

GLOBAL HEALING: MARCH 20 2019

Bishop John Arnold is the Environmental Bishop for the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales and he is turning the grounds of his residence at Wardley Hall into an exemplar of environmental excellence.

Waste is a global catastrophe with vast islands of plastic in the oceans and massive amounts of waste transported east. In India people live and scavenge on rubbish dumps and one of our parishioners has set up a charity, [KISES UK](#) to aid those living on one of the dumps.

A number of parishioners are making eco bricks out of 4 pint milk bottles, filling them with non recyclable plastic. The bricks go into wire boxes to build walls which are then covered. We need guidance on what is not recyclable. Small contributions to environmental protection add up to a lot and encourage others to do the same. From a low start – one parishioner has been a member of Greenpeace for 35 years – there is now a steady increase in awareness which can grow exponentially. One parishioner has found they can recycle so much that they barely use the bin for non recyclable waste.

Children are key and most schools educate on the environment. Greta Thunberg, the 15 year old Swedish girl, who is leading a school strike outside the Swedish Parliament has set an example followed on a massive scale. A recent visit to Thorneyholme School, Dunsop Bridge, illustrated the level of awareness amongst young children. Children are receptive and we need to tap into their openness and enthusiasm.

Brock holes <http://www.brockholes.org/visit/> works with schools

The Lee House Mission Awareness Centre at Thornley near Chipping has a number of environmental projects and offers education days for schools. Joe Howson, the Director, spoke at our first Laudato Si' meeting on January 10 2018.

We need to encourage and link in with other Faith Groups. Our Parish Group is in touch with local Christian Groups via Clitheroe Christians in Partnership and we have had a mixed Christian attendance at previous Global Healing events. It was noted however that Global Healing has a very strong Catholic orientation. We should consider a public meeting with a guest speaker to engage the wider community.

Citizens UK has massive potential for mobilising people against an issue and Bishop John and Caritas have subscribed to the Greater Manchester version https://www.citizensuk.org/greater_manchester Sean Ryan, National Caritas Community Sponsorship Coordinator, who also works for Caritas Salford on the Refugee Sponsorship Programme, is linked with Citizens UK on the refugee issue. We are also discussing the potential for support for our 2025 aim to rid Salford Diocese of Modern Day Slavery.

A parish newsletter would be a good idea to keep parishioners more aware than is possible via other means of communications and at some stage we should consider a local press article to raise awareness more widely.