

OUTLOOK



FREE

*Celebrating **faith** and **life** in East Kent*

**WE'VE GOT
12 YEARS**

**Let the waters teem with swarms
of living creatures, and let the
birds fly above the earth in the
open expanse of the heavens.
Genesis 1:20–22**

UNITED IN PRAYER

We have heard so many inspiring stories from schools and churches across our diocese about their experiences during our Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage (7-8 June). From stories of small gatherings blessed by holding a shared hour of prayer to one church that ran five events per day during the Thy Kingdom Come week and the footsore but happy archdeacons who prayed with churches and journeyed with groups on three different pilgrimages to Canterbury. Each person, each church did it their way – and yet each of us was united in prayer for the transformation of our communities and our world.

Many spoke of the healing quality of prayer, especially when we journey together. Our schools especially loved exploring historical links with pilgrims of the past, but also connected strongly with nature and the gifts of creation. Also heard through the day was God's assurance that he has gifted us with all that we need for renewal and growth. As we await our new bishop's arrival in November, and grapple with many challenges, God is reassuring us of his presence and guidance.

As our Prayer Network moves into its next phase, we are hugely grateful for the incredible work of our network coordinator Barbara Wallace who has now stepped down from this role. We will miss Barbara greatly, but we're excited

for her as she moves on to develop other aspects of her ministry. We're also excited to welcome two new faces to the Team - Lyndall Bywater, who will become our new Network Coordinator and Primrose Northrop, who will develop further our Diocesan Calendar of Prayer.

Lyndall has spent most of her adult life 'employed' in prayer, and she says: "It really is the best job in the world. Whether helping to plant a Baptist church in north-western France, working with students at St Mary Bredin in Canterbury or working as the Salvation Army's National Prayer Coordinator, helping people to discover the wonder of Prayer has been my life's passion. Having worked freelance for the past 8 years, teaching prayer in all kinds of different churches and organisations, it is a real joy for me to be taking up this role with the Canterbury Diocese.

"As I've watched the Changing Lives Prayer Network start to grow, I've been inspired by

the deep currents of prayer which already run through the life of this diocese, and I've been challenged by the 'thirst for more'. It seems God is drawing us 'farther up and farther in' - to borrow one of C. S. Lewis's most famous phrases - and I'm excited to see where that adventure will take us next,



as we connect in prayer, listen to God and to one another, and ask the Spirit to equip us for growth, renewal and mission."

When not praying, preaching, or reading theology, Primrose can usually be found working hard in her studio, splattered with ink, bedaubed in paint, and covered in clay. She said: "As I start work on our Diocesan Calendar of Prayer, these words from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians came to mind: 'pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

"I think our Calendar forms one strand of this vibrant, never-ending tapestry of prayer. Through our Calendar, we can feel connected to each other in prayer; literally gathered together as a body of believers, within our Parishes, our Deaneries, and throughout our vast and sprawling Diocese!"

With Primrose and Lyndall's help, our Prayer Network will continue to seek to enable us to listen more deeply to God and one another, to connect us more fully as communities praying for renewal and growth, and equip us to pray more - and to pray more deeply.

Watch this space!



EDITORIAL

Issue 40



In this special edition we turn our attention to God's creation and our impact on planet earth. There will be facts that will alarm but this isn't about fear and despair. We hope to inspire as we share that passion to continue as caretakers of this divine nature.

In 2018 the UN Special Report on Global Warming warned we have 12 years to head off climate calamity by limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.50C. Working towards zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Atmospheric concentration of CO2 has risen by about 45% since pre-industrial times and as a consequence global average surface temperature has increased by about 1°. According to the Met Office, this level of atmospheric CO2 has not been seen for at least 800,000 years. Our feature explores Anthropocene, the Human Epoch (from p10), looking in to the effects of human-induced climate change.

Climate-related risks will disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable exacerbating current issues, particularly in Africa, Asia and low-lying islands and Christian Aid's article (p8) explains what is happening there now.

We need ambitious actions to reduce our carbon emissions, distribute the burden of mitigation equitably and to live within the ecological limits of the planet. Some are opting for a more plant-based diet to reduce their impact on resources. See how a trio of rescue chickens inspired one person to make the move to try veganism (p14).

As a diocese we're applying to take part in a national Parish Buying pilot scheme so churches can get a reduced cost energy audit so more details of that coming soon. We're also hosting an Environment Forum on Tuesday 5 November at Wye Church from 10am to discuss and share what action can and should be taken.

Lobby, act, protest and be part of this time of change. Meet the environment team from St Luke's (p18) who did just that and got a bronze Eco Church award and enjoy their top ten tips for success (p15).

Planet Earth is our life-support system, God's gift to us. Limiting global warming to 1.50C is possible, with a determined effort!

Teresa Redfern

Teresa Redfern, Diocesan Environmental Officer

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Feedback

We hope you enjoy Outlook magazine and the editor would welcome your comments: adrew@diocant.org

CONTENTS

Autumn 2019

NEWS

- 4 Our new Bishop of Dover
- 6 News from across the diocese
- 20 The Ordinands

FEATURES & VOICES

- 8 The global picture from Christian Aid
- 10 Anthropocene – a human epoch
- 14 Close Encounters
- 17 Masami writes: Sustainable Fashion
- 18 The Interview: St Luke's Green Team!

