

Summerbridge

Methodist Church



*'Bringing People and
God together through
the love of Jesus Christ'*

EcoChurch Survey

detailed responses

May 2020



Our Church and Our Environmental Journey

We are a Methodist Church, part of a small rural circuit of 5 churches, in North Yorkshire, about 12 miles from Harrogate. We are the largest church in the Circuit, with about 65 people who attend the church and a weekly congregation of around 50. Our Minister, Rev'd Mike Poole leads our services once a month.

We are very community focussed and hold activities for all ages in our building on a weekly basis including a toddler group, Kids Club, Youth Club, Community Café, prayer meetings and so on. More information on all our activities can be seen on our website and social media –

Website	summerbridgechurch.org
Twitter	@SummerbridgeMC
Facebook	facebook.com/summerbridgemethodistchurch/
Instagram	instagram.com/summerbridgechurch
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCElMrFackUrUds_pjXy2bJQ?view_as=subscriber

We have recently reviewed our Vision and Mission statements, which are:

'Our Vision

'Bringing people and God together through the love of Jesus Christ'

Mission

Drawing people into a welcoming church family, offering love, prayer, worship and service rooted in Biblical teaching.

Enabling everyone linked with the church to grow as disciples of Jesus, developing their service and giftings, giving them confidence in sharing their faith and encouraging them to help others to know Jesus.

Our values

- *Biblical teaching*
- *Unconditional love to all*
- *Service*
- *Sacrificial generosity*
- *Celebratory worship'*

As a Church, we have always been committed to environmental issues, supporting Christian Charities, Toilet Twinning, Fairtrade, as well as saving energy in our buildings by making physical changes to reduce energy use. However, this did not add up to a coordinated strategic approach to environmental issues, until a member of our congregation, Peter Wright (Who is a volunteer speaker/teacher for Christian Aid as well as a volunteer speaker for Compassion UK; Chair of Nidderdale Climate and Environment Group; a member of Zero Carbon Harrogate, and member of Extinction Rebellion Harrogate) approached a member of our Leadership Team to suggest we carry out an environmental audit, using the A Rocha EcoChurch Survey. The Leadership Team were enthusiastic about having a more holistic approach to environmental issues and the survey was first carried out in February 2019. At that point our results were fairly poor and we did not feel it was appropriate to apply for an award:

Worship and Teaching	Silver	73/110
Buildings	Bronze	152/360
Land	No award (We felt the land was so minimal we didn't complete the section).	
Community and global engagement	Bronze	85/230
Lifestyle	No award	37/160

There was obviously an enormous amount of work to do! We set about creating an Action Plan (See page 54) and sharing this with the Church Council, who also fully supported the EcoChurch approach. The Leadership Team identified a couple of Environmental Champions for the Church – Linsay Pooley and Peter Wright. They, along with the Leadership Team, raised awareness and drove the improvements identified in the March 2019 Action Plan. The outcome of their work can be seen in detail in the survey responses throughout this document. As well as a lot of physical work, such as refurbishing the ‘garden’, a lot of time was spent in raising environmental awareness across the Church in services, young church, housegroups and via articles in the Church and Circuit Newsletters (And more recently, with Church building closed due to Coronavirus, via email). We have focussed on encouraging people to ‘get on board’ and make lifestyle changes for Biblical reasons, best summed up by Bob White on the Evangelical Alliance website –

'The Bible gives three main reasons why we should care for the environment.'

First, God Himself says that His creation is very good. The material world matters to God; He sustains it all the time. Without Him it would fall apart into chaos. "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1.16–17). So if we neglect, abuse and spoil the environment, we are damaging something that is precious to God.

The second and even more important reason why we should care for the environment is that in Genesis 1.28 and 2.15, God specifically commanded humankind to do so. He told us to take care of both the living and the non-living creation. We are to work at ruling and ordering creation as good stewards without abusing it for our own selfish ends. By caring for the earth properly, we enable it to be fruitful and to play its intended role in giving glory to God. That is part of our proper worship of God.

The very existence of the universe is the result of God's creative activity

The third reason is that one day the cosmos will be renewed and re-created as the "new heavens and new earth", to which both the Old and New Testaments look forward (Isaiah 65, Revelation 21). That will bring the fullness of life that God intended and purposed for His creation: a place where people will truly be at home, where God will dwell with His people, and both they and the whole of creation will worship Him and give Him glory.

