

Subject: A change of heart

Date: Friday, 13 August 2021 at 12:19:12 British Summer Time

From: St Edmund's livesimply group

To: Parish



Dear Parish,

We are counting down to COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference, with just 80 more days until the talks start on 1st November. This week, against a background of more climate disasters, the major IPCC climate change report added weighty scientific backup to calls for governments to step up their actions to combat climate change.

This is a time for a change of heart and to reflect on our own actions to live simply and sustainably and in solidarity with those in poverty. As Pope Francis reminds us, our primary need is our interior ecological conversion so that all our actions are not simply 'green' or 'empty activism' but are motivated by a desire to see the connectedness of everything in God's creation.

'An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence "must not be contrived but found, uncovered". [LS225]





1st September - 4th October

An annual celebration of prayer and action for our common home

Our parish will be celebrating the start of this year's Season of Creation with a **Creation Mass at Ladywell Convent** on Sunday 5th September, which the FMDM sisters have kindly allowed us to hold at Ladywell Convent. Mass starts at 11am, and we will be outside so you will need to bring a chair/ cushion, as well as an umbrella in case of bad weather. Please stay for tea, coffee, homemade cakes and chats after Mass. Families with young children are welcome, as is everyone. The sign up for this event is on [Eventbrite](#)

Sunday 5th September is also known as **Climate Sunday** when the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray for God's creation; our celebration will be just one of 1500+ church services taking place on this day.

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.

You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.

Praise be to you!
[Pope Francis, LS]

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

18th - 26th September
Parish Litter Pick

As a parish we will be joining with other communities across the UK for collective action for climate and nature with a 'litter pick' in [Big Green Week](#). We'll be focussing on the areas around our three Mass centres and there will be three litter-picking groups, each meeting after Mass: at St Edmund's at 10 am on Saturday 18th September; and at St John's at 9.30am and St Joseph's at 11.30am on Sunday 19th September. Please come with gloves and a bag in which to collect litter, and with enough time for a cup of coffee afterwards! For more information: jolewry@aol.com

Reuse – Recycle – Reduce

Spectacles

Medico France, a charity based in Le Havre, sorts and grades unwanted spectacles and ships them to parts of the world where they are needed, for example: eye clinics in remote and isolated communities in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Nigeria and Nepal. Glasses are collected and delivered by a local Lions group.

Old Tools

[Tools with a Mission](#) (TWAM) is a Christian charity which collects unwanted or usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. The charity sends around 20 containers filled with over 300 tonnes of tools to Africa every year. There is a local collection point in Aldershot.

Rosaries, statues, prayer cards and spiritual reading

The charity [Crown of Thorns](#) collects and re-distributes a range of spiritual reading such as back issues of Magnificat, Bible Alive etc, as well as prayer cards, rosaries, statues and much else. The charity is based in Lingfield, Sussex and we may be able to arrange a delivery of items if we have sufficient volume.

If you have any unwanted spectacles, tools or rosaries etc, please email Sarah in the parish office and she will arrange to collect and deliver items: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Redundant iPads and Laptops

These are desperately needed by the [GDWG](#) (Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group) to enable detainees to communicate with friends and family, and access English language tuition and important support services. If you can offer a device to the GDWG please contact Josie at: josie@gdwg.org.uk

Wheelchairs

If you watched Songs of Praise from Arundel cathedral recently you will have heard about another local charity Wheels for the World, who repair wheelchairs in the Aldershot warehouse and despatch them to disabled people in the third world. The charity also accepts walking sticks and pairs of crutches and various other mobility devices as listed on their [website](#).

Soft plastics are now recycled at the Co-op in Farncombe!



Soft plastics include: plastic film lids on yoghurt pots, soft fruit punnets and ready meals, as well as plastic crisp packets, pasta bags and chocolate or biscuit wrappers. If you're not sure, a simple test is to scrunch it up and if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic. See what you can and can't recycle [here](#)

This is a big step towards 'zero waste' and let's hope more supermarkets will follow suit.



Recycle your rubber bands

The Royal Mail has confirmed they will reuse or recycle any rubber bands in good condition which are posted back to them through letterboxes.