RESOURCES

- 2 Your prayer network
- 15 Eco Church top ten tips
- 16 Review: Reusable cups

WHAT'S ON

- 22 Top ten things to do in Kent: Autumn

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HEADLINES

News from across East Kent

INTRODUCING BISHOP ROSE

In June, Her Majesty the Queen approved the appointment of the Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, as the next Bishop of Dover. Rose was introduced to the Diocese by Archbishop Justin at a visit to St George's Church of England School in Broadstairs.

"I am excited to have been called to be the next bishop of Dover in the Diocese of Canterbury with its long history of Christian witness," said Rose. "I am looking forward to journeying with the people of Kent, celebrating the good work that is already happening there and working together with its religious and secular leaders to ensure that the good news of hope, love and justice remains at the heart of our changed lives together."

Rose was born and raised in Jamaica. She trained with the Church Army and was commissioned in 1982 as an Evangelist; she later trained for ordination at Queens Theological College. Having served her title in the Diocese of Lichfield, she then served as a priest in Hackney. In 2007 she was appointed as a Chaplain to Her Majesty the



Queen and in 2010, she became the first female appointed to the position of Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Welcoming the appointment, Archbishop Justin said: "Rose Hudson-Wilkin has, over the last nine years, been one of the most influential and effective ministers in the public square through her long service as Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. I have constantly been told that she has been an effective pastor in one crisis or another, especially in the last few

years. Before that she was a parish minister of great impact. She has been described as prophet, pastor and evangelist. She has challenged the Church of England over its engagement with UK minority ethnic groups, and has spoken forcefully and effectively at many evangelistic meetings."

"I am thrilled that Rose will be taking on this crucial role at a time when we seek to change more and more lives for Christ in our diocese," added Diocesan Secretary Julian Hills. "She brings a prophetic voice that will both challenge and inspire us to discern

God's will for our future. She tells the story of a loving and generous God who reaches out to all people and I have no doubt that she will be a blessing in so many different ways."

Rose will succeed the Rt Revd Trevor Willmott who retired from the role in May this year. She will be consecrated in a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 19 November and installed at Canterbury Cathedral on 30 November.

Look out for an interview with Rose in November's edition of Outlook magazine.





DELICIOUS VICTORY

The annual cookery competition Kent Is Delicious was won this year by Goodnestone Church of England Primary School. The team cooked up a storm at the County Show on Friday 5 July, producing the winning dish - The Garden Breakfast Platter. As winners they received £300 in vouchers to spend on catering or gardening projects. The runners up were Hoath Primary School, Joydens Wood School and Little Bakers who each won £100 in vouchers.



AQUILA CUP

26 June saw the first ever Aquila Cup. Supported by sports development specialist Shooting Talent Sports and organised by Aquila, the Diocese of Canterbury's Academies Trust, the football tournament saw teams of year 5 and 6 boys and girls from twelve different Diocesan primary schools go head to head to compete for the coveted Aquila Cup trophy. "A lot of planning went in to ensuring the day was brilliant for all concerned, but it was particularly good for our winners St George's Church of England Primary School, Minster" said Aquila's Head of Governance and Estates, Nick Morgan. Here's to next year's contest!



HAVING A BALL

On 17 July, the Zeal Youth Hub team took to the road for some extracurricular sporting fun. They visited Bapchild and Tonge Church of England Primary School for a game of Cage Football with year 6 students. As the name suggests, it's football played inside a cage - due to the enclosed environment, the game is faster and more dynamic, and putting greater emphasis on football technique. Youth Hub Leader Louisa Ley said, "We had an awesome day with some really fantastic footwork."



CATHEDRAL AWARD

Canterbury Cathedral are proud of its staff, community and partners whose efforts in caring for God's Earth have contributed towards its achieving A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award.

Estates Surveyor Natalie Beldin said: "We aspire to challenge how we live and work and seek to reduce our environmental impact. We are working to improve and even further reduce or offset our carbon footprint. Even the smallest changes collectively make a huge impact - whether it's reducing waste, improving recycling, the type of light bulbs we use, the plants and trees we have to encourage wildlife or where we source our energy."



A FANTASTIC FIRST

Saturday 6 July saw the first ever Open Gardens in Reading Street, Broadstairs. The initiative was sparked by local Kent Wildlife Trust award winner Linda Owen. As a community event it raised £3,041 to help refurbish St Andrew's Church hall. Around 300 people explored the gardens enjoying flowers, trees and shrubs, pots, patios and water features - even three tortoises in three different gardens. The Mayor and Mayoress of Broadstairs and St Peters joined Revd Philip Musindi enjoying the tour and speaking with residents.



SURPRISE HAVEN

Inspired by a wellbeing day run by the team at The Living Well, leaders from Birchington Church of England Primary School decided to create a haven for their school staff where they could regroup from the pressures of school and attend to their wellbeing. These leaders - without the knowledge of their colleagues - converted an unused shower into such a space. On 16 May, they invited Sarah Chapman and Hilary Hills from the Living Well to bless the space, pray for staff and declare the Haven open.



**EASTBRIDGE
CANTERBURY**

THE EASTBRIDGE AWARD SCHEME

The Award Scheme exists to provide small grants for pupils of non-fee paying schools within the local authority area of Canterbury City Council and students of Further or Higher Education who have established strong links, as a result of their studies, with the City or Diocese of Canterbury, to undertake a project which will challenge them and improve the lives of others.