So how we treat the environment now ought to be a preview – a practice run if you like – of what we will do in the new creation. The certain hope of a renewed future creation is not a licence to abandon care for this one. Rather, the opposite is the case: there is every incentive to foster and to use the innate goodness and fruitfulness of this material world to do what is pleasing to God in our time and place. As Luther is supposed to have remarked, "If I knew Jesus would return tomorrow, I would plant a tree today."

After a year of hard work, we carried out the audit again in January 2020 and this time we included the questions about 'land' as we had been able to take a number of actions to encourage wildlife and make the space environmentally friendly. The survey outcomes were much improved:

Worship and Teaching	Gold
Buildings	Gold
Land	Gold
Community and global engagement	Gold
Lifestyle	Gold

We are delighted that the changes we have made have improved our results and that we are now far better stewards - both as a church and as individuals - of all that God has given us, but we recognise that the job is never finished. We have created an Action Plan for 2020/21, which appears on page 55 and we have also included 'Creation Care' as a key strategy area for our church for 2020-22.

It has been really exciting to see both the improvement that we have made in our survey results and the increase in awareness of environmental issues amongst our congregation (Particularly our young people) and the wider community. We continue to encourage other churches in the Circuit and local area to get involved in the A Rocha survey and with some of the changes we have been making. An exciting future is ahead!

Rose Gosling

Senior Steward

Summerbridge Methodist Church

Eco Church application

Detailed survey responses at May 2020.

NOTE 1: Please see our action plans for 2019 and 2020 at the end of the table.

NOTE 2: Since March 21st 2020 the Church has not been open due to Coronavirus and social distancing rules. Therefore all events are cancelled at present and communication with the congregation is primarily via phone, email and Zoom meetings.

Category: Worship and Teaching

Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth (e.g. Creation Time, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday etc.) are celebrated in our church

At least annually
June 2018 Refugee Week
May 2019 Christian Aid Sunday
May 2020 Christian Aid Week
October 2018 Harvest Service - Fairtrade
October 2019 Harvest Service - 'Messy Harvest'
January 2020 Environment Sunday
May 2020 Pentecost Circuit Walk & Celebration Service
Autumn 2020 Creation Sunday planned

<p>The hymns and songs (and liturgies if used) in our church services enable us to celebrate God's creation:</p>	<p>At least quarterly</p> <p>Our Minister, Rev Mike Poole is also a musician and songwriter. In 2019 he encouraged members of the congregation to get involved with 'Doxecology', Resound Worship's songwriting competition on the theme of creation, ecology and Christian hope. The website is at https://resoundworship.org/doxecology</p> <p>Articles were written for the newsletter and Mike and other members of the congregation submitted songs for the contest.</p>	<div data-bbox="1556 103 2049 821"> <h3>'Doxecology' Song Writing competition</h3> <p>When Mike Poole went on a recent song writing retreat, he was excited to find out about a competition open to all songwriters, focussing on the connection between God and the world around us.</p> <p>Resound Worship, who are running the competition, say... 'We have been watching the increasingly urgent ecological situation in our world and have recognised that the Church is struggling for something to sing. We have a vision to create new resources in words and music that release our voice on these issues in our gathered worship.</p> <p>We need songs that express:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our love for God and his creation • our lament and commitment • the fulness of our hope in Christ <p>We're inviting people in churches everywhere to write and submit new songs. Everyone from seasoned professionals to carefree beginners, who can make a vital contribution to the song of the church. Through this process, we're anticipating finding some wonderful new songs which will be selected for recording and publication. But we also expect many more will find their place in the lives of local churches, helping them to incorporate creation-care into the language of worship. So our encouragement is to have a go. Write, write, write! And see where it takes you.</p> <p>We want to create a collection of songs that enable churches to include these important themes in their gathered worship. We're expecting a variety of styles and approaches, but we're especially looking for songs that will be at home in a contemporary worship music setting. The songs should be clearly Christian in content and should be congregationally singable. We will also welcome hymns and other forms.</p> <p>Songs that are selected will be subject to a revisions process in liaison with the Resound Worship team before being recorded and published as part of the Doxecology collection. The submission date is 18th October 2019. Read more and submit your ideas via resoundworship.org/doxecology</p> <p>19</p> </div>
<p>Our church prays for environmental issues</p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>In the quarterly newsletter and in the daily emails there have been articles about the work of various Christian Charities with prayer requests – Christian Aid, Tearfund etc. The Green Christian prayer diary has been distributed. The #Live Lent 'Care for God's Creation' booklets were used this lent for adults and young people – with daily prayer for creation.</p>	



Prayer for the World

If you came to Summerbridge Church Environment Sunday Service in January, you will have been given a copy of the 'Green Christian' prayer guide. If you would like to take a look at the updated version, you can access small and large print versions via

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/prayer-guide/>

This page also gives you the opportunity to sign up for daily or monthly emails from Green Christian as well as viewing archived editions of the prayer guide.

