

## LAUDATO SI MEETING, NOVEMBER 30

Present: Grace Fellows, Andrew Brown, Suzanne Brown, Antony Brown, Anthony Brown, Peter Foley, Maureen Mercer

Apologies: Mark Wiggin, Pauline Wiggin, Mary Brown, Joan Leeming, Susan Fellows

## REPORT FROM MARK WIGGIN ON THE JUSTICE AND PEACE ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 29

- Bishop John is Ecobishop for the Bishops Conference of England and Wales country. Rather than policy [on how the Chruch tackles environmental issues] we need to prepare a statement of intent
- For Live Simply awards a parish/schools partnership is encouraged
- Someone in Liverpool diocese is pursuing a Live Simply Deanery
- Last year there were very few Live Simply parishes but now there are many more taking off as well as many in the pipeline
- Via the Live Simply Award, Laudato Si' fits comfortably with CAFOD
- There is now a Northern Diocese Justice and Peace group and the North West are being targeted for environmental projects
- On 6 to 8 September 2018 at the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool there will be a fringe group on the environment
- The theme for the 2019 or 2020 Justice and Peace conference at Swanage we hope will be the environment.

## LIST OF THINGS AT LEE HOUSE MISSION AWARENESS CENTRE

- We have built a Laudato Si - wooden/circular chapel in the grounds where we celebrate liturgies that celebrate the wonders of creation
- We deliver experiential learning simulations in which young people take on the role of an indigenous community living in the rain forest who are threatened by a logging company (this simulations brings together the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor).
- We deliver mock UN summits in schools that address climate change and the teachings of Laudato Si.
- We deliver talks/presentations on the New Universe Story which provides a new cosmology/narrative/story that brings together the latest scientific and religious thinking
- We deliver experiential simulation days addressing humanities relationship with nature as part of young peoples preparation for the sacraments
- We engage and encourage our local parishes to participate in the Season of Creation - celebrate liturgies and participate in symbolic actions like holding prayer vigils at fracking sites

- We encourage our local parishes to make their church grounds and graveyards more wildlife friendly by introducing (BOB) bird and bat boxes, habitat for bees/butterflies/insects etc
- We are just in the process of encouraging our local parishes to sign up to the Live Simply Pledge - as individuals and parishes
- On the strength of the Lee House Refugee and Human Trafficking exhibition that goes out to schools across the northwest we hope to design and build a new exhibition that explores the New Universe Story/the relationship between science and religion/the wonders of creation. Our experience informs us that for many young people science is the new 'gospel' that has replaced/rendered redundant religious/faith perspectives. The new exhibition will engage young people in this dialogue.

#### THINGS WE CAN DO (headings from the last meeting)

To involve as many people as possible in the mission of the group:

- The group mostly comprises those at the meeting plus who have sent in apologies but we also have "supporters" who whilst not feeling able to commit themselves to responsibilities or meetings are happy to receive information about the group's activities and aspirations.
- As our mission and activities become well known within the parish people, particularly families, are likely to be attracted to items in the Live Simply action plan.
- As we move towards becoming a missionary parish we should encourage parishioners to align themselves with at least one parish group and support their activities in some way. With this ideal in mind we can realistically expect more parishioners to support Laudato.
- To carry out a parish audit of environmental and social action initiatives in the parishes and schools of OLOTV
- Engage with social action related parish groups – CAFOD, SVP, Food Bank, Refugee Response, Anti-Trafficking
- We should be aware that the CAFOD Live Simply award long pre-dates Laudato Si'
- Find out about environmental issues and interested people in the primary schools linked with our Parish
- Are there other parishes in the deanery from which we can learn and with which we can collaborate?
- Live Simply Award parishes have been slow to materialise across the country but are now starting to take off. The Laudato Si website can give some information on initiatives and the CAFOD office can tell us which parishes in our deanery/dioceses have gained or are working towards the award

To develop awareness and educational opportunities that promote environmental and social action

- Within the Parish we need to develop all means of communication to promote the environment and social action. Laudato Si' should feature in the newsletter on a regular and perhaps weekly basis
- Develop our own awareness by learning from others – in particular Joseph Cooper at St Wilfrid's, Preston is a key player in their Live Simply aspirations and we can learn from St Wilfrid's example
- Practical foraging lessons as family days out
- Learn about wild flower meadows – Slaiburn is a good area
- A farm at Rimington provides educational opportunities for children
- Yorkshire Dales National Park and Natural England have conservation sites and areas from which we can learn
- Dale Head church (near Stocks Reservoir) and Horton in Ribblesdale church are both best examples of conserving the natural habitat
- Our local cemetery on Waddington Road is a potential site for conservation and education
- Stephen Burrowes' Bob boxes (bats and birds) can feature in our conservation initiatives and be a learning vehicle for children. Families can sponsor a Bob box and learn about how they work and what they attract
- Encourage domestic Wildlife Gardening
- See list of things from Lee House Mission Awareness Centre (above)

#### To become a Live Simply Parish

- Palm Oil is something behind which lies deforestation, environmental damage and serious labour exploitation. The industry causes huge emissions of carbon dioxide.
- People should check the ethics of what they buy, in particular looking for palm oil
- Aim to buy Fairtrade where possible. Some supermarkets are stocking less Fairtrade than hitherto and we should encourage parishioners to ask for Fairtrade to pressure supermarkets to restock.
- Provide a list of products to avoid buying on ethical grounds.
- Be aware of water waste. Use water butts for garden use
- Be aware that although we have plenty of water in our part of the UK, not all regions are so well supplied. Moreover it takes energy to purify water which is wasteful.
- Green cones for household food waste
- Consider a water meter, not just to save money, which may not result, but to avoid using more water than necessary. A shower can use more water than a bath if you are in it for more than a couple of minutes.

- Use water sparingly, knowing that water is scarce in many countries. Use water sparingly in solidarity with the poor
- Buy vegetables in season – out of season vegetables are expensive to store and transport
- We are already a Fair Trade Parish and should resurrect awareness and practice
- Sabden started developing the ground behind St Mary's with the wildflower meadow concept in mind. It currently has up to 30 or 40 species
- The National Gardening Scheme – open your garden to the public and generate money for charity
- Plans at the Christmas social event at St. Hubert's to improve the carbon footprint of the event with separated waste into hard plastic, drink containers, paper, waste food (making use of a food composter at Waddow that is sited underground).
- Autumn leaf gathering at Thorneyholme School, putting them into their school compost heap prior to Open Day

To develop a policy and liturgy that celebrates and creates positive change and leads us towards becoming a missionary parish:

- An article in the most recent Jesuits and Friends is a good example Catholic Social Teaching linking environmental issues with poverty and exploitation
- We now have a Laudato Si' webpage on the parish website which we can use to highlight liturgy related thoughts and topical issues on the environment. Such items can be also be posted on the website homepage where their presence is more prominent but for a shorter period of time
- Laudato Si' bidding prayers should feature at Mass

#### ACTION

- Much of the above can be converted into action
- Cubs to bring back Fairtrade items – Grace
- Have a Fair Trade fortnight in February/March – all
- Fair Trade on next meeting's agenda
- Make wooden boxes for recycling - Antony
- Hold a meeting for the Parish in mid January and invite speakers Joseph Cooper, Joe Howson and perhaps others - Anthony