

Live the Mission



September 2017



Baking and selling bread together in Uganda. See page 3.

Welcome to *Live the Mission* for September, a month when Christians in many countries celebrate Creationtide, a time of looking at God’s creation and how we might take greater care of it. See pages 4-5 to find out more. We also have a new feature on Fairtrade—see page 2.

Why should we be generous and what does that mean? In September the diocese will release a new film in which clergy and lay people consider generosity. It will be available free of charge for churches to use. See page 2 for more details.

Perhaps generosity is about sharing our food. Certainly there are many children whose families are so squeezed that they rely on the kindness of others to donate, and during the summer holidays the

pressure can be greater still. The summer has seen churches setting up or joining projects to give children a decent meal (see pages 6-7). In the words of one benefice it fits in with “living generously, transforming society and working with others locally to start to meet the real needs of those facing poverty in the community”.

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News from across the Diocese

Generosity starts here

Why be generous? How does God call us to be generous and how can we encourage churches to give?

In September we are launching *The Generosity Movie*, a four-minute film featuring clergy and laity from across the diocese openly expressing what generosity means to them, what challenges them about generosity and why they give.

The Generosity Movie is ideal to show to congregations, home groups and PCCs and is offered free of charge. It will be available on the diocesan YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CofEWinchester>



Robert Sanday, Vicar of Netley Abbey and Chaplain to the deaf, uses sign language as he considers the challenges of generosity.

Fairtrade: an agent of social transformation

Fairtrade is one of the original 'agents of social transformation'; the premium paid to farmers and producers helps provide education, healthcare and sanitation, as well as giving communities in the Developing World a chance to invest in new infrastructures.

Over the coming months, David Hinks, chair of the Winchester Diocesan Fairtrade group, will offer a thought on how your church can engage with Fairtrade. www.fairtrade.org.uk.

Currently Winchester doesn't meet the criteria for being a 'Fairtrade Diocese' with less than 50 per cent of our churches being registered as 'Fairtrade Churches'. The concept of

Fairtrade is profoundly biblical as it improves lives and gives a financial lift to farmers, producers and their families in the Developing World.



If you would like more information, or help with promoting Fairtrade in your church, you can contact David on 01420 83458 or email hinksrev@gmail.com



How fair is your church coffee?

Beans and bread

“To pray and worship with them and to experience God’s love amongst them is amazing and inspiring,” said Gill Tybjerg of her recent trip to the church in Kinkiizi, south-west Uganda. Gill, from Christchurch Deanery, visited at a time of acute drought which has devastated crops and was able to take flour and beans donated by the deanery.

She visited a new bakery which has

been financed partly by the deanery and will be run by Mothers’ Union members in Kinkiizi and spent a day baking with volunteers who between them made 128 loaves and 60 cakes which were then sold after a service in St Peter’s Cathedral, Nyakatatare, resulting in a small profit.

Gill reflected: “Being there to stand alongside the Kinkiizi folk, many now very dear friends, through all the

challenges of life in rural Africa and experience their strong faith which guides and upholds them is a privilege. They tell me they believe I make a sacrifice to go to Uganda. It is truly not, it is simply life-changing.”



Gill and the community sharing in Uganda

Survey to strengthen good stewardship

Parish Buying, the Church of England’s buying service which encourages good stewardship and enables churches to save time and money on key areas of spending such as energy and office supplies, is keen to strengthen its service over the next few years.

It would like to consult those who already use the service to understand what’s important, and how the scheme can be improved. It is therefore asking users to take part in a short survey. To help, click [here](#).

*What’s in your basket?
Visit www.parishbuying.org.uk/*



Creationtide—a time of celebration

As summer fades, the Church turns to Creationtide, a celebration of creation and a promotion of sustainable lifestyles which is increasingly seen as a Christian responsibility.

This annual event, which is celebrated between September 1 and October 4, was established in 2007 by the European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania, and has spread far and wide, including to the British Isles where it is supported by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Many churches pick one Sunday during the season of Creationtide to focus on environmental themes; some, such as **Christ Church, Chineham**, are doing so on several Sundays. Christ Church's Assistant Minister Gordon Randall, who is also Stewardship Adviser for the diocese, stresses the importance of: "a desire to foster an ethos that challenges people to see caring for God's creation as a normal and natural outworking of their discipleship.

"We aim to follow Jesus in every way which includes caring for planet Earth. To sharpen our focus and root this area of mission in God's word we are planning to embrace the period of Creationtide with a four-week sermon

series on Caring for God's Creation. We are also hoping to hold a 'green communion' during this same period."

