

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD

18th JULY 2021 – SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

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in touch for JULY is available in church and online

TODAY

Caring for God's World

Week 7: People who care

Available from 8.00am

Holy Communion on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/rj0az0Gyz3s>

president: The Revd Mike Ashton

preacher: Dave Gauld

readings: Colossians 1:9-15

Matthew 6:25-33

10.30am Morning Prayer in church

preacher: Dave Gauld

readings: Colossians 1:9-15

Matthew 6:25-33

Starting live at 10.30am

Sunday Special Holy Communion on Zoom

People join the service as a Zoom video conference. If you would like to be 'invited' to future 'Virtual Sunday Specials', please email vic.leverett@gmail.com
president: The Rector

Eco Church Bronze Award: We are delighted to announce that All Saints' Springfield has received a Bronze Award in A Rocha's Eco Church scheme, recognising our commitment to prayer and action to care for the environment and life on earth,

- through our church services and communications,
- through the way church buildings and the churchyard are managed,
- through engaging with the local community and in global campaigns, and
- through our own personal lifestyles.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us to achieve this award, which is an important milestone on our Eco Church journey, and let's see what more we can all do to take better care of God's world.

Outdoor Sunday Special: Exciting news! On Sunday 25th July and for the whole of August, Sunday Special will meet in the churchyard outside the Hall, starting at the usual time of 10.30 am, for a fun service with live music and singing! Please bring your own chairs if you can. Sunday Special is for everyone - no need to book, but please make sure we have your email so that we can send you advance information about each week's activities: vic.leverett@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

We21 10.00am Holy Communion in church
7.30pm Ministry Team meets on Zoom

Su 25 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Week 8: Nations who care

From 8.00am Holy Communion on YouTube

president: The Rector

preacher: Robin Stevens

10.30am Holy Communion in church

president: The Rector

preacher: Robin Stevens

10.30am Outdoor Sunday Special

leaders: Roger & Chris McFarland

For your prayers:

Those who are unwell: Ron Smith, Jonathan Thompson, Nikki Mallett, Peggy Mann, Rosemary Tufnell, Lesley and John Mann, Roy Alexander, Vic and Toni Lawrence, Doreen Cornish, Margaret Yallop, Marina Wood, Eric Probert and Margaret Monk.

Those who have been bereaved: The family and friends of Margaret Shaw.

From the Christians Together in Chelmsford Prayer Rota: We pray for All Saints Church, Writtle, and the Revd Tony Cant.

Prayers by the Cross: As part of our current focus on loving God's Creation, we are holding a service of Morning Prayer by the plastic bottles cross at 8:30am every weekday morning. The service lasts about twenty minutes and includes an opportunity for us all to contribute our personal prayers for the planet and on other matters of concern. Please do join us.

Leaving gift for Revd Simon: You may have seen in the June magazine that we are planning a presentation to Revd Simon in September. If you would like to contribute you can give cash or a cheque to a churchwarden, or make a bank transfer using the church bank account (20-19-95 00863572 Springfield All Saints PCC) but please do include the reference 'SPearce'. *Many thanks – Barbara & Nicola*

Guidance on the way forward: We are told, "It is likely, that whilst many legal restrictions will be lifted [in July], there will continue to be Government guidance, including some guidance for places of worship. The Church of England will also publish its own guidance relating to the Government guidance." If this allows us to open up the church more, or return to a more normal way of working, we will let you know.

Caring for God's World – Week 7

'People who care' – Dave Gauld

Matthew 6:25-33

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

In today's Gospel reading, from Matthew, Jesus tells us not to worry about our personal needs, but tells us to seek out and work for the Kingdom of God and to reflect his righteous love to the world. What does this mean in our lives? Firstly, we need to trust in Him, who is to be relied on for all our needs. Secondly, we need to play our part in enabling others to have the things that they need to sustain life, and to flourish: food, water, clean air, shelter and clothes. When we look at the creation stories in Genesis chapter 1 we are reminded that after God created the world he looked and “saw that it was good”. The creator formed a complex and beautiful world and put man on the earth to “till it and keep it”. In the second reading Paul's prayer for us is to be given knowledge, wisdom and strength to lead lives worthy of God. We are reminded that Jesus was the creator of all things on earth, in the sea and in the air and that we are charged with looking after it so that God can continue to see that it is good.

When we look at the world today, we see that although humans are very adaptable and creative, like our creator, we are always wanting more and, frequently, do not realise, or accept, the negative impacts of our activities. These range from truly global such as the high consumption of fossil fuels to the localised damage from inappropriate rubbish disposal. Fossil fuels create local impact at the fuel extraction sites where inadequate provision of facilities for handling “spoil” and contaminated water create pollution and the global impact on the world's climate is only now being recognised and accepted. We are hearing more and more about the way that changes to the climate are resulting in violent storms and flooding in some parts of the world and at the same time extended drought, creating famine, in other areas. Similarly, the disposal of our unwanted packaging and goods can cause damaging environmental pollution, not only locally but also on the far side of the world. From this country we export large quantities of recyclable plastic for processing in third world countries without guarantees that the facilities there are sufficient. When the facilities are unable to cope with the quantity or quality of the material it is simply dumped in poorly controlled landfill, causing danger and pollution. The people who suffer the most from this situation are those who use very little of the earth's resources and, because they have so little, use these very carefully. We on the

other hand have many possessions and an apparently insatiable demand for energy, causing pollution of all kinds.

In the face of this difficult situation what can we do? It all seems too much for us, acting individually, to make a difference, but if enough of us are involved huge improvements can be made. A simple search on the internet will show us what others are doing to reduce pollution and help the climate crisis. I was attracted by a list “8-lazy-ways-be-environmentally-friendly”, published by Friends of the Earth. Although I don't necessarily agree with all of the ideas, and at least one essential is missing, it was interesting to read what they had to say. Here are some of them.

Save water. Don't wash the dishes/clothes.

Washing small quantities is less efficient in water usage (and the energy used in heating it) so try to fill your dishwasher, washing machine or bowl when you are doing the cleaning up.

Stop plastic waste, Avoid plastic packaging.

Takeaway food and drink often come in plastic food containers with disposable utensils. Much supermarket food comes packaged in single use packaging. When you buy loose produce you are minimising plastic waste, and this message is getting through to the retailers, so that they are offering no or reduced packaging options.

Tackle climate change. Chew less. Meat and dairy production are responsible for 14.5% of climate changing gases (more than all forms of transport). An eye-catching slogan but I am not convinced by the chewing argument however; a balanced and moderate reduction in meat consumption is more achievable.

Support clean energy. Don't build a windmill. Few of us have the talents required to build a successful windmill so it is better that we switch to a renewable energy supply instead. We can lie back and watch it happen in as little as 5 minutes. No disruption to your supply and no ongoing maintenance.

The missing essential. As we saw earlier Paul's prayer asks for us is to be given the knowledge, wisdom and strength to lead lives worthy of God. If we are to continue to live in the way God is leading us, we need to engage, individually and collectively with Him in prayer.