The Revive shop at Witley Recycling Centre is due to open in September having been closed since the first lockdown. The shop sells pre-owned items for the home and garden and donates 10% of revenue to supporting local charities, as well as offsetting the running costs of the community recycling centres.



TOMORROW! Saturday 14th August

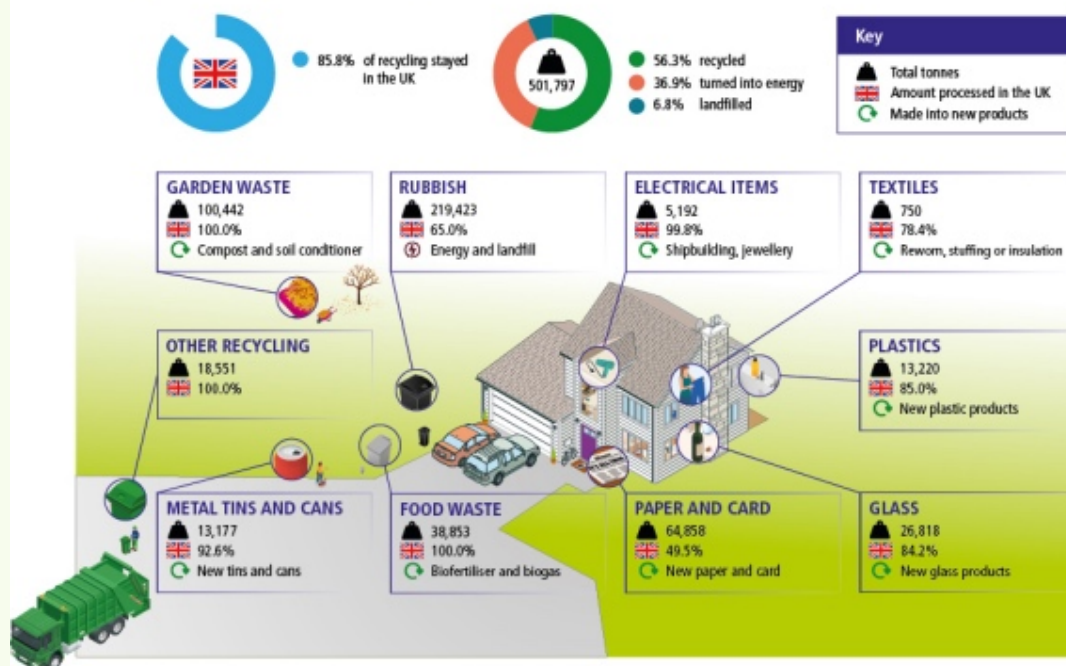
11am to 4pm

Burys Field. Free Entry

This is Godalming's first ever Green Gala, an event all about living sustainably and protecting the environment. Lots of eco-friendly food and stalls, food to sample, and live entertainment.

Please support the Gala; more information [here](#)

What happened to Surrey's waste, 2019–20



Find out what happens to Surrey's Waste

During 2019-2020, Surrey recycled 56.3% of our waste. Waverley BC recycled 54.3% of total waste. 85% of Surrey's recycling stayed in the UK. This new report is fascinating and easy reading and there's a page for each borough, including Waverley. You can read the full report [here](#)

Rethinking meat

Are you aware that by eating meat from animals reared on imported soy, we are indirectly contributing to the problem of deforestation without knowing it?

- Forest clearing for cattle is the main cause of tropical deforestation, especially in South America. In the Amazon, it is estimated that around 80% of deforestation has been carried out to create pastures for grazing cattle.
- Soy is the second biggest driver of tropical deforestation, particularly in South America, as land is cleared to grow soy to feed the cattle
- Soy is imported to the UK to feed animals, especially chickens and pigs.

Some practical ways to support tropical forests

- Avoid corned beef and processed beef products such as beef burgers or beef in ready meals
- Buy organic or 100% grass fed meat and dairy products - look for the Soil Association Organic logo or Pasture for Life logo
- Eat more plant-based foods

Take Action - Sign the petition

[Sign the petition to Rishi Sunak](#), the Chancellor, to urge him to show leadership ahead of COP26

[Sign the petition to Boris Johnson](#) to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26

A prayer to the Creator

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom

This prayer is from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudate Si'* which was published in May 2015

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



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