

Subject: Taking heart, finding hope

Date: Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 10:01:05 Greenwich Mean Time

From: St Edmund's livesimply group

To: Parish



Dear Parish,

Countries at the frontline of the climate crisis are taking heart from the voices of support shown at the time of COP26, especially those of young people, and for all of us there are encouraging signs of hope from the agreements on joint action to care for our common home.

Of course global action is crucial and institutional re-structuring essential but don't let's forget that our own individual actions are still important and can make a real difference.

*'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'
[Pope Francis, LS 14]*

What actually happened in Glasgow at COP26?

Targets to 'keep 1.5 alive' were postponed to 2022

Countries have agreed to come to COP27 in Egypt in 2022 with enhanced plans for cutting emissions but there's no guarantee these pledges will align with the 1.5C goal

Unprecedented steps on fossil fuels – but without a timeline

This was the first COP to address the fossil fuel issue and it's welcome progress but no timeline was agreed for phasing out fossil fuels and loopholes buried in the pledges need to be challenged and all signatories held to account

Climate finance promises must not be broken again

The pledge made in 2009 to provide at least \$100bn each year to countries being hardest hit by the crisis wasn't met in the run-up to Glasgow and rich countries expressed 'regret' for breaking promises and made a commitment to double financial support for countries to better cope with the impacts of the climate crisis - something

known as 'adaptation'.

Neil Thorns, CAFOD's Director of Advocacy, said:

'... the COP26 talks have come up short...Climate justice is not just a concept for some, it is what must be delivered. We need to see concrete policies that match the promises made here to make real progress on reducing emissions by 2030. Countries must come back next year with greater ambition.'

View from the frontline: Musamba Mubanga reminds us:

'For us in Zambia, climate change is a reality, it is happening. People have lost their farmlands and livelihoods to drought and floods, yet we have contributed the least to this crisis'.

'...we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness'. [Laudate Si 53]



CAFOD quiz night raises £672!

Thanks to everyone who supported this fun event, to Ian for his entertaining hosting, and to the livesimply team members for organising. And well done to the winning team 'The Family' (see photo), winners for the second time!

We have also raised over £484 through donations for CAFOD's family fast day, which means that overall our parish has contributed approx. **£1,156** to CAFOD's climate crisis fund. Thank you!



Christmas Prisoner Outreach

In solidarity with the women prisoners at HMP Send we have raised enough funds to purchase a Christmas day gift for each prisoner. We will be delivering the 200 gifts to HMP Send in the next few weeks and have also supplied Christmas cards for the prisoners at HMP Coldingley to send home.

If you would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities through the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) click [here](#)

Please keep prisoners in your prayers. One prison chaplain commented, *'It's humbling to feel that my prayers for them are heard. I have been privileged to see great recovery and great changes amongst the men in our pastoral care'*.

Ten Steps to Living Simply

Our Live Simply group has compiled a **Ten-Step Guide to Living Simply**, to help us focus our actions, inspire us and remind us of the different ways in which we can have an impact by making simple changes.



- 300+ million tons of plastic are produced each year
- Half of all plastics are single-use
- Up to 12.7 million tons of plastic enter the ocean every year
- Approx 90% of all seabirds have ingested plastic
- 13.4 million tons of CO2 are emitted annually by plastic production in Europe
- Microplastics are tiny plastic particles invisible to the eye which contribute to the 'plastic soup' swirling around in our oceans. Research also shows

that a wide range of food and drink contains microplastics.

- Microbeads present in beauty and household products enter the sewers by flowing straight from our kitchen and bathroom drains, and wastewater treatment plants are not designed to filter them out; or they seep out of landfill.

Some ways to reduce plastics

- To help identify beauty products (ranging from cleansers to toothpastes) which contain microbeads visit <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/> And you can download their app to scan products before you purchase
- Replace J-clothes with eco clothes such as [Sarah Smith eco clothes](#) (pack of 4 £2.50 from Sainsbury's)
- Plastics and tea-bags: are you aware that many household brand tea-bags are made with plastic content?

Plastic free tea-bags include: *Abel & Cole own brand; Clipper; PG Tips; Pukka Herbs; Teapigs; Twinings pyramid range; Waitrose Duchy range.*

Tea-bags to avoid (as they contain plastics) include: *Tesco own brand (they are working on it); Tetley; Twinings 'heat-sealed' and 'string and tag' ranges; Yorkshire Tea; Lidl own brand; Sainsbury's own brand (new range planned to roll out from July; tbc); Waitrose own brand Essential Original Blend tea bags.*

For more information on each brand's sustainability statement you can read this [Country Living article](#) on plastic tea bags.