Green Christian prayer leaflets were made available and distributed to the congregation on Environment Sunday in January 2020. In a May email to the congregation, they were also invited to view the current prayer guide and sign up to receive these regularly via the Green Christian website.

Environmental issues often form part of our weekly Saturday prayer meetings.

Caring for God's earth is preached in our church

At least annually

January 19th 2020 Environment Sunday service led by our Environmental Champions Peter and Linsay.

Climate Sunday (Churches together in Britain and Ireland) agreed by Church Council and planned for Autumn 2020.

Our church hosts guest speakers from A Rocha UK or other Christian environmental organisations (e.g. Christian Aid, Tearfund, Green Christian, The John Ray Initiative) to talk about environmental issues

At least annually

In services: Tearfund - September 2018, Christian Aid - May 2019 and originally planned for May 2020.

tearfund

*Following Jesus where
the need is greatest*

On Sunday 30th September, we welcome a speaker from Tearfund to lead our service.

Summerbridge Methodist Church
Sunday 12th May

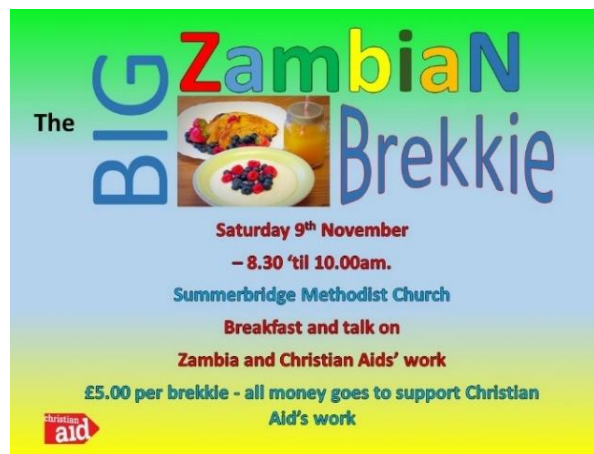
10.30am

Christian Aid Week service

**christian
aid
week**
12-18 MAY

At fundraising breakfasts at the Church: Christian Aid speakers took part in May 2018, November 2019 and were planned for May 2020.

The November one followed a trip to Zambia by the speaker. This visit to see Christian Aid's work gave insight into the effects of climate change on Zambia and also on the central belt of Africa.



Caring for God's earth features as a teaching theme in our church's youth work:

At least annually

A series on Creation Care ran in June 2019, teaching the children and young people about Climate Change and linking it with the Bible, creation and the importance of environmental stewardship.



The young people took part in 're-creation' of the Church garden to incorporate recycled and donated materials, environmentally friendly features, bug hotels etc.



A 2020 Lent session was planned for the secondary school aged young church group, based on the Green Heart Material from The Climate Coalition.org, a basic carbon footprint calculator from Energy Star and a video clip 'Net Zero' from CAFOD. This will be run once young church recommences.



Caring for God's earth features as a teaching theme in our church's children's work:

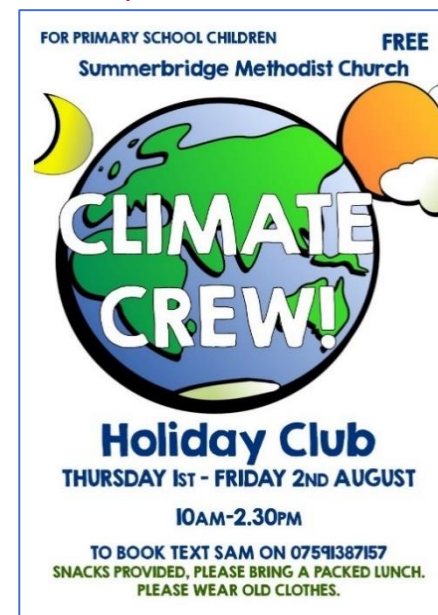
At least annually

A series on Creation Care ran in June 2019, linked with the 're-creation' of the Church 'garden' (Small tarmac area to the side and rear of the church) to incorporate, recycled and donated materials, environmentally friendly features, bug hotels etc.



children attended each day.

