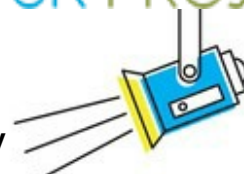


'Caring for God's World'

Spotlight on All Saints' services in June and July



'What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions?' *James 2:14a [NLT]*

David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg, Archbishop Justin, Pope Francis, President Joe Biden, Prince William, the UK Government, the European Union, the United Nations, Christian Aid, Tearfund, RSPB, WWF, and many more ... It seems that virtually every day there's someone in the news talking about the climate emergency and the environmental crisis on our planet.

And no wonder. Human societies are so numerous and so powerful that human actions are now the main force shaping the world we live in. And the future of life on earth is in human hands.

We must act now to head off the worst effects of global heating (2011–2020 was the hottest decade on record) and to reverse the destruction of nature (1 million species are currently threatened with extinction). This is a job for governments and national leaders working together to care for our common home. But it's also a job for every single one of us.

So as part of All Saints' commitment to become an Eco Church, all our services in June and July will be about '**Caring for**

God's World' – including the Bible readings, talks and sermons. This will give us a chance to reflect on how our Creator God wants us to live in relationship with the rest of creation, to learn more about the impact of human activities on the environment, and – above all – to decide what actions we want to take to change things for the better.

Each week we'll look at a different topic:

- ☑ **Week 1 (6th June):**
God's Creation – Our Responsibility
- ☑ **Week 2 (13th June):**
What on Earth are we doing?
- ☑ **Week 3 (20th June):**
Caring for Land and Waters
- ☑ **Week 4 (27th June):**
Caring for Living Creatures
- ☑ **Week 5 (4th July):**
Caring for Climate – 'Climate Sunday'
- ☑ **Week 6 (11th July):**
Caring for Communities
- ☑ **Week 7 (18th July):**
People who Care
- ☑ **Week 8 (25th July):**
Nations who Care

On 'Climate Sunday' 4th July we are aiming to hold a Worship Together service

outdoors in the churchyard, weather permitting, where we can hear from children and young people about their views on the climate emergency, their fears and hopes for the planet, and what they themselves are doing about it. This promises to be really inspiring, and it will be the first opportunity for the Sunday Special and traditional church congregations to 'worship together' since September, which will be wonderful.

As Nicky Morecroft wrote in the Eco Church article for January's 'in touch', caring for God's world is our responsibility, but it is also an opportunity and a joy. Living in a close relationship with the whole of creation, involved with and cherishing the amazing world with which God has blessed us, is rewarding and deeply fulfilling, because this is how God intends us to live. We hope that our services in June and July will help us – do join us if you can.

Roger McFarland

To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish.



This month's eco suggestions

- **Compost or recycle garden waste, and avoid having bonfires**
- **Enjoy some vegetarian meals, and eat less meat and dairy food**