Plastics and recycling

The PM sparked controversy recently with his comments that plastics can't be recycled indefinitely and recycling isn't the answer. Even though most plastic today is recyclable, the overall consensus is that we need to reduce our use of plastic whilst finding new ways to reduce our reliance on it.



Recycle your soft plastics

- Sainsbury's, Tesco and the Coop will recycle soft plastics so don't put these in your black bin
- Compostable and biodegradable products should be composted not recycled
- Hard plastics go into kerbside blue bins.

Recycle – Reuse – Reduce

Recycle medicine blister packs

Superdrug in Guildford recycles empty pill packet blisters into dedicated recycling bins so they don't end up in a landfill. Superdrug in Guildford is open 9am to 6pm on weekdays and 9am to 5.30pm on Saturdays

Be eco with your leftover candles

We light more candles at Christmas but leftover candle stubs and tea lights end up in landfill. **For tea lights** – buy aluminium rather than plastic and recycle the aluminium container and metal wick holder in the kerb side collection. **For used candle stubs and wax** - why not have a go at making new candles? Google for candle-making ideas and to buy new wicks and other candle making accessories visit: <https://suppliesforcandles.co.uk/>

Repair electrical products

The UK has the largest pile of electrical trash but it's possible to keep your electrical devices such as kettle, toaster, Hoover etc going for 25+ years by repairing rather than replacing. Google for details of local 'repair cafes' or contact an electrical company such as [Robertsons](#) in Bramley. If you do need to get rid of an electrical item there are in-store recycling options for small items at retailers such as Robert Dyas, as well as recycling bins for small electricals in Crown Court car park; take larger items to Witley recycling centre.

Cook with the lids on!

Keep the lid on your saucepans whilst cooking and select the appropriate size hob as this helps reduce heat loss and emissions.

St Edmund's Parish Godalming



We are knitting for charity -
please join us!

Now that the colder weather is here you may be reaching for your knitting needles again, or thinking about learning to knit. Please get in touch if you would like to join our parish knitting group and for some free patterns to get you started. We are knitting for the Stella Maris (seafarers) and the Royal Surrey.



Have a greener Live Simply Christmas

A few ideas to help us grow closer to God this Christmastide by thinking about how we can care for His creation...

- Support charities by buying charity Christmas cards
- Send fewer cards – may be just to those you don't see regularly
- Buy presents which have ethical credentials – workers properly paid, not tested on animals, sustainably sourced, local if possible
- Give greener gifts from [CAFOD's Word Gifts catalogue](#)
- Use recyclable wrapping paper/brown parcel paper/ribbon or string
- Avoid Sellotape, and all glitter and foil on cards and wrapping - as this makes items non-recyclable
- Be plastic free and buy eco-friendly crackers – there are loads of options available now
- Avoid buying a plastic Christmas tree and after Christmas plant your tree in a pot outside for next year

- Cut down on excess food and packaging
- Remember these words from Pope Francis, *'Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending'* [Laudate Si 203]

'Faith and Climate Change' talk

by Dr Carmody Grey, Assistant Prof of Catholic Theology at Durham

We know what we need to do to resolve the climate crisis so what stops us from doing it? What do we want to sustain? Described by a livesimply supporter as *'one of the best public lectures I've heard for some time. It is clearly and simply delivered and extraordinarily challenging about why humanity is failing to adequately respond to the ecological crisis. Quite stunning, in more than one sense'*. Available on [YouTube](#).

Fratelli Tutti: An ecumenical Christian prayer

O God, Trinity of love,
 from the profound communion of your divine life,
 pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
 Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
 in his family of Nazareth,
 and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
 discovering Christ in each human being,
 recognizing him crucified
 in the sufferings of the abandoned
 and forgotten of our world,
 and risen in each brother or sister
 who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
 reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
 so that we may discover anew
 that all are important and all are necessary,
 different faces of the one humanity
 that God so loves. Amen.

From Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti, published on 4 October 2020

If you would like to join our next Live Simply meeting
on **Thursday 9th December at 8pm** please email Jo: jolewry@aol.com

Thank you for your support and we hope you stay well.
The Live simply team



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