Further details and an application form can be found on the web site of Eastbridge Hospital www.eastbridgehospital.org.uk or by applying to admin@eastbridgehospital.org.uk

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A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE FROM

christian
aid



By David Muir

It's happening. Right now

As I write, over 6 million people across south Asia are fighting to put their lives back together. They've been displaced from their homes and villages by flooding caused by extreme monsoon rains. As always, it's the most vulnerable such as 'low-caste' Dalit groups who've been hit the hardest. Children have been particularly affected with widespread damage to primary schools.

Yet, it's unlikely you knew about this. After all, we hear of such disasters with such increasing frequency that they no longer make much impression. But, like the proverbial frog in warming water or even the rich fool in Jesus' parable, we must pay attention to what's happening in our world before it's too late. As our emergency programme officer for South Asia said about this particular disaster; "Climate

change is making weather more extreme and more unpredictable. The poorest people are hit the hardest. The death toll continues to rise".

Hitting targets

A year ago the United Nations warned us that the world has just 12 years to limit an impending climate change catastrophe. Christian Aid believes that zero emissions target must be reached by 2045. Others say it should be even sooner. But everyone agrees that radical action must be taken right now. If we don't significantly reduce carbon emissions over the next few years, the future looks bleak for all of us. This is especially true for the global poor who, as we see in South Asia, are the most vulnerable to climate change.

Even the mango trees have died

It's almost 15 years since Christian Aid began its work on climate change - one of the first international development NGOs to make the link between poverty and the changes taking place in our climate.

In 2009 I visited the town of Kitui in Machakos, Kenya, where the rainy season had repeatedly failed. I met James, the 71 year old secretary of a community group we were working with and he told me it was the worst drought he'd ever experienced. He said; "Even the mango trees have died and I've never seen that before." James' 107 years old father, who had recently passed away, told him he too had never seen such a drought. The climate crisis is happening. Right now.

“ It's difficult to see much hope for our world. But ultimately our trust is in God ”

Christian Aid's partner organisations around the world are doing some incredible work alongside communities battling this crisis. Where violent storms have destroyed homes, we work together to 'build back better'. Sussett Enolva and her family saw their home destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan when it hit the Philippines in 2013. Our partner, ICODE, helped them build a new solar powered typhoon-resistant home. They even painted the house blue, the same colour as their church, where they had hid during the typhoon. Similar work has been done elsewhere - such as in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew, the most destructive hurricane ever recorded in the region.

The drought that contributed to the 1984 Ethiopian famine - said to have killed up to one million people - will be remembered by most. Today an innovative programme by our Ethiopian partner, BRACED, is helping communities keep up to date with weather forecasts so they can better prepare for drought. Working with local radio stations they produce and disseminate climate information to communities living in areas vulnerable to climate extremes. And it works. A 2015 drought in the Borena area affected more people than in the 1984 drought, but due to programmes such as this one, it did not claim any human lives.

The prophetic vision

In the face of depressing statistics and disaster horror stories it's difficult to see much hope for

our world. But ultimately our trust is in God, in Jesus' promises and scripture's vision of a renewed creation. We've been called to play an active part in that work of renewal. So, what can we do when it comes to climate change?

Christian Aid is supported by the prayers, generosity and action of 41 church denominations in Britain and Ireland. We help individuals and churches give voice to that prophetic vision of a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. That combined voice speaks to those who hold power and influence that can bring about global change.

Would you give your voice to speak out about climate change? It could be sending letters or emails to your MP or perhaps arranging to meet with them. It could be attending a large event such as the Time is Now mass lobby of Parliament in June where 12,000 people lobbied over 350 MPs. It could be becoming a campaign organiser in your area to help people and churches act together. Interested in any of the above? Please get in touch with me or check out the Christian Aid website.

The climate crisis is happening. Right now. We must act.

David Muir

Christian Aid Kent regional Coordinator
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ANTHROPOCENE THE AGE OF THE HUMAN

The Science part

For our special edition of Outlook, The Revd Joyce Addison takes a close look at how we have impacted on our planet and the hope that lies within us all to save it.

For the past eight years I have done my best to go for a swim on Wednesday mornings. The routine is always the same. I swim, shower, grab a plastic bag for my swimwear and then look forward to a coffee. However, on this particular Wednesday, things were different. After my shower, I reached for the plastic bag as usual, only to find the container had been replaced with a notice stating that the decision had been taken to no longer provide single-use plastic bags.....I felt a sudden sense of profound loss. A small part of my personal life had changed forever. As trivial as this is, it was for me a defining moment. I realized that even here, in this most insignificant of places, the impact of human activities on the environment were being felt. Welcome to the Anthropocene, the age of the Human!

What exactly is the Anthropocene? In the year 2000, geoscientists Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer wrote an article in which they detailed some of the ways human beings create stress on our Earth's systems through activities such as the rapid and

intense burning of fossil fuels, the transformation of land primarily through deforestation, and the depletion of the oceans by mass mechanized fishing. In light of these and many other significant and still growing activities, the two scientists proposed naming the current geological era, the 'anthropocene.' For the first time in Earth's history, human beings have become the chief geological force.

