

“Love Your Springfield”

Guard what has been entrusted to your care. *1 Timothy 6:20a*

On a lovely sunny afternoon, hundreds of people from the local community and the church came to enjoy All Saints’ first ever ‘Love Your Springfield’ event on Saturday 25th May.

Organised in partnership with Mark Smith from the City Council’s ‘Love Your Chelmsford’ (LYC) team, the whole afternoon was focused on practical things we can do to look after our environment. It was advertised in advance with eye-catching giant litter sculptures in the churchyard, reminding us that these days ‘litter is no small problem’!



Litter is no small problem!

There were stalls with huge displays of pre-loved toys, games, books and puzzles looking for a new home in return for a



Mark prepares the recycling goal for action

voluntary donation. Children enjoyed taking aim at the special recycling football goal, getting down to earth making wildflower seed bombs and planting seeds, and trying their hand at a range of craft and colouring activities.

Mary’s excellent homemade jams were on sale, to the relief of all those who needed to re-stock their cupboards. There was a Fairtrade stall selling a wide range of tempting fairly-traded goods including the aptly-named Divine chocolate! And throughout the afternoon we were able to relax and chat with friends over a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee together with oh-so-delicious pieces of cake.

Three environmental talks were given by

the LYC team. Mark talked to us about 'Recycling in Chelmsford', explaining the scale of the operation and the advantages of separate collections in raising recycling rates and getting a better quality of recycled materials that can be made into new products. He gave us ten top tips to help us with our own recycling efforts.



Amelia begins her environmental talk

Amelia then spoke about 'Composting – getting the right mix', highlighting the benefits of composting at home, for us and for the environment. Instead of creating more waste which has to be collected and processed, filling a home compost container creates a great soil improver which we can use in our gardens. Amelia told us about the things we can compost at home, like cardboard, egg shells, and shredded paper as well as all our vegetable waste.

Josh talked about 'Food Sustainability and

the '5for5 Challenge'. It's much better for the environment – and our purses – if we buy local, seasonal produce and keep food waste to a minimum. Josh gave us some good ideas on how to make full use of food leftovers in some great recipes, and invited us to take part in LYC's '5for5 Challenge' – make a meal with five ingredients costing £5, and enter it into a competition to win an air fryer!

There's lots more useful information about these and other environmental topics in LYC's videos – see <https://loveyourchelmsford.co.uk/green-living/video-gallery>.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make 'Love Your Springfield' such a success. Special thanks to Mark, Amelia and Josh from the LYC team, to all those who helped on the day, to all the delicious cake-makers and those who donated pre-loved items, and to everyone who came along to support us. The event also raised nearly £700 for church funds – we are very grateful.

Chris & 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, Ann Salmon.

This month's eco suggestions

- Buy food which has **less packaging** (particularly **less plastic**) and, instead of clingfilm, use **wax wraps**
- **Support charities** who care for the environment, and **campaign** for climate action

More pictures of 'Love Your Springfield'



Josh explains 'The 5for5 Challenge'



Ready to explode - making seed bombs



Spoilt for choice! Just some of the pre-loved items on offer



Councillors Natacha Dudley and Richard Lee point out the benefits of composting



Everyone is enjoying the refreshments