The idea for 'green communion' has come from Eco Church, the scheme run by the Christian charity A Rocha, to help churches to look at their care for the world and what impact they are having on the environment. There is a liturgy and other resources on the Eco Church website (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/introducing-green-communion/>).

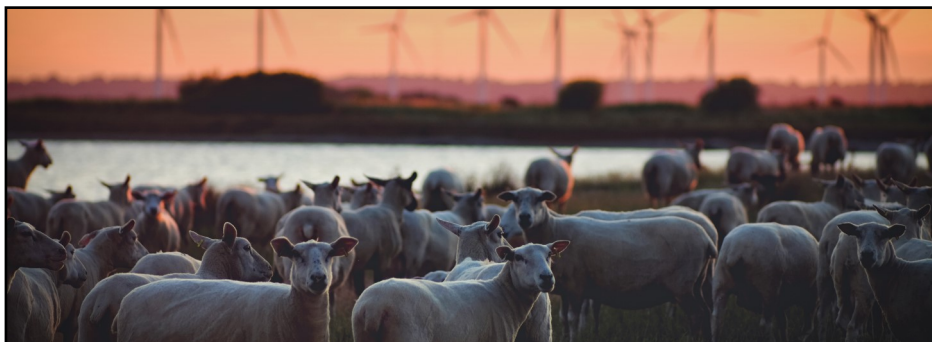
The Eco Church scheme enables churches to achieve bronze, silver and gold awards based on their environmental impact. Many churches in the diocese have joined and the diocese itself is one of only seven which have signed up to become 'Eco dioceses'. Five churches in the diocese have already gained their bronze awards and **St John's, Rownhams**, is the first church in the diocese to have achieved silver. The congregation at St John's will receive the award at a Creationtide service on September 17 when Andy Lester from A Rocha will visit.

Claire Thompson, the church's environment champion, says: "We will be encouraging people to walk/cycle to church if that is possible for them. The young people will be presenting a short drama which some of us first saw at a



Christ Church, Chineham, has received a bronze Eco Church award. Pictured left is Jean Wilde, the church's 'eco champion', receiving the award from Bishop David on Easter Sunday.

and a responsibility



How responsible are our food choices?

Creation Care workshop at Old Alresford Place on the theme of ‘we can all do our bit’.”

You don’t have to stick to actual Creationtide to celebrate creation and look at our care for the environment. At **St John’s, Hartley Wintney**, for instance, ordinand Sam Chandler, who is also secretary of the the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, will be helping the church to consider the ethics of food in a talk on October 15. She says: “I am very much of the view that animal suffering, responsible farming, green issues and human welfare are all intrinsically linked”. She will be encouraging the church to look at shopping choices “particularly buying meat from animals which have had a decent life and not supporting cruel, intensive farming systems but making

compassionate choices which are also good for the planet and also impact on human welfare”.

Any church which would like to hold a service focussing on the environment can find plenty of resources to help. In addition to Eco Church a useful website is: <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/worship-resources/creation-time>.

If your church does hold a Creationtide service or event, let us know when it is happening and send us a report and pictures afterwards. Email stella.wiseman@winchester.anglican.org And if you are the environmental champion in your church or are interested in becoming one, why not come on an ‘Eco Champion’ course? Contact Gordon Randall, gordon.randall@winchester.anglican.org.

“Celebrating Creationtide marks a shift in the Christian understanding of our relationship to creation under God. The consequences of teaching over recent centuries that humanity has been given domination over creation are clear in the complex environmental crisis we now face It is important that Christians rediscover older traditions of a godly relationship of humanity to the wider created order.”

Rt Rev’d Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and the Church of England’s lead bishop on the environment.

Let's do lunch

"Things have got a lot harder in the last few years."

"I like the puddings that they make and the most fun thing is we can play pool, table tennis, basket ball and Jenga."

"Coming here means my mum doesn't have to do all the hard work."

"We are supporting each other."

"We get to spend time with other adults."

"It's fun, the food's good."

"Talking about problems shows you're not alone."

These are some of the comments by parents and children at 'MakeLunch' in Hedge End, one of the many schemes around the country set up to help families who are struggling financially over the long summer holidays, particularly those whose children (1.2 million of them in the UK) would usually receive a free school meal.

At the start of the summer holidays, the Trussell Trust, which runs more than 420 food banks across the UK, warned that many children were at risk of going hungry over the six-week break from school. Last year, the trust saw a marked increase in people asking for emergency food during July and August, and almost half of the 67,506 three-day food parcels given out were for families with primary school children.