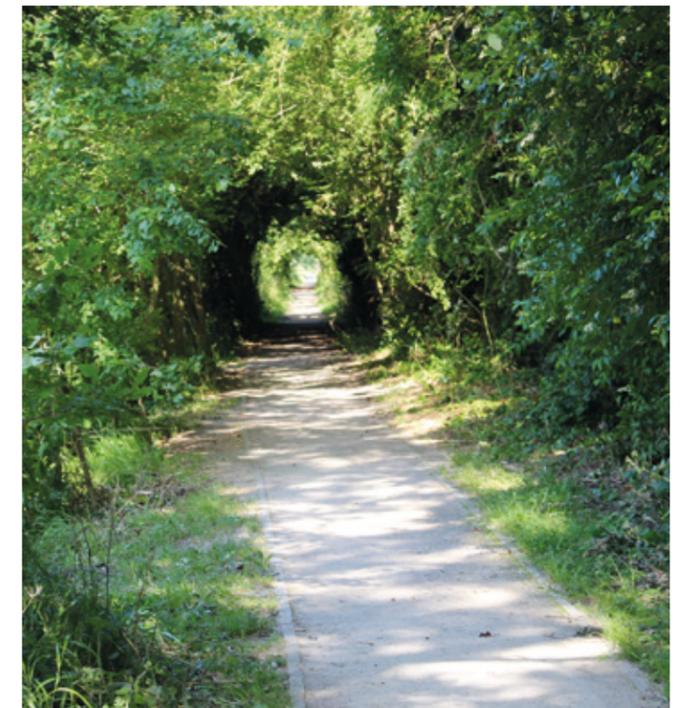
“ You cannot have healthy people on a sick planet ”

In 2003 Crutzen and American chemist Will Steffen noted an acceleration, a marked change in the human-nature relationship since 1950 due to activities such as nuclear weapons testing. It was from this period that '... human activities rapidly changed from merely influencing the global environment in some ways to dominating it in many ways'. They concluded with the hope that the

future of the Anthropocene will be characterised by responsible stewardship of our planet. What cannot be disputed is our domination of the non-human world and our failure to realize that all life systems on this planet, including the human species, are interconnected and interdependent. As Thomas Berry says, 'Interconnectedness shows us how we are totally dependent upon the health of the wider community of life for our own health. Our wellbeing and health are inextricably linked to our planet's ecological health. You cannot have healthy people on a sick planet.'

Fast-forward to 2019. What does the Anthropocene look like now? One way of answering this question is to go back to the summer of 2018. Heat records were broken in North America, Japan, Hong Kong, Asia, Europe, and Australia resulting in water shortages, droughts, and power outages. Forest fires burned across Europe, California, Canada, and even inside the Arctic Circle. The worst monsoon floods in a hundred years killed over 325 people in Kerala, India.

In Canada, melting glaciers were reported, with one spokesperson saying, "What I saw when I was measuring was 100 percent of glaciers retreating. They all retreated. Nothing is growing." The same refrain was being repeated by many UK farmers during the heatwave, "Nothing is growing." In August 2018 the Arctic's oldest and thickest sea ice an area referred to by scientists as 'the last ice area' - a place 'safe' from global warming - broke up for



the first time. This extreme summer weather was followed in October by a proliferation of reports alerting the world to the environmental catastrophe and its consequences for the planet. The key report, however, came from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. They are warning us that there are only twelve years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, in order to mitigate the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.



ANTHROPOCENE THE AGE OF THE HUMAN

The Love part

Enough is enough. On 2 May 2019 the UK became the first country in the world to declare an environment and climate emergency. In the same month Kent County Council followed suit. Finally, on 12 June Theresa May committed the UK to a legally binding 'net zero' emissions target by 2050. In the midst of this crisis emerged two prophetic voices - the 16-year old Swedish schoolgirl activist Greta Thunberg and our own Sir David Attenborough. Separated by 75 years, both say the same thing:

"Climate change is real, we are the cause of it and we need to take action within the next decade to avoid irreversible damage to the natural world, and the collapse of our societies."

This is life in the Anthropocene: its chief characteristic is apocalyptic, and its key word is 'dominion.'

“ **When we look at the Anthropocene through the eyes of Christ the Good Shepherd everything changes** ”

Christians are familiar with the word 'dominion'. It underpins the primal biblical command to care for creation. We are called to 'have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' (Gen 1:26). Many however, have used this term to exploit nature to the full. Writing in his book *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis states, 'We have continued to live the lie that the earth has an infinite supply of renewable goods, energy and resources which are ours for the taking, and taking without any need for restraint.' However, he asserts that this is a misinterpretation of the Bible as understood by the Church. Many other theologians agree, saying that when the Scriptures are read rightly, we find God calls humankind into a relationship with creation that is very different to the one we have adopted today.

Where do we find hope in such a context? Surprisingly, I find it in the very word 'dominion,' when using the perspective and interpretation of theologian Walter Brueggemann. In his commentary on Genesis 1:26-28 he writes:

The dominance is that of a shepherd who cares for, tends and feeds the animals ... Thus, the task of "dominion" does not have to do with exploitation and abuse ... It is the task of the shepherd not to control but to lay down his life for the sheep (John 10:11). The human person is ordained over the remainder of creation but for its profit, well-being and enhancement.

When we look at the Anthropocene through the eyes of Christ the Good Shepherd, everything changes:

- We return repeatedly to the biblical mandate to care for God's creation - and in so doing become again both earth-keepers and people-keepers;
- Our language and practices become more holistic and global as we include God's creation in our church life and activities. We pray for all of God's creation. We become planetary stewards. We safeguard both human beings and the non-human world. We adopt more sustainable practices. Mission and worship include creation care.
- We find again our prophetic voice in society as we work with other like-minded organisations to protect God's beautiful world.

