



**our
common
home**

Dear Parish Office,

As part of the CAFOD inspired '**Parliament in your Parish**' initiative, our *livesimply* group recently met with Jeremy Hunt MP. During our virtual meeting we raised a wide range of topics including:

- the crippling effects of debt repayments on poor countries;
- the need to reverse the Government's plan to cut the overseas aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5%;
- the need to cut carbon emissions to 1.5%;
- the need to protect our ecosystems and clean up our oceans;
- the importance of affordable local eco-housing, nationwide recycling and the availability of electric cars to people of all incomes, not just the wealthy.



We started the meeting with a prayer from Pope Francis (included at the end of this email). Jeremy Hunt referred to Christian faith as a source of our personal

responsibility to take action, and not just rely on government initiative. He also pointed to the moral duty to maintain our aid programme and set an example at the COP26 talks.

During the meeting Jeremy Hunt thanked us for drawing attention to the debt repayment issue, and promised to look into the issue of the Common Framework and its effects.

Following the meeting we received the following feedback from him:

"I am very grateful for the invitation to join this meeting and found it useful and very insightful. Recently I have made no secret of my strong belief about the need to maintain our commitment to aid at 0.7% and will continue to press hard for us to live up to our international obligations."

Take Action

Please write to Jeremy Hunt as it's really important to maintain the momentum now we have started the dialogue. You can follow up with an email: huntj@parliament.uk or a letter: 2 Royal Parade, Tilford Road, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6TD.

You can also write to COP26 President, the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or email him:

alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk

In the NOTES at the end of this email there is suggested text for your letter on concerns about the climate crisis and debt repayment.

If you were disappointed by G7 meeting please let our politicians know! Many crucial pledges were made during the G7 summit but there does appear to be a distinct lack of detail on how these pledges will come to fruition.

CAFOD Director Christine Allen has commented:

“It is clear that the G7 leaders have not adequately heard the voices of the world’s poor in relation to vaccines and climate finance....If Boris Johnson believes that ‘global Britain’ is a force for good, then he needs to show by his actions the moral imperative to take urgent action for a fairer, greener and just world.”

“...Relieving the burden of debt of so many countries and communities today, is a profoundly human gesture that can help people to develop, to have access to vaccines, health, education and jobs...”

Pope Francis, April 2021

Take Action

Sign the Petition to cancel debt >> Fund vaccines >> Save lives

More than 750,000 citizens across the world have signed petitions calling for debt cancellation.

Have you signed CAFOD's petition yet? Join us to demand

[big banks#CancelTheDebt](#)

Our Bishops Take Action

Before the G7 Summit the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland sent a letter to the Prime Minister on the plight of the planet

'The urgency of the global ecological crisis, and the teachings of our Catholic faith implore us to speak out, take action, and make decisions that benefit our planet and the most vulnerable in society. As Pope Francis writes in Laudato Si' "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis that is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature."

You can read the full letter [here](#)

On Pentecost Sunday a Pastoral letter on the Environment from the Catholic Bishops was read in all churches

'The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our

faith must play in our shared care for God's gift to us.'

You can read the letter [here](#)



Action on green energy

'Gin fuels green spirited Catholic Church' is the headline of a [recent article in the Tablet](#) which explains the unlikely connection between British Gas, the Catholic Church's

energy procurement group (IFM), and Hendricks gin distillery in Scotland.

The deal has led to one of the largest combined green energy contracts in the UK with 20 of the 22 UK dioceses - including A&B, and therefore our parish - using renewable fuel: some 78% of the green gas comes from the Hendricks gin distillery in Scotland, and 22% derives from Carbon offset projects, along with independently certified renewable electricity.

The reduction in emissions is equivalent to taking more than 21,000 cars off the road, and the volume of green energy supplied is equivalent to the annual needs of more than 20,000 UK households. Overall, this makes the Catholic Church in the UK one of the largest single consumers of green gas certificates based on annual volume.

Take Action

If you are considering transferring to renewable/carbon offset energy there are many websites which list [green suppliers](#)

Together for the Common Good

Together for the Common Good, with the Centre for Social Justice, Caritas Social Action Network, and the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society at St. Mary's University are hosting a series of online public conversations on the Common Good and what this means for families, for society and for government.