St Luke's in Hedge End has joined forces with the Salvation Army to offer activities and a hot meal to children and their carers every Monday and Thursday

throughout August. They have seen a growing need but also a change in themselves. "We have been intentionally looking at what we do and what is going on in the community," says Matt Grove, Youth and Children's Worker at St Luke's. "It's made us an outward-looking church."

MakeLunch is a national scheme set up in 2011 to provide free, healthy, cooked food for pupils who usually receive free school meals, and since then they have cooked more than 50,000 meals. St Luke's joined in last summer while another church, **St Mary's, Sholing**, got involved in February this year

For St Mary's the impetus was when they noticed that they had hungry children coming to Messy Church. They joined MakeLunch and open up three times a week during every school holidays, offering games, crafts and a hot lunch.

"If the children are hungry so are the parents, so we invite the whole family," says Su Brakewell, a Licensed Lay Minister in Sholing.

It is a cooperative affair there. Su adds: "We work with two local primary schools who are the initial contact with the families, and Southampton City Catering— the school meals service— sponsors us by paying one of their cooks to supervise the kitchen. The local Co-op gives us free plastic bags and squash." They also buy food boxes from FareShare in Southampton, a charity which redistributes good food which would otherwise be dumped, and give



Lunch in Hedge End

each family a generous bag of food to take away.

“The families tell us that they look forward to the fun and food,” says Su. “Schools tell us what a difference it makes to the children's learning.”

It is often schools who pick up that children are going hungry. In the **Avon Valley** benefice, for instance, the head of a local school came to the church worried about some of the families, especially over the summer when the children would not receive a free school meal. Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District responded instantly and at short notice, offering such families a Wednesday lunch each week of the summer holidays at St Mary's Church Hall and within moments of a letter of invitation going out, 13 families booked in. It is something which fits in with the Avon Valley aim of “living generously, transforming society and working with others locally to start to meet the real needs of those facing poverty in the community”.

The **Parish of Ringwood** has also been

getting involved with a lunch scheme, run by Ringwood Town Council, which serves meals three times a week in the town's new youth club. While the council has been responsible for providing the food and chef, Churches Together in Ringwood and District has been providing volunteers to help with preparation and clearing up in what Deputy Churchwarden Kevin Jones describes as “very much a team effort”.

Churches Together in this area is a vibrant group which has run several high-profile events over the past year, including three fun days this year, attended by 6,000 people, conducting a ‘What Hurts?’ survey, helping clean the town, and giving every household in Ringwood a commemorative New Testament. Kevin Jones sums up the reason for getting involved in this latest initiative: “This is much more low key but nevertheless provides an opportunity for us to continue serving and making a difference to the people of Ringwood.” And food is fundamental in making a difference.

Mission in practice – Churches at work

Tea and tissues

Starting school can be daunting for both children and their parents and it helps to be made welcome, to meet others in the same boat, as well as to meet some old hands.

Every year, **Highfield Church**, Southampton, holds 'Tea and Tissues' for families new to Highfield School. The church hosts and the Highfield School Association provides the cakes.

Sammy Jordan, Families and Schools Ministry Leader at the church, explains: "It's a space for families to have a drink, eat some cake, chat and commiserate or celebrate together (we get both!)

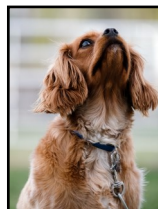
"We get about 50 people there each year as many of the new families pop in. We also get Highfield parents whose children are already in the school. They come for the cake, but also to answer questions and encourage new families.

"The headteacher and deputy come and so it's an opportunity for everyone to say 'Hello' at the start of term. I introduce myself and this is always my opportunity to say that I'm 'there for them', whether they come to the church or not."



Church mice welcome (and other animals)

Pets are a vital part of many families and often break down barriers between people. So welcoming a pet into church is a good way of making those pet owners feel welcome too, quite apart from the joy of celebrating animals this Creationtide (see pages 4-5).



Holy Trinity and St Andrew's, Ashe, (near Overton) will be celebrating pets and other animals in a service on Sunday, September 17, at 3pm and welcomes all pets (ideally well-behaved). If the weather is fine the service will be in the churchyard; if not, inside the church and there will be a collection in aid of an animal charity.

Contact us:

Please let us know your news, both events that have happened and ones yet to come, and send us photographs. Email:

stella.wiseman@winchester.anglican.org or call **01962 737325**.

www.winchester.anglican.org

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Pictures:

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