOD Walk for Water during Lent, fundraising for communities which lack access to clean water and sanitation. In making a donation we can express our gratitude for our own easy access to clean water.



Kasanka has also been adversely affected by the inflationary effect of the pandemic on prices; the Sisters have created this vegetable patch at the school to provide food for school meals and enable them to give food staples to the most vulnerable, along with much-needed hygiene supplies. It's also an educational resource to teach the children about growing vegetables and caring for the land.

How can you contribute to the Kasanka Appeal?

- All donations from **Pete's Plant Sale** (see above) will go the project
- Pick up a Kasanka envelope from the back of church during May
- Use the contactless devices at Mass
- Make an online transfer using the following account details:
Account Name: Zambia RD
Account No: 00754226 Sort Code: 60-09-04
NB Ensure that you put 'Kasanka' as the reference
- If you would like to gift aid your contribution please email:
godalming@abiocese.org.uk

'We must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart'.

Laudate Si 218

Take Action



Please sign the Climate Change Petition

In his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis says '*Global society is suffering from grave structural deficiencies that cannot be resolved by piecemeal solutions or quick fixes. Much needs to change*'.

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

[Please sign the petition](#)

Parliament in our parish - training to meet with our MP

To help us rebuild after the pandemic in a way that makes the world a fairer place and tackles some of the major global issues of our time from climate change to unjust debts, CAFOD and the diocesan Ecological Conversion Group are arranging an online meeting with our local MP Jeremy Hunt. If you are interested in joining in this initiative please email Jo: jolewry@aol.com.

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.

'Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our

Eco tips

Peat free compost - make sure your bags of soil or compost do not contain peat, as draining peat bogs releases tons of carbon into the atmosphere. Peat free compost is widely available

Use eco-friendly toilet paper - make sure that it is made from FSC recycled material and isn't wrapped in plastic.

Be selective with your donations to charity shops - some shops are having to pay to dispose of unsuitable goods. Double check that the items you donate are in good condition and ask yourself, 'would I buy this'?

Watch these films on Netflix!



An inspiring and groundbreaking film in which science experts and celebrity activists unpack the ways in which the earth's soil may be the key to combating climate change.



New documentary film about the environmental impact of fishing directed by and starring Ali Tabrizi, a British filmmaker.



Look out for this award plaque which will soon be on display at church!

From our *Livesimply* Assessors' report

'There is a lot to commend this parish for, they have come up with imaginative solutions and worked hard to make their plan come together with their three Mass centres and the fact they have no social space of their own. Despite this very difficult year with the pandemic closing everything, they only missed one small part of their plan while at the same time adding other ideas'.

'The plant giveaway was a great tribute to Pete and his great enthusiasm for gardening.'

'We would also really commend the monthly digital livesimply newsletter which kept people informed of actions but also by adding quotes from Laudato Si' and prayers linked everything together raising awareness of the 'ecological conversion' that Pope Francis called for in Laudato Si''

'The solidarity with the poor has been very generous and included different ideas working from the talents and interests of different members of the group, so not only have charities benefited but the events have been enjoyable and surely helped build a sense of community within the parish but also reaching out beyond'.

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.

This prayer is from Pope Francis' new encyclical Fratelli Tutti

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



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