- 13 July The common good: what does it mean for the family?
- 29 September The common good: what does it mean for society?
- 16 November The common good: what does it mean for government?

All talks are 6.30pm-8pm. For more information and to book online place click [here](#)

'All-powerful God, Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light'. LS 246



Supporting the Godalming foodbank

During the school holidays families will need extra support to replace school dinners, and the foodbank needs items for lunchtime sandwiches and snacks such as: packets of crisps, small drink cartons, tins of ham, fish, beans, meatballs, hot dogs, pepperoni sticks, biscuits eg Penguin, Club.

There's a helpful list of the usual items which are needed on the [foodbank website](#)

There are boxes for donations at each Mass centre. Money contributions are also welcome; please make cheques payable to St Mark's Community Centre or contact the foodbank directly for details on how to donate online. Thank you!



AWorld App for your phone This app can be downloaded free; it was selected as the official platform to support ACTNOW United Nations

campaign for individual action on climate change and sustainability and has lots of helpful ideas.

Local recycling tips

Sainsbury's have upgraded the recycling area at the Godalming store, with new banks for recycling paper, glass etc.

Oxfam's shoes and clothes bank Any clothes/shoes are welcome as long as they are bagged up and shoes are in pairs. Oxfam is committed to recycling/reuse of all donations and does not send anything to landfill, so if you are unsure whether your clothes are in good enough condition to be donated to the high street charity shops it's better to drop them off here. Oxfam will also recycle/reuse your underwear!

Superdrug recycles containers from all brands of make up and cosmetics

Robert Dyas recycles used Brita water filter cartridges

Waverley Borough Council recycles TerraCycle refill pouches and Hasbro toys and games as well as used crisp packets, Pringle containers and dental care products (toothbrushes, toothpaste etc).

What stops us from taking action?

Are there any factors which may be holding us back from a full ecological conversion? Here are some thoughts, with thanks to Ellen Teague:

- We like our lifestyle
- We are still hooked on the 'trickle down' development model (i.e belief that tax breaks and benefits for corporations and the wealthy will trickle down to everyone else)
- We neglect to think about justice for future generations
- We have become tolerant of conflict and weapons
- We have become detached from the natural world by living in urbanised areas
- We have a preference for addressing short term issues
- We despair over the scale of the problem
- Gender discrimination/patriarchy can get in the way
- We are not fully aware of creation-based theology
- Church leadership in Britain has been slow to take up the challenges of Laudato Si

'In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, "the Lord, the Giver of Life", ...that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'.

[Pastoral Letter on the Environment for Pentecost, June 2021]

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*, which was published in October 2020.

NOTES

Writing to MPs on concerns about climate crisis:

- Government target to reduce emissions by 2035 should be backed up with action: stop support for carbon intensive projects such as airport expansion and a £27bn programme of roadbuilding, which put at risk any chance of meeting government targets.
- Terminate all fossil fuel support: to meet the 1.5C target there must be no new fossil fuel reserve exploitation and we must urgently phase out existing fossil fuel use. G7 leaders must end all public finance to all fossil fuels – not just coal – immediately, both domestically and overseas.

- Put us on track for a 1.5C world by significantly investing in a green recovery to transform key sectors such as energy, agriculture and transport.
- Commit to a significant increase in climate finance for adaptation which should be at least 50% of the total climate finance and be delivered as grant-based finance (not loans) and be locally led. Crucially, climate finance must be new funds, not repurposed from the existing aid budget.

Writing to MPs on concerns about debt cancellation:

- The UK Government should call for a strengthening of the response to the debt crisis, including debt cancellation for low- and middle-income countries that request it, to help them respond and recover from the pandemic.
- A Bill to Parliament should be introduced to mandate UK-based private creditors to participate in debt relief and restructuring, if debtor nations request it, and prevent developing countries being sued in the UK by private creditors if they cannot pay their debts.
- A legislative approach is needed to ensure all UK-based private creditors have the same obligations and would not be losing out to competitors. The UK government can help create this level playing field.

Thank you for your support and we hope you stay well

The *livesimply* team



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