In August 2019 we ran the 'Climate Crew' Holiday club for Primary school age children. Teaching featured environmental issues, stewardship, Bible stories and education as well as the use of lots of recycled materials. 40


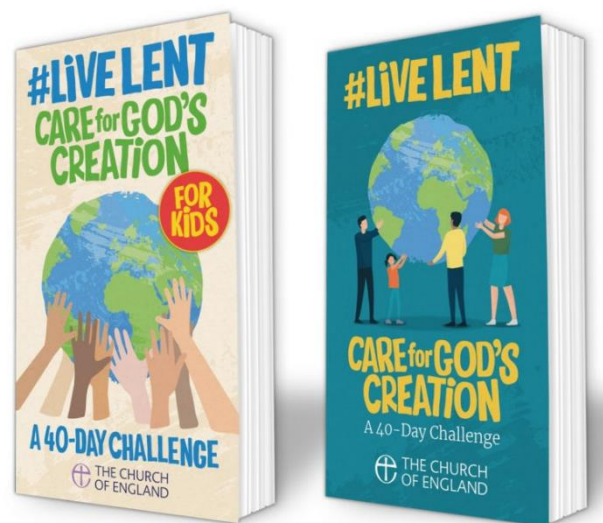




Caring for God's earth features as a focus of small group study in our church:

At least annually

Our Housegroups (And the rest of the Church) were encouraged to use the 2020 Lent material *#Live Lent 'Care for God's creation'* via free copies from Church (or email to reduce use of paper) or to use the Tearfund daily creation care Lent emails. An extract of the Church email about this is below...



If you are interested in a short daily reading and reflection for Lent, the Church have free copies of the Church of England resource Live Lent - Care for God's Creation available. There are versions for both adults and young people and each day there is a Bible reading, short reflection and an action point related to caring for our world. Please help yourself to a copy for you or a friend from the table in the Church.

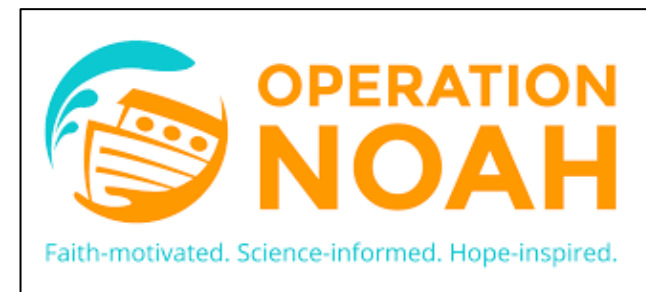
If you would prefer to receive a daily devotional through Lent via email or app, the Live Lent material is available from -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>

or there is a Tearfund email devotional on a similar theme - sign up at -

https://www.tearfund.org/en/lent_2020/lent_devotionals_2020_email/

Our housegroups followed a course called 'Tenants of the King' from Operation Noah in Autumn 2019. This is a four part study, designed to help people to consider what the Bible has to say about today's climate crisis.



In April 2020, during lockdown one Housegroup focussed their Zoom session on the Christian Aid 'Paper Bag Game', to raise the profile of workers in poverty, particularly child workers, by encouraging members of the group to make bags (preferably from recycled or news paper).

The Paper Bag Game

A quarter of the world's population live in severe poverty. Many work long hours in poor conditions just to earn enough to stay alive, often surviving on less than £1.30 per day. With this money they have to pay for everything – food, clothes, somewhere to live, school and medicines when they get sick.

Many workers have no employer or regular wage. Instead they work as street vendors: shining shoes, selling newspapers or recycling waste materials. In the Indian city of Kolkata, some people earn a living making paper bags out of recycled waste paper – such as old newspapers – and selling them to shopkeepers.

The object of the Paper Bag Game is to show how people work so hard, yet earn so little. Using real cost-of-living prices and wages, players can get an idea of how they would manage if they had to survive making and selling paper bags.

Summary of the game

- Participants form 'family' groups and imagine they are paper bag makers on the streets of Kolkata.
- Each group earns a living making paper bags from old newspapers. During the session, you will distribute chance cards among the groups, representing unexpected changes in the market, which affect their income.
- When they have finished making bags, give each group a shopping list of all the essential daily items they need to buy, and ask them to prioritise them.
- Each group needs to work out how much they earned and calculate whether they can afford all the essentials on the list.
- After the game, ask the groups how they felt during the game, and what they have learned about working together, the real-life conditions for paper bag makers in Kolkata and the economic systems that keep people poor.

