

Subject: Wishing you a Livesimply Christmas

Date: Thursday, 16 December 2021 at 12:52:28 Greenwich Mean Time

From: St Edmund's livesimply group

To: Parish



Dear Parish,

It's always a pleasure at this time of the year to see our nativity cribs reappear at church.



Nativity cribs at St Edmund's and St Joseph's

Alongside the crib sits the familiar Crib Offering box to raise funds to support the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund, which provides immediate help for local families in the diocese who are facing real hardship and have nowhere else to turn.

If you would like to contribute to the Crib Offering you can donate via the [CCS website](#) (add 'A&B Crib' to the message box) or donate cash/use contactless devices at Mass. Thank you.

In solidarity with others this Christmas

As well as buying presents for family and friends we can show solidarity with people who are living in poverty, and here are a few ideas:



[Afghanistan's Crisis Appeal](#)

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans have fled their homes, compounding an existing crisis following periods of drought and decades of conflict. As winter approaches, over 22 million people face hunger and extreme poverty. To donate click [here](#)

[Mary's Meals](#)

This charity provides meals to over 2 million school children in Africa so they have one square meal each day, at school. With their 'Double the love' scheme all donations before 31st January 2022 will be matched (up to 1.6 million). To donate click [here](#)

[BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal with St Martin-in-the-Fields](#)

Supporting the homeless through the Vicar's Relief Fund (VRF), which provides emergency financial support to people in vulnerable situations so they can find - and keep - a safe place to live. To donate click [here](#)

[CAFOD'S Advent Appeal](#)

Supporting families around the world who are facing the devastating impact of the climate crisis. To donate click [here](#)

You can also make a purchase from [CAFOD's Word Gifts Christmas Catalogue](#) Gifts start from as little as £4, and there's something for everyone - gardeners, animal lovers, teachers, entrepreneurs - the list goes on! Express delivery for orders received by 20 December.

'...learning to give, and not simply to give up. It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God's world needs. It is liberation from fear, greed



Foodbank - urgent needs before Christmas

Godalming foodbank (at St Mark's Community Centre, Franklyn Road) is appealing for: all types of pasta sauces, including meat based sauces eg bolognaise sauce (but not curry sauces); tins of macaroni cheese, tins of hot dogs and tins of mixed sausages and beans. Also orange squash.

The foodbank is open on Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd December so please either drop off there or give your contribution to Fr Jonathan after Mass. Thank you! More information [here](#)

Share your Christmas lunch?



Right at Home are running their Christmas Lunch initiative in our local area and are looking for volunteers to dish up an extra portion of their Christmas meal and deliver it to someone in need close to them. Volunteers are matched to someone as nearby as possible (and within a 5 mile radius) and are provided with a small kit to help pack and transport the meal safely, which includes advice about reheating the meal if people prefer to eat it later.

This is a super easy way to make a difference to someone this Christmas, and to reduce their loneliness and isolation. If you think you may be able to help get in touch with Kate at [Right at Home GF](#) on 07891 986316 or email christmas@rightathomegf.co.uk. Or click [here](#) to sign up.

Right at Home would also like to hear from you if you know of someone in need

- an older person or couple - who would benefit from having a hot lunch delivered at Christmas; please use the above details to make your referral.

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.

This month is Step 4:

Go Natural - home-grown and home-made is best



'Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable...' [Pope Francis, LS 21]

'Detergents and chemical products commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour in to our rivers, lakes and seas.' [Pope Francis, LS 29]

'People may well have a growing ecological sensitivity but it has not succeeded in changing their harmful habits of consumption' [Pope Francis, LS 55]

Ethical shopping this Christmas

Reminder: it's possible NOT to shop at Amazon!

Have you tried [The Ethical Superstore](#)? You can find most things here - fashion, beauty, health & well being, home and garden, children's toys and more. Their products are sourced from suppliers with fair-trade, sustainable and eco-friendly credentials.

For Books, CDs, DVDs and games have you tried [Hive](#)? Hive gives a percentage of every order to your nominated bookshop, in order to ensure that independent bookshops remain on our high street. Free delivery with orders to UK addresses.

Have a greener livesimply 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
- Buy presents which have ethical credentials – workers properly paid, not tested on animals, sustainably sourced, local if possible
- 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
- Recycle your Christmas tree or plant it 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]

Justice & Peace Assembly Webinar

'To a Safer Shore?'

The A&B annual Justice & Peace Assembly takes place on **Saturday 15th January**, from 9.45am to 1pm, online.

This year's event 'To A Safer Shore?' focusses on the considerable difficulties and challenges faced by individuals and families of all ages who are compelled to leave their homes and seek safety - and longed for sanctuary - in countries that can be considerable distances from their homes.

Speakers this year include **Canon Rob Esdaile** who will provide insight on Pope Francis' Encyclical [Fratelli Tutti](#), **Aidan Cantwell**, from the [Jesuit Refugee Service](#) who will explore current legislation in the UK and how best we can respond, and **John Paul de Quay**, from the [Ecological Conversion Group](#), who will examine the links between the plight of refugees and climate crisis. To book contact Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

As the oceans rise

O Lord, we pray for courage
as the oceans rise
and people suffer.

Let us care for one another,
and protect our precious home.

O Lord, we pray for strength
as the glaciers thaw
and our Earth is in pain.

Give us the spirit to do more.

We must all act together,
and protect our fragile home.

O Lord, we pray for hope
as the temperatures soar.

To the tears of your Creation
we will not close our eyes.

We will all work together
to preserve our common home.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen

Prayer: Cathrine Wignall/CAFOD



We wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year

If you would like to join our next Live Simply meeting
on **Thursday 13th January at 7.30pm** please email Jo: jolewry@aol.com

Thank you for your support
The Live simply team



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