

## The Catholic Parish of Godalming

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**From:** St Edmund's livesimply group <godalming@abdiocese.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 31 January 2023 18:05  
**To:** The Catholic Parish of Godalming  
**Subject:** Thank you for your support



Dear Parish,

We would like to start by **thanking you for your wonderful generosity over the last year**. With your support for a range of events - from the parish quiz to the cake and plant sales and the Walk for Hunger in Lent - we succeeded in raising over £5,000 for people in poverty and for communities in need:

**£2,314** for the 'Learning in the Digital age' Kasanka project

**£2,179** for CAFOD from sponsorship for the 2022 Walk against Hunger

**£550** for people in need through CAFOD's World Gifts

**Thank you!**

It's also good to start the year with a reminder of our live simply values – **living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in poverty** - which enable us to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudate Si' to:

*'work with generosity and tenderness  
in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us'.*

You can read Pope Francis' Encyclical letter *Laudate Si* in full [here](#)

### How we helped Kasanka in 2022

The parish has received a thank you letter from the Regional Programs officer

for the FMDM with confirmation that the St Francis Community School has been able to purchase the required digital tools for the school, including a large size (65") wall-mounted Smart TV screen, internet router, eLearning tablets, and desk top computer (see pics below):

*‘The donation that was made by Parishioners of St Edmund’s will go a long way, as it will help respond to the education needs of our learners and educators more effectively as well as be in touch with best practices in regard to education at this moment in time.’*



### **Continuing our fundraising for Kasanka**

We will be running the cake and plant sales again this year

**Cake Sale - weekend of 15 & 16 April**

**Pete’s Plant Sale - weekend of 21st & 22nd May**

Now that the weather is warming up please do start to think about plants you could grow or divide for the sale...or seeds you might start sowing now.

‘A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.’ [LS91]



**Parish screening of 'The Letter' on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
7pm at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell**

This moving film explores indigenous rights, climate migration, and youth leadership in the context of climate action. The highlight of the film is the dialogue the protagonists have with Pope Francis.

The film has been produced by Oscar-winning producers Off the Fence and the Laudate Si Movement and directed by the Emmy and BAFTA-winning documentary film producer Nicolas Brown.

Refreshments are from 7pm to 7.20pm, film screening from 7.30pm, followed by time for discussion afterwards. We have over 20+ reservations so please sign up asap to be sure of a seat by clicking on the event on the parish calendar [here](#)

After the film we will be reflecting on the issues raised in the film, such as:

1. How can we make time and space to listen to those whose voices we don't usually hear?
2. What will we do to care for our common home and how do we think this care for the earth connects with our faith?
3. What signs of hope do we see in the film and/or in our world?



Lent is round the corner and we're gearing up for the **Big Lent Walk** to fundraise to overcome global poverty... and we're relying on your support!

The challenge this year is to commit to 200K (5K daily) for 40 days, alone or with friends – you can do your steps any way you like, walking, running or even on a rowing machine...

As well as raising money we'll be arranging a group walk and afternoon tea at Hectors on the Wey; and we'll be matching our actual steps to a virtual walk to the shrine of St Columba on Iona, in the Inner Hebrides.

We hope you will sign up to join our parish team by emailing Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com) and please share / click on the link below to sponsor us.  
<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-edmund-godalming>

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### **Family Fast Day – Friday 3rd March**

Seeing crisis after crisis can feel overwhelming, but Lent reminds us that change is possible, for each of us personally and for our world.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is an opportunity for us during Lent to eat simply, to pray and to give what we can, and in doing so we act in solidarity with those who face hunger and poverty every day.

We will be supporting this Day with CAFOD Lent talks at Mass, prayer cards and gift aid envelopes (don't forget that by gift aiding your donation you boost your donation by 25 per cent).

*... we pray for all those whose crops and land are affected by the climate crisis, that they may have strength and hope as they work to adapt to these urgent challenges. May God grant us wisdom to care for our common home, the earth, so that all people may flourish.*

*... we pray for our parish community: that we will listen to the voice of Jesus and grow in love of God and neighbour.*

[Prayers from CAFOD]

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## **Wonder and Awe**

### **How Eco-Spirituality Can Inspire Us in 2023**

Listen to this engaging conversation with Dr Erin Lothes on [YouTube](#), and explore how a sense of wonder and awe can support your commitments to integral ecology; how eco-spirituality connects you and your Catholic faith with the environment; how engaging your head, heart, and hands will make you a better practitioner of environmental sustainability; and how to prayerfully discern your own personal Laudato Si' goals for the upcoming year.

Dr Erin Lothes is the author of *Inspired Sustainability: Planting Seeds for Action* and Senior Manager of the Laudato Si' Animators programme.

## **Living Laudato Si' – Zoom retreat**

### **17th-20th February led from Boarbank Hall, Cumbria**

A weekend of talks with inspiring guest speakers plus panel discussions on living the message of Laudato Si' in and through your parish with a range of experts sharing practical advice.

Anyone interested is welcome to join and the sessions take place on Friday evening, Saturday morning and evening, Sunday afternoon and evening and Monday evening (leaving people free during the day on Monday). Cost - voluntary donations gratefully accepted, but there's no fee for the weekend.

For more info email Sr Margaret Atkins: [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk)

# REPAIR C

Next open on 25th February at Oglethorpe Hall of the Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Godalming, 10am-12.30pm.

Open on the 4th Saturday of the month.

Bring along your broken items – the list is [here](#)

Repairing broken items reduces landfill waste and can be both fun and often easier than you realise. All help offered at the Repair Cafe is free and donations are accepted.

## Live Simply News Round-Up



**News from St Edmund's Primary School** The school is busy working towards it's LiveSimply award, with an active Eco Council dedicated to making the school a more environmentally friendly place to work and learn, and encouraging all to reuse, reduce and recycle.



Gorgeous teddy bears delivered to the Royal Surrey Hospital charity, along with baby clothes and blankets. Special thanks to Sue!



**We are collecting used stamps** for charities such as the RNIB who recycle them and raise much needed funds for the services they offer to the blind and partially sighted. Please drop off to the parish office.



## Ten More Steps to

### Step 1 Make a 2023 Pledge

Decide on one thing you can change in your lifestyle this year e.g., reduce your use of plastic, recycle more items, have a meat free day each week, buy second hand clothes. Take one small step each month to help the planet.

### **We pray for the grace of conversion**

as this motivates us to a more passionate concern  
for the protection of our world:

*In my desire for reconciliation with creation,  
I ask God for forgiveness and the grace of ecological conversion.  
I acknowledge the ways in which I personally have chosen convenience,  
selfishness, and greed over ecological and social justice.  
I also acknowledge the ways structures, patterns, and cultures of sin  
impact my life, the lives of people on the margins and the earth.  
Through my recognition of where I have fallen short in caring for creation  
and my brothers and sisters, and through God's mercy,  
I pray for a conversion of heart to amend my ways.  
I seek through my prayer and actions to reconcile myself  
with God, creation and humanity.*

[Excerpted from the Ecological Examen [www.ecologicalexamen.org](http://www.ecologicalexamen.org)]

If you would like to join our next Live Simply meeting  
on Thursday 2nd February **at 7.30pm on Zoom**, please email Jo:  
[jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

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



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