Who can play

The Paper Bag Game is designed for players aged nine and older. It can be played by six or more players (split into groups) and adapted to suit any age group. It is suitable for use with a wide range of abilities and supports several school subject areas – see www.christianaid.org.uk/learn for curriculum links.

When to play

The Paper Bag Game provides a good introduction to issues of poverty, unfairness and inequality. It can be used at the beginning of a series of lessons, or at workshops or conferences to get people thinking about poverty and what they can do about it. It can also be used as a fun way to begin or end awareness-raising sessions at youth, fundraising or campaign events.

Aims of the game

- To reveal some of the pressures that force children into work.
- To understand the pressures of trying to survive in an economy with massive unemployment and no social security.
- To question our use of the world's resources.
- To look at and debate the ways in which work is organised and the economic systems that exploit vulnerable communities.

more resources available at www.christianaid.org.uk/learn

christian aid We believe in life before death

1a



Our church's communications (e.g. newsletters, service sheets, magazines, social media etc.) include items relating to the theme of caring for God's earth

At least quarterly

Our quarterly Church Newsletter and Circuit Magazine and weekly (almost daily at present) emails cover a variety of issues related to caring for God's earth. We have considered:

The work of many Charities – Tearfund, Medair, Christian Aid, All We Can (The Methodist Relief and development fund), Operation Christmas Child, Leprosy Mission, Mercy Corps - both in the Church Newsletters and via update emails in April/May this year (exploring the impact of the current crisis on the Charities). One example is below...

Climate Change, hunger and poverty

In September I witnessed for Christian Aid the problems that the failure of the rainy season in Zambia was causing to food supplies across the country, and also in other parts of Central Africa. Today things are deteriorating, with famine beginning to take hold across the whole central belt.

The following is reprinted from One Voice, Tearfund's e-mail January newsletter...

"THE HUNGER CRISIS NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT"

Back in October, Tearfund and other agencies warned of a looming hunger crisis in southern Africa. The situation is getting worse, and an unprecedented number of people are now at risk.

What's going on? Approximately 45 million people across 16 countries in southern Africa are facing severe food shortages. Some of the hardest-hit countries are Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi. In many areas more than half the population are surviving on one meal a day. Mass unemployment in cities and inflation are making the situation worse. Pregnant women, new mothers, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable.

Why has this happened? The region has been hit by a devastating combination of extreme weather events and political and economic instability. Parts of the region are facing the worst drought in 35 years, while in other areas there is widespread flooding. People are still reeling from the devastation caused by cyclones Idai and Kenneth last year, which killed more than a thousand people and left hundreds of thousands homeless.



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Climate Change, hunger and poverty continued

Is climate change to blame? Almost certainly. While it is difficult to attribute particular extreme weather events to climate change, it definitely makes such events more likely. The region is seeing more frequent and longer lasting droughts, as well as stronger storms than it is used to.

'The situation is bad. I have lived here my whole life and things have never been this severe. It's heart breaking that such a large crisis isn't receiving more coverage in the media. Please continue to pray with us for the people who are having to live through this.'

Jonathan Simpson, Southern and East Africa Team, Zimbabwe.

tearfund

Following Jesus where the need is greatest

PLEASE PRAY...

- for people who are struggling because of this crisis. Ask God for comfort and provision for them. Pray that Tearfund and other aid organisations will be able to reach the most vulnerable.
- that this year's cyclone season will cause minimum disruption, and that areas affected by cyclones Idai and Kenneth will be able to continue to recover.
- for both economic and political stability. And pray that the church in southern Africa would highlight the urgency of the situation, exercising their God-given responsibility to hold those in authority to account."

Remember, climate changes across the world are caused by our luxurious lifestyles in the richest countries', not the poorest but it is they who suffer the worst effects. We must be the solution - they can't cut emissions as they don't make any, but we can and must. There is no space for anyone to be lukewarm on climate change. Either you believe it's a problem created by us, or you don't. If you believe we are the cause, as 96% of climate scientists' claim, and most of the general public now recognise, then the onus is on us to do something about it.

10

Fundraising for a variety of Charities via concerts, stalls, quizzes, breakfast etc.



