



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

As a parish our questions are:

- How can we use less plastic?
- How can we discover if any parishioners are going to be seriously impacted by the loss of winter fuel payments and if so what can we do?
- How can we better identify people in our parish in need?
- How could we make better use of the parish grounds to grow flowers for the church and food (e.g. veg & fruit)?
- How can we share space in our cars for people who already drive to church
- What campaigns will we support e.g. 21st September advocacy for ending fossil fuels?

This can be just a start; many parishes embraced the Live Simply programme, run by CAFOD. More information on this will be available later in the month.

The recent Steering Group meeting focused on Caring for our Common Home, which is being highlighted during this Season of Creation.

We asked: what are we already doing as individuals and as a parish to help build a more sustainable future.

This led the asking: how we as a parish can act to improve our care of the planet, each other and our world.

This gave rise to questions that need an answer in order to take further action.

These ideas and questions encompass both environmental and social actions, since, in the words of Pope Francis' encyclical of 2015, *Laudato Si'* –

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with **one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.**” (*Laudato Si'*, 139)

LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Season of Creation
Current Practice, Questions to Explore & Ideas for Action from the Steering Group
3rd September 2024

Current practice includes:

- Consistent donation to Food Bank at both churches
- Reduced food waste by adapted social events (this was an unplanned benefit of the recent picnic at OLSE)
- Solar panels in place at both church houses
- Sunday sharing of produce grown by parishioners (stall at OLSE; ad hoc offerings at StC's)
- Parish office re-uses part-printed paper

Our quick win actions are:

- All refreshments used in the churches will be bought from Caroline's Fair Trade produce
- Recycling bins for OLSE & St Cecilia's kitchens will be bought and in use by end September

Further actions for more detailed working up

- Instead of individual Christmas cards, have one large card at both Churches for people to sign and avoid commercial wrapping paper
- We should stop using flower arranging foam as the degradation into microplastics has significant environmental impact (The RHS banned their use from 2021)
- An annual spring clean / declutter (live simply) to be planned
- A push to increase the uptake of the e-parish newsletter (reducing paper use)
- Identify how assessments of energy efficiency are made in the parish & publish them annually
- Learn more about the local Food Bank to maximise engagement with local food poverty

Please share your thoughts and ideas on how our parish can live more sustainably with creation by sending them to the parish email - hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk

Or drop them in writing into the envelope on the display in either OLSE or StC's

THANK YOU!