

LiveSimply

“ What Kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

Pope Francis

Many of us have been inspired by Pope Francis’ message and have already started to take steps to put our faith into action. We are proposing that our parish now takes this a step further and officially works towards the *LiveSimply* award.

What is the *LiveSimply* award?

It is an opportunity for Catholic communities to answer the call for us to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.

The award is a CAFOD initiative given to Catholic communities that have taken significant steps to respond to the Church’s call to live simply, so that others may simply live.

It is awarded to communities who can show that they have been living:

- Simply
- In solidarity with people in poverty
- Sustainably with creation

What would we have to do?

We would need to be able to demonstrate that we have taken action in the 3 main areas listed above.

For each of the 3 headings we would need to show that we have completed one substantial action (something which involves either a significant change or a lot of people) and two smaller actions.

To achieve this, we would need a small group of parishioners from across both churches to plan and manage our programme of actions.

Why should our parish do this?

- An important part of being Catholic is about caring for all of God’s creation – we focus on this during the Season of Creation, but we should make it our everyday way of life.
- We are already doing quite a few of the sort of things which would be considered as having met the criteria. For example:
 - Use of Solar panels on our churches
 - Support of food banks – the recent drive in our parish was particularly successful
 - Commitment to Fairtrade products
 - Recycling
 - Non-use of foam in church flower arrangements
 - Buying local produce

So, our journey towards *LiveSimply* is already well underway!

- *LiveSimply* has been officially recognised as a wonderful way for parishioners to be part of the *Laudato Si’* journey.
- Canon Peter is proud of what we have already achieved in this parish and has recommended that we work towards the award.

How can I get involved?

The idea is that the whole parish will be involved in this in one way or another - as we go through our journey you will be asked for your input;

Our immediate need is for a small group representing both churches to start pulling together our plan. At the moment, our best guesstimate is that group members will need to meet for 1-2 hours once every 4-6 weeks (this may reduce as we work our way through). If you feel you could be part of that group, please speak to Pat Fuchter or contact her: (pat.fuchter@hotmail.co.uk 07867 318438).