



Season of Creation: Week 2

WHERE IS OUR WATER?

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

TO LIVE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The common good is the basis for cooperation toward a water policy that gives priority to persons living in poverty and those living in areas endowed with fewer resources. (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, A Contribution of the Holy See to the Third World Water Forum, Kyoto, 2003)

The amount of water on earth has not changed and will not change; it is a “closed system”: if there is more water in one place, there will be less water elsewhere; more now, less later. We are called to conserve and care for the water we can use

WHAT’S HAPPENING HERE?

Drought and flooding can no longer be treated as separate issues. We are getting a small, but increasing, taste of what we have seen happening far away over many years.

We now have regular flooding in parts of the country:

- England’s future water supply deficit is estimated at around five billion litres a day by 2055
- An estimated 6.3 million properties in England are currently at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, or a combination of sources
- An estimated 4.6 million properties are at risk from surface water flooding,
- Around 83% of properties currently at high risk of surface water flooding are likely to experience flood depths of less than 30cm
- More gardens opt for paved and decked areas and back gardens, reducing green spaces in heavily populated areas; so rainwater has nowhere to go. More water travelling into the sewer can then cause flooding.
- Drought has followed one of our wettest winters: Most of England (as of 10th August nearly 75% (71.3%) of England is declared to be in drought

AND FURTHER AFIELD

- About 9m tonnes of grain are expected to be lost across Europe
- In East Africa, drought is gripping Somalia, south-eastern Ethiopia and eastern Kenya, leading to historic low soil moisture levels and severe vegetation stress.
- Wildfires such as in Spain and France - 116,000 and 42,000 hectares already burnt, respectively
- More people die in floods in more unequal countries
- Low- and middle-income countries are home to 89% of the world’s flood-exposed people.
- Of the 170 million facing high flood risk and extreme poverty (living on under US\$1.90 per day), 44% are in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The burden of water rationing is greater for low-income households
- Water scarcity threatens energy production in hydropower-dependent regions

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- **Keep rainwater moving** - Clear leaves and other debris from gutters so rainwater can flow easily. This helps stop water from overflowing into garden or driveway.
- **Catch raindrops for a drier day** Pop a water butt in your garden to collect rainwater. If you don’t have one, use a bucket or an old bin instead. It’s an easy way to reduce the risk of flooding. You’ll have a handy store of water ready for your plants when the weather dries out.
- **Natural drainage** Creating a more water efficient space in your garden slows down the speed that rain enters the drains. Create a rain garden – a shallow area of ground filled with soil and plants – that will absorb up to 30% more water than a lawn



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD



The Waterwise Project is an independent not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation promoting water efficiency and conservation based in London, UK.

The organisation was initially focused on decreasing water consumption in the UK by 2010 and on building a robust evidence base for large-scale water efficiency projects. Waterwise is the UK's water "efficiency champion" – "reaching the parts others cannot reach, and transform[ing] the concept of water resource efficiency into something compelling for consumers and business users."¹

Waterwise works with all sectors of society to promote water efficiency and the wise use of water. To achieve their aims they work with key partners in water companies, governments (local, regional, and national), regulators, farmers, communities, businesses, civil society organisations, manufacturers, retailers, press and media, and individual consumers.

As well as its annual Water Efficiency Conference, held this year at the beginning of July, and with keynote speaker Emma Hardy MP, Minister for Water and Flooding, Waterwise works with projects and campaigns. One such campaign is WATER NIGHT 2026.

It helps everyone, and shows solidarity with those without running water.

Take part in Water Night 2026! Turn off your taps. Pause for a moment. See how much we rely on water, and why protecting it matters. Join Water Night this October.

Something we could do as a parish!

Find out more at [WATERWISE.ORG. UK](https://waterwise.org.uk)

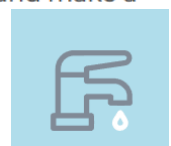
Water Night 2026

Could you go a night without running water? | October 2026

Water Night, originally created by **the Water Conservancy** in Australia, is a nationwide moment to pause, reflect, and experience firsthand how much we rely on water every day. We've brought this inspiring campaign to the UK, and this October marks the 4th year it's running here, turning off taps and rethinking our water use to highlight the importance of protecting this precious resource, together.

Join households, schools, and iconic landmarks across the UK in Water Night 2026 and make a splash in raising awareness.

Take part at home: turn off non-essential taps



Households are invited to commit to turning off non-essential taps for a couple of hours on Water Night.

- Take a personal pledge to turn off your tap between the hours of 5pm & 10pm
- Share your experience and encourage friends, family, and colleagues to do the same