Join us on Saturday 16th November at 7pm for the Tearfund Big Quiz. Suggested minimum donation £5 per person. Book your tickets now via Rose Gosling on 771996. Book as an individual or make up a table with family and friends (No minimum number).



Methodist relief and development

Thank you to everyone who donated at the breakfast and produce stall last week, raising funds for 'All We Can'.

Environmental issues worldwide e.g. famine and climate change, Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb/March 2019) or Tearfund's Plastic Pledge (September 2019) via the Church Newsletter and Circuit Magazine...


Shoebox update

Just to let you know that our last collection of shoeboxes went to Belarus. The total number collected in the region (which includes York, Harrogate, Thirsk, Ripon, Castleford, Otley, Pontefract, and those from The Pateley Bridge Methodist Circuit and Lower Dale Anglicans) was 8600 boxes, giving joy to all those children. It is not too early to start collecting items towards this year's contributions; often these can be found in the sales, so keep looking. In Summerbridge Methodist church we have a box at the front of the church, alongside the one for donations for refugees, where contributions can be brought week by week.

Items most appreciated are: Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Small Toys, Cuddly Toys, Soap and Facecloth, Colouring Books, Notebooks or Exercise Books, Pencil Sharpeners, Pens, Coloured Pencils and Wax Crayons. We are really grateful for every donation – Thank you very much.

Sister Janet, Jenny, Mabel and the Shoebox Team.

Fairtrade Fortnight—25th February to 10th March



£1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty.

This year, look out for Fairtrade chocolate and cocoa and ensure that Farmers receive a living income and the 'Fairtrade' charity can campaign for those who don't.

21

Take the pledge with Tearfund

As concern for the impact of plastics on the environment grows, Tearfund are challenging us all to reconsider our use of plastic. Recently Ben Cohen from Tearfund wrote...

'I don't know if you've noticed this, but everybody seems to be talking about plastic – in particular, what happens when we throw it away. Ask any of my colleagues at Tearfund: I drink way too much diet soda! The recycling bin used to be stuffed with plastic bottles. I decided it was time to do something about all that waste' – fancy joining me?

Every single-use plastic item we save is one less thing in a landfill site, ocean or incinerator – or one less thing shipped overseas for another country to dispose of. The most common items include disposable cups, drinks bottles, non-recyclable packaging, wipes and female sanitary products. Finding alternatives to these plastics is easier than you might think!

Join hundreds of Tearfund supporters and say yes to less – less plastic for 40 days. For 40 days, you'll pledge to give up one type of single-use plastic. There are so many ways you can do it, too: get a reusable water bottle, buy your fruit and veg loose, or make your next bottle of shampoo a bar of shampoo.

It's easy – sign the pledge at www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/action

There's a reason why we're doing this: up to a million people die each year due to pollution caused by waste. That's one person every 30 seconds and of course, it's people living in poverty who are suffering the worst. At Tearfund we're speaking out about this scandal with our current Rubbish Campaign – this is a great way for you to join in!


When you remember Jesus' reminder to 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31), you probably don't think about old shampoo bottles. But, simple changes like that really can be an act of love. So take the pledge with me.

With every blessing,
Ben Cohen

21

We reported on the London climate march (Attended by a local group including members of our congregation), an article which appeared in the July/August 2019 Church Newsletter and was also advertised on our pre Church weekly onscreen notices, both below...

Climate Change March report by Peter Wright



On 26th June, 5 Nidderdale residents joined 12,000 other activists and representatives of Christian Aid and other charities to lobby MPs in Parliament over action on climate change. We marched from Trafalgar Square to Westminster and Church House, where Rev Dr Rowan Williams gave a key speech on the problems facing us all unless we act in time to reverse the effects we have had on God's world.

The main event was lobbying MPs to demand urgent action. MPs were asked to join their constituents on the embankment, and the majority of the 200 MPs, notable figures included, who responded left parliament to join in discussions).

Areas discussed were:

1. The urgent need to bring forward the net Zero target from 2050 to as soon as possible, and no later than 2045.
2. Concerns re: Land management. Mr Smith offered support for local initiatives and campaigns
3. Concerns re: rivers, needing to reduce the amount of plastic used, and prevent companies producing more through their fracking activities.
4. More charging points for electric cars needed to encourage the switch from fossil fuels.
5. Melting glaciers, biodiversity and economic benefit for Government departments was raised.
6. Attendees acknowledged that some positive steps had been taken re the environment, but demanded that the upcoming Environment Act be at least as powerful as current EU regulations.