Christians have a significant role to play in tackling this environmental crisis given our faith, our presence in every community and the social connectivity of congregations. We also have a tool at our disposal to help us navigate the Anthropocene – the Eco Church survey. Here at St. Martin's, it has transformed our understanding of environmental issues and our attitude towards it. This has led to an outward-looking perspective with creation care becoming a powerful way for us to engage in mission. The survey's impact continues with the development of our Maidstone Deanery Environment group (see p18). Most of our deanery's churches have now registered as an Eco Church and have either completed or are in the process of completing the survey. A small step to make a massive difference.



We can see changes in our congregations – it's a very exciting, inspiring and uplifting time.

Then there is the Anglican Communion's 'Fifth Mark of Mission' that we can aspire to: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. This is a priority and we must take action now. In her acceptance speech, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Wangari Maathai stressed this urgency, which she links to sustainable development, democracy and peace:

"Activities that devastate the environment and societies continue unabated. Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and, in the process, heal our own – indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder. This will happen if we see the need to revive our sense of belonging to a larger family of life, with which we have shared our evolutionary process. In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now."

These words are just as relevant today. Why the rush to take action? Because we do not want our young to live in a world that is more impoverished than the one we have enjoyed ourselves. As Johan Rockstrom, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research comments, 'Our generation has a unique opportunity. If we set our minds to it, we could be the first in human history to leave our children nothing: no greenhouse-gas emissions, no poverty, and no biodiversity loss.'

So, what will be the outcome of the Anthropocene? That is down to us.

CLOSE HENCOUNTERS



We are repeatedly told that cutting down on meat and dairy is not only good for the planet but good for our own health too. We know these things in our heads but, as Nadine Miller writes, change only really becomes possible when we know it in our hearts...

On my desk I have a photo of my three rather glamorous hens – Albert, Welford and Maude. On the day we met they didn't appear quite so fabulous. The girls looked as though we had collected them from a supermarket chiller cabinet.

So bare, so fragile - but now so free.

Thanks to the British Hen Welfare Trust our family had increased in number, and as we drove home from the collection point I was full of dread as we'd been warned that it was unlikely they'd all survive the night.

Back home was when I truly saw them for the first time and, dear reader, I fell in love. I had expected them to carry the horror of their formative year with them. But no - just curiosity, adventure and love. It was then I began my journey from veggie to vegan.

It was a decision born of love - so that made it easier for me to make those crucial lifestyle changes. But

I still struggle.

Sometimes simply being vegetarian is a challenge. That Sunday roast resting on the side waiting to be carved. Crackling glistening, juices trickling slowly down, releasing their delicious aroma...and it's just me in the kitchen. Just me and this succulent pork joint (who would know?!) If I said I walked away every time, head held high and not the faintest hint of gravy on my breath then I would be a liar.

But I try.

As we enter the season of creation, it's the perfect time to consider our relationship with animals. Are we 'good shepherds'?

How, when and where we consume animals and how they feature in the food chain has changed immeasurably over the past few decades – and that makes the 'journey back' all the more challenging.

I remember the family Sunday roast being a big deal. An event. The meat we ate was expensive, from the butcher along the way. And it wasn't the last we'd see of that joint either. Monday leftovers would be served with some onions, gravy and mash, Tuesday it would reappear in pie form. On Wednesday spice would be involved and by Thursday (and on its last knockings) some sort of stew or soup. As a culture we don't do that anymore. We want to be able to buy what we want whenever we want, at the cheapest price possible - nuggets at 3am!

Our farmers find their profit margins disappearing as the consumer reigns supreme. It seems odd to me that you can buy two frozen chickens for £5 when my three girls were able to go

through £10 a week in greens and fresh sweetcorn alone. The maths simply do not add up.

For me there are lots of things at play here but what I can change I do.

What is odd to me is that the happier I am, the more vegan I am. The closer I am to feeling that love, the easier this decision seems. There are so many questions we find ourselves tied up in knots: vegetables flown in from across the world or meat from Kent? Bottles of milk from the local dairy or plastic cartons of soy milk sourced from the other side of the globe? Train? Plane? Car share... arrrghh!!!

I know I am lucky to have these first world problems and I know I am privileged to be able to make shopping decisions based on ethics. But it can all feel overwhelming. So I'm doing what I can, while I figure out the rest. I'm doing what makes sense to my heart as well as my head.

It is love and not fear that makes me strive to change.

We all have that love within us and - when we find it - we somehow know what we need to do next. The capacity we have for compassion can be staggering, our innovation breath-taking. In each of us, there is a spark.

Just don't be surprised if it's a chicken that helps you find it.



ECO CHURCH IN 10 EASY STEPS



Maidstone Deanery's Environment Group have put together "Eco Church in 10 easy steps"...so what's stopping you now?

