

**Subject:** Listen to the voice of Creation

**Date:** Friday, 29 July 2022 at 13:13:46 British Summer Time

**From:** St Edmund's livesimply group

**To:** Parish



Dear Parish,

Pope Francis tells us that an integral ecology is made up of simple daily gestures of love. Our seemingly small acts of recycling, reducing, reusing, rethinking the food we eat, the goods we buy and the way we travel all make a huge difference - as the change we want to see in our world needs to start with us!

### **Praised Be**

Living God, have mercy on us,  
for the times we forget that we belong to each other.  
You call us to be still, to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,  
to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun,  
and to be nourished by our Mother Earth.  
Renew us in your healing love. Inspire us to water the earth,  
and nurture one another, so all may flourish.  
Together, as one family, may we always sing your praise.  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

### **Mass to launch the Season of Creation**

Each year the Christian family unites for the Season of Creation, a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting on September 1st with the **World Day of Prayer for Creation**, until October 4th, the Feast day of St Francis.

In our parish all our Masses on the weekend of 3rd and 4th September will

have the theme of Creation and offer a special time to pray for God's Gift of Creation and look at our own actions and reflect on the call to stewardship.

Please join us for a special **outdoor Mass** for the Season of Creation at 10.30am on **Sunday 4th September** in the beautiful grounds of Ladywell Convent, with coffee and cake and time for a parish social afterwards.

Helpers are needed so if you are able to arrive early to help set up/ clear up and steward at this Mass please sign up or speak to one of the Live Simply group members, or Sarah or Fr Jonathan. Thank you!

*"If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home."*

Pope Francis

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### Food crisis in East Africa

The worst drought in decades, rocketing food prices and the devastation of a massive locust infestation have caused a terrifying food crisis, and in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan millions could die.

Please consider donating to the [CAFOD World Food Crisis](#) appeal.

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### Rubbish Talk

#### St Edmund's Big Green Week Event

**Saturday 24th September at 7.30pm at St John's, Farncombe**

You're invited to a shared supper and a 'Rubbish' talk by Ian Honeysett!

Ian will be sharing his knowledge on the dos and don'ts of recycling and why it's so important. We hope to have a good discussion on green matters and what we can do to make a difference.

Amongst all this rubbish there will be plenty of light entertainment! The evening will include the 'Scrunch Test' and the 'Shoebox Challenge'...and Ian will be performing his not-to-be missed 'Witley Rap' and, of course, it's a perfect opportunity for a quick quiz!

We look forward to coming together as a community and we hope for a full house. Please sign up via the calendar on our [website](#) and look out for the

noticeboards at Mass to let us know what you are able to bring to the shared supper.

For more information about **Great Big Green Week** (24th September – 2nd October) click [here](#)

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### Rewilding St Josephs



We hope you have noticed the set of four beautiful new planters at the front of St Joseph's. Many thanks go to Dean and Peter who built them, and to Sr Shirley and the Live Simply group for painting and planting. We hope the planters will attract pollinators, who are declining in numbers, and bring be a welcoming sight for our churchgoers.

This rewilding project is a response to one of the goals of Laudato Si.



If you would like to make a contribution to the costs of this project, please place in an envelope at church. And please help yourselves to the unused **Cuprinol paint** - Seagrass colour. There are two cans are in the parish room at St Joseph's.



#### Big Plastic Count – the results are in!

And the survey shows that households in the UK are throwing away a jaw-dropping amount of plastic – almost 100 billion pieces of plastic every year – with each individual chucking out an average of 66 pieces every week.

Of this mountain of plastic - 46% is incinerated and 25% is dumped in landfill. Alarmingly, just 12% will be recycled in UK and 17% shipped abroad.

The results show that the size of this problem can't be sorted simply by recycling. Campaigners want to see

- a ban on plastic waste exports
- deposit return scheme on drinks containers
- a moratorium on new incineration capacity, and
- government pressure on supermarkets to reduce excessive packaging.

If you are still binning soft plastics such as fruit and vege packaging, and snack bags etc it's time to stop! Set up a soft plastics bin at home for everything from yogurt pot film, crisp bags, to sweet wrappers - and drop off at the collection points at local supermarkets Sainsburys, Tesco and Co-op.

