



At St. Clement's Parish

'Live Simply so that others can simply live'

Blessed Mother Theresa

January 2020

Issue # 5

### Moving Forward

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April St Clement's were awarded Live Simply status. The hard work now begins continuing with our commitment and developing new initiatives. As part of engaging with the parish and reflecting on our journey so far, we organised a parish day at Worth Abbey in September.



More than 20 parishioners were welcomed by the Community to the Compass Room at Worth Abbey. After a leisurely settling in, the group attended Midday Prayer and then ate lunch together. The afternoon began with a quiz to test the knowledge of our impact on the climate in small domestic decisions. It revealed many misconceptions.

There followed a time of reflection based on Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Pope Francis describes this as an ecumenical initiative. Highlights from the text:

*a This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature, which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator.*

*b It is also a season to reflect on our lifestyles, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful.*

The retreat continued with a 'Meditative Wander' and a coming together to consider new action for 2020.

#### Some ideas included;

Making the parish garden more wildlife friendly  
Community outreach - particularly thinking about helping people with mental health difficulties  
Having tea and coffee available after 8.30 Mass

Making our weekly liturgy reflect the gift of creation.

The day concluded by attending the vigil Mass of the Sunday in the Abbey church.

### The Bishop's Visitation

It happened that the bishop's visitation to the parish came the week before our Worth Abbey Day. The bishop met with the Live Simply team who presented a summary of their action to date.

To the delight of the team, the bishop was very encouraging, to the extent of hoping that all parishes in the diocese would embrace the Live Simply philosophy.

### Parish Walk and shared picnic on 31 August



We picked a beautiful late summer day to have our parish walk around Horton Country Park. We finished off with a shared picnic and a very competitive game of Frisbee!

### Live Simply dedicate a tree scheme



Just a reminder about the dedicate a tree scheme. The scheme provides the opportunity to mark in a special way sacramental occasions such as Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Reception into the Church or Marriage. The child or adults receiving the sacrament can have a tree planted to mark this by donating to a charity. The names are then added to the

tree using wooden leaves.

For more details contact Catherine Phillips.

07564994195 email: [c.m.phillips@open.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.phillips@open.ac.uk)

## The St Clement's Vegetable Garden



Has completed another successful growing season. Right now, the beds are fairly bare awaiting the start of 2020. We have planted some white garlic and will be looking forward to enjoying this in

the spring. The money raised from the vegetables sold has gone to our Connect to Cambodia project.

## Connect to Cambodia Project

We started this project in 2014 and in this time we have raised £2,438.

Dos La gave me a special message;

“On behalf of my family, I would like to say thank you very much to the donors who support my family and our community. We wish you good health and a long life. We send you our warm wishes and respect.”

While CAFOD will continue working in Cambodia, the Srer Khmer project is drawing to a close. So, our parish scheme is moving on in an exciting new direction under the name of “Hands On”.

*More details will be available in the New Year about our new project in Colombia.*

## Parish Christmas Card

For the third year we had our parish Christmas card. The folded A2 format gave lots of space inside for greetings.

## CAFOD World Gift and Christmas cards to the brave

We reminded people about sending a CAFOD world gift this year to a loved one and thinking about and recognising those brave people around



the world who stand up for Justice and Peace regardless of the personal dangers they face.

## The New Year's Walk on 5th January

An intrepid gathering braved the not too cold winter's day as they assembled on Epsom Downs. A brisk 5k stroll (rather more ambitious than our previous walks) took us around the common and conveniently ended up going passed the Rubbing House where some of us partook in some light refreshments.



*Our brave walkers*

## Future events

### February

Live Simply weekend with tea and coffee after all masses with displays and video material.

### March Mental Health Focus

We are exploring cooperation with St Barnabas Church, Epsom to support their work with people with mental health difficulties.

And yes, look forward to a film night too!



### March/April

The Connect 2 Cambodia project is completed and a new project Hands On is starting up. This is to support rebuilding communities in Colombia: a peace and reconciliation movement following years of conflict. Look out for a parish social to launch our support for the project.

CAFOD fast day 6<sup>th</sup> March

### June

And as the summer season takes off, we will have a walk/cycle to church weekend, to encourage minimising our carbon consumption.

## News in Brief

- A bicycle rack has been installed outside the church to encourage cycling to church.
- A water butt has been donated for the vegetable garden and will be installed in the coming weeks.
- The £62 surplus from donations to cover the cost of the Retreat day were given to the Foodbank.
- The Ecumenical Mental Health Project Green for Go Help! poster is now displayed.

If you would like to get involved in any of the activities mentioned in this newsletter or would like to come along to the next meeting of the Live Simply steering group then please call Jonathan Inns on 0208393 0595 email [jonathan.inns@btinternet.com](mailto:jonathan.inns@btinternet.com)