- 1 Visit the Eco Church website www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
- 2 Talk to your Vicar for support and approval to register your church
- 3 Find others to join you on your church's Eco Church journey
- 4 Discuss Eco Church with your PCC and obtain their approval and support
- 5 Register your church online - no pressure to do anything else
- 6 Meet with others who are also on the Eco Church journey
- 7 Print survey. Review questions. Ask others for help.
- 8 Answer the questions online as best you can and plan what else you might do. SUBMIT!
- 9 Ask your Vicar to promote God's creation from the front.
- 10 Celebrate your award



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REUSABLE CUPS

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES FOR TOGETHER KENT, VAL WALLIS, LOOKS AT WHAT'S BREWING IN THE WORLD OF REUSABLE CUPS...

I am sure there are many people that, like me, get wound up about the number of non-reusable cups that are used. Whether it be at a take away coffee bar or at an event or conference every bin you pass is full of what eventually is going to become land fill rubbish.

There are many reusable cups on the market of varying designs and sizes. I have tried just three different ones of the many on offer.



My first choice was one from Lakeland. A reusable cup made of rice husk. This contains no plastic. And when the time comes to part with it this is totally biodegradable. It is dishwasher safe and can be used in the microwave. It comes in several designs which are easy on the eye. It will hold 400ml of fluid at a cost of £9.99.

This was a very sturdy cup and stood without you feeling it would wobble. There is a very good heat proof cuff around it which makes it easy to hold when containing hot liquids. I found it totally spill proof, although I did choose my moment to try that dangerous test! The lid was easy to get on and off which certainly gives it a few extra marks from me. It also did not leave the drink with any lingering taste. In all a good buy.



The second one I tried was from Robert Dyas. This also was £9.99 and came in two sizes 345mls and 500mls and two colours, blue and a rather purply pink shade. The larger size was £12.99. These cups have the added (or perhaps not) advantage of being collapsible. This contains no plastic and states that it can be recycled but is not bio-degradable. It came, thank goodness, with instruction of how to fold it down. I'm not trying to say it was difficult but it took a couple of tries. It passed the non-spill test very satisfactorily. Perhaps not quite as sturdy as the non-folding cups but I didn't sit there waiting for it to topple. The heat proof cuff was good and this is also dishwasher safe and can be used in the microwave. There was no taste detectable in the drink. The plus factor for me was that it could be tucked in a handbag, brief case or even a pocket which probably means you would be inclined to take it with you more often. Which, if you are really serious about carrying a reusable cup with you whenever possible this would defiantly tick that box.

The third choice was a cup from Waitrose. I only saw one design and it was on offer at £7.99 when I purchased it. This reports to contain no plastic but is not biodegradable. This held 350 mls. It was not dishwasher proof and did not say it could be used in the microwave. This was very sturdy with an extremely firm heat proof cuff that made it very easy to hold. The one huge disadvantage to this one was that it did not have a spill proof top but a spout to drink out of. The top was not that easy to get off when filled with hot fluid if you did not want to drink through the spout. Probably not my favorite as even if you don't want to drink on the move any dregs left in the cup could make a mess and if in your brief case with papers really could make following an agenda item interesting!



SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Masami writes

Climate change and many environmental issues have come to the headlines in recent years. Often, we hear about the negative impact of plastic-use, cars, and the decrease in trees. But how often do we hear about the clothing industry's impact on our planet?

10% of global carbon emissions is from the clothing industry, and it is the second largest industrial polluter, after oil. Fast fashion is the rapid production of clothes inspired by recent style trends, sold at affordable prices for the average consumer. The mass production of clothes which are sold, worn for a short time, and then thrown away at such a fast rate has terrible effects, as shown in documentaries such as 'Fashion's Dirty Secrets' (Stacey Dooley, BBC Three).

However, there are ways in which we can still enjoy fashion while being kinder to our planet. Environmental sustainability is "the quality of causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore being able to continue for a long time" (Cambridge Dictionary). So, sustainable fashion – or slow fashion – is the less harmful way to approach clothing and fashion. I'm no expert and I'll always be learning, but these are some ways in which I am trying to increase sustainable fashion within my lifestyle.

SUSTAINABLE BRANDS

There are clothing brands that choose to manufacture in better ways. Brands I have purchased from are Lucy & Yak, Hundred Club, Something More and Jilla but there are many others! Although I love these brands, I find that good quality products produced ethically can be expensive to buy regularly. There are other ways I get my clothes as well.



T-shirt from Lucy & Yak

CHARITY SHOPS

As well as supporting charities, and it being budget-friendly, we can increase the lifetime of clothing items. This is sustainability. We can also donate our own clothes. It can take time to find items that I like in charity shops, but I have definitely found some!



Shirt from Pilgrims Hospice

CLOTHES PASSED ON

My cousin and older friends of mine used to pass on to me the clothes they grew out of. It was always so exciting, and it made me very happy! When I grew out of my clothes, I passed some of them on to friends. A lot of the clothes I wear now come from my mum too! She has some great gems from twenty-plus years ago!



My mum's old t-shirt from the '90s

I buy clothes from fast fashion brands too (high street brands). In my opinion it's okay to do so, because sometimes you can't find all that you're looking for, in more sustainable fashion options. But as much as possible, when I can, I want to choose slow fashion over fast fashion.

Sustainable fashion is our way forward.

Masami Iliffe is a 15-year-old student from The Archbishop's School. She is part of The City Church in Canterbury.



THE GREEN TEAM

Interview: Clare Taylor & Alison Riggs

Think Eco Church and the thoughts of good intentions melt away as surveys, questionnaires, reports and hours stuck in front of a computer hove into view.

