

Live Simply (Laudato Si') Meeting, October 3, 2018

Present: Mark Wiggin; Anthony Brown; Margaret Parsons; Margaret Waling; Andrew, Suzanne and Antony Brown; Dominic Aunger; Grace Fellows; Joan Leeming; Maureen Mercer; Betty Collinson

Apologies: Theresa Mercer; Susan Fellows; Peter Foley; Anne Cooke; Christine Dixon; Peter and Susan White; Mary Brown; Pauline Wiggin; Neil Wallace

(It was fitting that we had our meeting the day before the Feast of St Francis of Assisi)

Mark Wiggin opened the meeting with the prayer from page 6 of the CAFOD Share the Journey guide

Anthony Brown said there was plenty already happening in the Parish to gain a Live Simply Award but the main purpose of the Group was to engage more people in doing it.

Update/News

Plastic and Polystyrene waste

Mark Wiggin reported on Peter Foley's email and aspiration to outlaw single use plastic items, especially cutlery and proposed we should invest in some metal forks. There is already a dozen at Dunsop Bridge and another dozen brand new still in their wrappers and the cost to purchase is around £4.25 for a dozen on the internet. For several years we have used polystyrene plates, another single use item which is difficult to recycle. Paper plates are priced at £5.79 per 100 (9 inch) or stronger ones at £5.95 per 50. Peter will have a word with Julie who organises the event but thinks that this is the way for us to go in line with the Pope's views. As last year, items can be washed at the Waddow dishwasher and any food waste can go into the food composter with paper being recycled via the LCC facility. Margaret Parsons proposed people bring their own plates/bowls. Outlawing single use plastic and polystyrene is something we should aim for throughout the Parish.

Action: Pilot at Newton and promote throughout the Parish. Ask Peter Foley for photographs to publicise.

UNFCCC Parties (Conference of the Parties, COP) to assess progress in dealing with climate change

Dominic Aunger is going to the Conference in Poland on 5-9 December

Parish activities:

Anthony Brown summarised some Laudato Si' related activities. There are many more in the Parish:

- Refugee Dine with Me (now a Diocesan wide initiative)
- Refugee Day out
- English lessons for refugees
- Knitting for Syrian refugees in Turkey and for refugees in the camps in Syria. As well as OLOTV knitters there is also a large contingent of knitters in Blackburn contributing to our knitted stock.
- Ecumenical food bank

Diocesan News:

Mark Wiggin reported:

- Bishop John has been appointed Eco bishop
- Steve Burrows of CAFOD has been appointed to develop a Laudato Si centre at Wardley Hall
- Northern Diocese Environmental Group (Justice and Peace workers from Liverpool, Lancaster, Leeds and Salford Diocese) put on "On the Altar of the World" a parallel programme with the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool about spirituality and the environment which Mark Wiggin has co-organised. The Group will lead on a large conference in 2020 on the environment
- Caritas has committed to promoting Live Simply with 30 parishes in partnership with Cafod – a result of OLOTV taking it up!
- The refugee sponsorship programme piloted at Flixton is taking off. St Mary's at Burnley is taking a family and there will be a total of ten in our Deanery including Hurst Green next year.

Action: Anthony Brown to keep local schools alert about what we are doing in the Parish.

Other things mentioned:

- The Foodbank is only one of a number of ecumenical or multi-faith charitable activities taking place e.g Knit and Knatter at Sabden plus work under the banner of Love Clitheroe
- Live Simply Activities are part of being a missionary parish, hence a strong link with Hope in the Future
- Fracking is a concern that parishioners have stood up against.

Global Healing:

Global Healing (How our Faith can help us care for our Common Home) is a free resource sponsored by the Bishop's Conference and can be a film evening including a worldwide supper or a short course of three evenings. Bishop John has recommended it for Advent.

- There was agreement that we should pursue the idea with support from Fr John.
 - Seven people volunteered to prepare meals as a Jacob's Ladder: Indian, Mediterranean, Lancashire Hot Pot, Mexican Chilli, Carbonara, Bolognese, and Potato Pie..
 - If it is to be an Advent event we would need to go for the first day on 5 December

Action: Anthony to confirm Fr John's support and approach Kevin for hall availability.

Live Simply at Sabden:

Margaret Parsons reported that she had taken Sabden Horticultural Society's expert round the grounds and he had been very helpful and come up with some sound advice. He is always available to advise, but they have no manpower to help as they are quite an aging group now. He didn't agree with removing the AstroTurf as it keeps the weeds at bay, it just needs cleaning.

Agreed Action. It was agreed to get an independent expert, Peter Foley, to take a look round and help us to come up with a plan to take in the environmental aspects of Live Simply - preferably to be accompanied by Antony Brown from the group and Peter and Susan White if they wish as they put the initial plan together

Other events:

- We have already had three evenings with speakers, sale of BOB boxes at the Sabden Summer Fair and at cubs in Clitheroe. We have had our first Live Simply at Sabden day working on St Mary's grounds. For the future:
- Evenings with speakers to include one on the subject of Lonliness plus others by speakers from Parish groups.
- Outings to the Lee House Centre for Mission Awareness, Peter Foley's environmental works, and large garden on Marl Hill developed entirely as a natural habitat for flora and fauna.
- CAFOD Share the Journey walk at Clitheroe and Sabden on October 7. This is one mile with prayer and reflections. It is a Pope Francis led initiative taking in all countries around the world with 106,000 miles so far achieved including a contribution from our Parish of 108 miles.

Change of Name for the Group

For further discussion but a suggestion of Live Simply (Laudato Si'), the brackets to remain to avoid confusion until people are tuned in.

Next Meeting November 7

The meeting ended with a prayer from Share the Journey, page 7