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### Don't be a Wish-cycler

Don't be tempted to put something into the recycling without being sure.

For example, you can recycle glass bottles but you can't recycle used glass light bulbs or fluorescent tubes, nor broken glass (take these items to the recycling centre otherwise they are black bin/landfill items). And you can recycle cardboard packaging but not greasy takeaway pizza boxes!

- Check using the [WBC recycling tool](#) if you're not sure what to do with an item.
- Don't put small electricals, batteries or textiles into your recycling bin – these are collected separately
- Keep it clean and dry - moisture and grease will ruin cardboard and paper and make it unrecyclable. Empty, rinse and dry food and drink packaging before recycling.
- Don't forget – you can't put tissues and kitchen roll into the recycling!
- Don't put items in bags, sacks or bin liners – as bin crews need to be able to quickly see the items to check they are recyclable.

If every household adds at least one unrecyclable item into the recycling each week, that quickly stacks up, and a whole truckload of recycling can be contaminated and rejected because of one wrong item.



**Support our local Foodbank  
and Community Store**

The food banks depend totally on donations, so please try to add extra items to your shop; and drop off at the supermarket collection points.

The list of most needed items is updated each week on the website:

**Godalming & Villages Community Store** click [here](#) for their shopping list

**Godalming Food Bank at St Mark's** click [here](#) for their shopping list

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### **Buying fresh cut flowers**

Have you ever stopped to think about the carbon footprint of a beautiful bunch of flowers? Flowers tend to be imported from abroad, are often grown in heated greenhouses which release huge amounts of carbon, use a great deal of water, and are flown thousands of miles, then wrapped in cellophane for the consumer.

- look around your garden and see what you can gather or create an arrangement from wild flowers
- look out for local suppliers such as [www.hydonflowers.com](http://www.hydonflowers.com) whose flower farm offers seasonal flowers
- if using an online company ask for the flowers to be sourced in UK
- check out other UK based suppliers such as [Churchtown Farm Flowers on the Isles of Scilly](#) who grow all their own flowers and post them first class, wrapped in paper.



**Bury's Field in Godalming on Saturday 13th August  
11am to 4pm, free entry**

This is a fun event focussed on sustainable living and protecting the environment, and a good opportunity to support local green suppliers and producers. There's a wide range of stalls - from community gardening, cycling, local wildlife, to eco-friendly clothes and jewellery, and vegan food - plus food to sample and plenty of entertainment. For more information click [here](#)

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## **Don't forget - Ten Steps to Living Simply**

**Step 1: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

**Step 2: Less is More. Make the most of what you have**

**Step 3: Say Goodbye to Plastic**

**Step 4: Go Natural. Home-grown and home-made is best**

**Step 5: Grow Your Own and Create Green Spaces**

**Step 6: Switch Off and Unplug. Take time out**

**Step 7: Walk & Bike More & Drive Less, whenever you can**

**Step 8: Reduce Your Carbon Footprint**

**Step 9: Be an Eco-Friendly Shopper. Always read the label**

**Step 10: Spread the Word about Sustainability**

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### **Prayer before shopping**

Thank you, Lord, for all Your gifts.

For bestowing upon us the necessary food and things of daily use.

Do not let material possessions separate us from You, the Supreme Good. Open our hearts to Your love, which You show to us through the closeness of our brothers and sisters and the beauty of Your creation. Free us from attachment to the things we possess and enable us to share sacrificially with those who have less than us.

Teach us to be content with what is necessary. Protect us from greed, avarice and waste. May our daily choices serve to achieve justice in the world, not exploitation of the planet and its poor. We ask for the needed wisdom, sensitive hearts, and the virtue of moderation, so that when we purchase goods we are guided not only by our own benefit, but by concern for the common good, the rights of workers, the proper treatment of animals, and the consequences for the environment.

Help us always to remember that You are our highest Good, and all that we have we owe to You. Amen.

Małgorzata Rzym, from the Laudato Si' Movement Prayer Book

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If you would like to join our next Live Simply meeting

on Thursday 8th September at 7.30pm, please email Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

**Thank you for your support**  
**The Live simply team**



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