Maidstone St Luke's Environment Officers Clare Taylor (above) and Alison Riggs will be the first to agree there's some fact finding and forms to be done. But, as their Bronze award attests, it's a bigger and better journey than you'd expect.

The pair of dynamic volunteers have both long held an interest in the planet and climate change and when their vicar approached them to join in the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, it was an easy yes from them both. They recognised the survey would be a very helpful tool, to audit the current situation at the church and suggest potential improvements.

Clare explains: "The form is not scary, it just needs to be worked through, logically, one question at a time or one group of questions at a time."

"What has helped, is our local group meetings with other churches working towards Eco Church awards because they will inspire us with an idea and we think, 'yes, we could do that'. Also, the more time the organiser has and the more of a people

person they are then the more they can include, motivate others and get things done quicker. It does really help if your vicar is onside" agrees Alison.

"We were blessed as our vicar came to us not the other way around." Says Clare: "It can be a bit daunting being a lone voice taking it all on your own. Work as a team. We had some people come to speak to us about helping and it's finding the time to revitalise that passion. The group has been really helpful and that got us over the line as I think meeting up with other churches is really important. As sometimes you can get bogged down in the detail."

Doing the survey is not all building and bills either. It goes a little deeper with a whole section about services and worship and inviting speakers on environmental topics.

Clare said; "We didn't go into the minute details of that, we knew we'd been to a service that had covered that in the last 12 months – so tick!"

"It's the first step in the survey because they [A Rocha] want it to be coming from the front, it's no good if it's just two people standing at the back of the church saying, 'oh, we need to do this folks'" continues Alison "You've got to have your vicar, or someone



else, up front and out there explaining the Christian side of looking after the environment and why it's so relevant to the church, as well as the world in general.

"It is important and if your vicar isn't up on that topic then there are lots of speakers who you can invite. A Rocha have a network of volunteer speakers and other charities often do too."

Working towards your first award is a journey that takes in everyone explains Alison: "The changes aren't just by us. We found people in the congregation were making changes that counted. For us day to day it doesn't involve a huge amount of time.

"We write a monthly blog for our website (www.stlukes.org.uk/) and then it's actually when in church, keeping an eye on the recycling bins and checking that they have the right things in and looking out for small changes we can make.

"The big push was recording enough to get to bronze. Mostly we found that it was things we'd already done and it was just recording that fact and finding those few little changes that we needed so we could get enough points.

"We found the church made some changes to save money that ticked boxes on our survey form, like we stopped using disposable cups and started washing-up mugs to save buying the cups when we'd been wanting to stop using the cups for green reasons." (see the review p16)

Clare adds "Someone at church twinned our toilets (www.toilettwinning.org), another unwitting Eco Church tick!"

And it doesn't stop there either as Clare said: "I was very inspired by St Martin's as they talk about the ripple effect that has happened there.

"I am not sure we see it as much at St Luke's at the moment, as we didn't really make any massive changes to get the bronze award. I think our next step is to try to generate that by further options being discussed at PCC and having that switch for something

different, it needs to be discussed. "The fact that St Martin's changed all their lightbulbs in their church building, for example, clearly had an effect on the thought process of the congregation, they thought, 'if the church can do this, maybe I can change my traditional light bulbs too'"

Together with the support of their church, the duo has achieved an awful lot and plan to do more. What drives them on?

Clare replies: "I remember as a child looking out of window and thinking there was more behind the beauty and wonder I could see. I discovered church and later faith. I've always looked out in that way, I look out to always see and discover more.

"I don't think there was ever a time when I thought we shouldn't be recycling and taking care of the world. It is my understanding of

what that means that is growing all the time and how it's linked to my faith in church that's probably better understood now than it's ever been in the past. And that can always grow as well.

"It's about that bigger picture and how people interact with the environment around them. We're here to nurture each other as well as creation."

And Alison agrees: "The reason for doing it is outside us, we are caretakers of God's creation. Climate change does impact those more vulnerable than us more. Our wider church can spread news from those places that are really suffering to raise that awareness. It's better than feeling helpless, you are at least trying to minimise your impacts, so give it a go!"

For more information about Eco Church go to: www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



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CANTERBURY ORDINATIONS 2019

On Saturday 30 June, 15 men and women were ordained at Canterbury Cathedral.

Teachers, a nurse, farm manager and songwriter joined football and Dungeons and Dragons fans as those being ordained at the service that was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby.

The eight deacons and seven priests were ordained and will take up posts across the diocese. You can read more about the new deacons at www.canterburydiocese.org/newrevs.

Archbishop Justin said: "We all share the journey of which ordination is part, so it was a source of great joy to me to be with our ordinands as they began their lifetime of service in the clergy and to their communities.

"It is a lifetime dedicated to love, God's love. To celebrate in worship, to comfort those in crisis and to find where that love is needed most."



Deacon Michael Darkins
The Wantsum Benefice



Deacon Jacky Darling
The Lydd Benefice



Deacon Lesley Hardy Eastry & Woodnesborough Benefice



Deacon Beverley Hervé Sainte Marie du Castel & St Matthew Cobo



Deacon John Huffman Holy Trinity Margate



Deacon Stephen O'Connor Walmer & Cornilo Benefice



Deacon Bruce Watson Kingsnorth & Shadoxhurst



Deacon Simeon Nevell The Six



Revd Peter Bone St Laurence in Thanet



Revd Andrew Brown Ashford Town



Revd Cat Darkins Herne



Revd Sandra Marsh Eastry & Woodnesborough



Revd Jeanette Kennett Tenterden, Rother & Oxney



Revd Rob Tugwell Whitstable



Revd Hannah Thomson Canterbury St Martin & St Paul



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TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN KENT

Autumn events

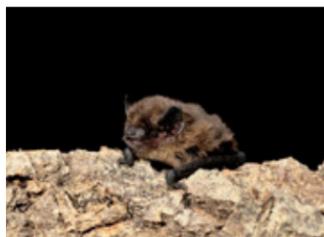
1. HOP HOODENING

The diocese's 63rd annual celebration of the hop harvest. Hops that are blessed during the service are distributed to the good people of the city by the Hop Queen and her Princesses, accompanied by a dozen dancing Morris Teams.

Saturday 14 September, 11am to 12.15pm, Canterbury Cathedral and Precincts

2. THE DIVERSITY OF BATS

Kent Bat Group is hosting an evening called "The Diversity of Bats: An Exploration of Form and Function".



It's an opportunity to learn more about the little creature to whom a great many of us are accidental neighbours. For more information about bats and churches please go to www.bats.org.uk and search 'church'. The talk will be in **Thursday 28 November at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way, Lenham, ME17 2QT from 7:30pm**. It is open to everyone with a suggested donation of £3 to help meet running costs.

Photo credit: Common pipistrelle: © Hugh Clark/www.bats.org.uk

3. FIDELIS CHAMBER CHOIR ANNUAL CONCERT

Wine will be on sale – all proceeds to the Friends of St Margaret's Church. Tickets £10 – call 01233 820989 or email brushwood1@hotmail.co.uk to book.

Saturday 21 September, 7pm, St Margaret's Church, Bethersden, TN26 3BT

4. SEEING OUR ECONOMY DIFFERENTLY

The annual Kent Workplace Mission Conference – a day to help chaplains and local

Church leaders look at the economy in a way that isn't available elsewhere and link these issues to the practicalities of their own ministries. Drinks will be provided but please bring your lunch. Free to attend – book online via kentworkplacemission.org.

Saturday 21 September, 10am - 4pm, Bluewater, Greenhithe, DA9 9RE

5. ECO-HARVEST ON THE HEATH

This Waypoint event hosted by four Maidstone Churches invites you to explore how to be a greener, more environmentally aware community. There will be fun activities and competitions with opportunities to discover new ideas and products that can help us live more sustainable, healthy lifestyles. A partnership between Maidstone Family Church, the Salvation Army, St Paul's Church and St Luke's Church.

Saturday 21 September, 1pm – 4pm, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, ME14 2DQ

6. THE BIG FRIENDLY SING

All are invited to join a rehearsal and performance of Handel's Messiah, conducted by David Flood. It is essential for singers



to book in advance – email friends@canterbury-cathedral.org for a booking form. Family and friends can attend the performance for £10 (children free) – call 01227 865292 to book.

Saturday 28 September, 10am – 7pm, (6pm - performance only), Canterbury Cathedral.

7. FROM JERUSALEM TO ROME

A fast moving political thriller based on the adventures of St Paul as related in The Acts of the Apostles, directed by Tony Boyd-Williams.

Originally staged in Stratford-upon-Avon as part of the celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, it features a 30-strong cast in scenes that reflect events from today's world. Tickets £8 (reductions for concessions and students) email sue.sawyer@ashfordchurches.co.uk or call 01233 336079 to book.

Friday 18 October (7:30pm) and Saturday 19 October (2:30pm), St Mary's Church, Ashford, TN23 1QG

8. DOMESTIC ABUSE: SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Joint training event between the Diocese and the Cathedral, including theological input from senior clergy, as well as speakers from Kent police and local domestic abuse support services. An essential module for anyone holding the Bishop's Licence, Spiritual Directors, Pastoral Visitors and Safeguarding Officers. Book via canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/training.

Friday 1 November, 9:30am - 4pm, The Claggett Auditorium, Canterbury, CT1 2EH

9. WORKING TOGETHER

Our annual Safeguarding Conference, will include contributions from Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager for Kent County Council Nick Wilkinson and Peter Campbell on Human Trafficking, who will address many issues affecting our communities in Kent. Book from the end of August via canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding.

Saturday 2 November, 9:30am – 3:30pm, St Mary Bredin, Canterbury, CT1 3JN

10. ENVIRONMENT FORUM

All are welcome to come and discuss what we can do locally to tackle global warming and climate change. We'll learn together about clean air initiatives, alternative energy, lifestyle changes and much more. Free to attend, but please email Karen Adams to book your place (kadams@diocant.org).

Tuesday 5 November, St Gregory & St Martin's Church, Wye, TN25 5ES, 10am -4pm

Want your event listed on our website? Submit it at www.canterburydiocese.org/submit
For a full list of events, visit www.canterburydiocese.org/events

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PRAYER

**All powerful God, you are present in
the whole of your universe**

and in the smallest of your creatures.

**You embrace with your tenderness all that
exists.**

**Pour upon us the power of your love that
we may love the whole world as you do, care
for the most vulnerable within it and live
lives that give hope to the planet and all your
people.**

**Through Jesus Christ who gave of himself that
we might give of ourselves.**

Amen

*Prayer by the Archdeacon of Maidstone,
The Ven Stephen Taylor*