Mr Smith will make representations on the points discussed and write to us once he gets a response – so more on this in due course.

We were joined briefly by Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, in ebullient mood, who was told that although steps had been taken, government needed to do more, as the UK's approach is still going to cause 3°C warming, which is unacceptable if life is to survive. (He didn't stop long, as he seemed to be trying to rally support for some personal advancement or other!!!).

3

A 'Slim Your Bin' recycling article appeared in the September-November 2019 Church Newsletter and Circuit magazine to introduce the new 'recycling' centre. Part of the article appears below...

Slim your Bin! Environmental news from Lindsay Pooley



Want to put out less waste in your household bin? Here are some hints...

Think before you buy

Manufacturing and consumption of the goods you buy may be responsible for as much as half your carbon footprint. Recycling saves energy and resources but even more is saved by not using them in the first place. To avoid waste, try using local

shops that will let you use your own container and sell refills. For lots more easy, eco-friendly zero waste living tips why not visit:

www.goingzerowaste.com/blog/101-easy-eco-friendly-zero-waste-tips

Recycle more plastics

Hopefully we are all actively using our local council recycling scheme to deal with some of our easier to manage waste. Keep up the good work! (If you aren't sure about exactly what you can recycle you can download an up to date recycling information leaflet from Harrogate Borough Council's website). However, it's clear that there are still many waste materials that it doesn't deal with.

Here is where [TerraCycle](#) comes in by offering simple, free and effective recycling programmes funded by brands, manufacturers, and retailers around the world to help people collect and recycle hard-to-recycle single use plastic waste. [TerraCycle](#) then repurposes this waste by turning it into plastic pellets which are used to make new recycled products.

From 18th September Summerbridge Church will help you to 'Slim Your Bin' by offering a **Recycling collection point** for a number of these extra plastic materials which are not currently recycled through Harrogate Council. Drop off days/times will be:

Community Café Wednesdays 9am - 11:30am
Perk U Up, Last Saturday of the month 9:30am -12:30pm
Every Sunday 9:30am – 12:30pm

Slim your bin! Environmental News from Lindsay Pooley

Please do not bring any materials that are not specified, and ensure all items are empty, clean, dry and correctly banded in the recycling boxes to prevent contamination. These will be located in the rear foyer area. Items will be taken to local collection points, including Dacre Stores. Thank you for your support for this new scheme! Lindsay

	<p>Yes please: Any brand of NUTS, POPCORN, CRISPS/ CHIPS & PRETZEL PACKETS. No need to wash, just shake out any remaining contents.</p> <p>No, thanks: seed, dried fruit, meat snack or nutrient powder and topper packets.</p>
	<p>Yes please: Any brand of SWEET BISCUIT, CAKE BAR & CRACKER WRAPPERS. Includes multipack packaging and individual wrappers though only the plastic sleeves. No need to wash, just shake out any remaining contents.</p> <p>No, thanks: Any other sweet snack packaging such as flapjacks or chocolate bars, cardboard packaging (recycle at kerbside).</p>
	<p>Yes please: Any brand of TOOTHPASTE TUBES & CAPS, PLASTIC TOOTHBRUSHES & OUTER PACKAGING (not cardboard), ELECTRIC/BATTERY TOOTHBRUSH HEADS. Please rinse.</p> <p>No, thanks: Bamboo, denture, dental floss or interdental items, cardboard boxes, other tubes such as hand creams.</p>
	<p>Yes please: Any brand of PLASTIC PENS, FELT TIPS, MARKER PENS & HIGHLIGHTERS.</p> <p>No, thanks: Wooden or metal pens</p>
	<p>Yes please: PRINGLES TUBES including the foil seal and the lid. Please squash them.</p> <p>No, thanks: Any other brand of crisp tube or similar product/material such as cocoa tubs</p>

Earth Hour advertising and reflection – in the March/April 2019 and March-May 2020 Newsletter and email article March 30th 2020. Extracts of both are below...



Saturday 28th March at 7pm at Knowle House.
Bring and share four course dinner with special guests
Sara and Sophie Swecker.
Book via Rose Gosling on 01423 771996.

The Ladies Dinner includes a candlelit hour from 8.30pm-9.30pm in support of the Earth Hour...an hour without power to raise the profile of your support for our planet...more information is below.



Today's email includes -

- Peter Wright's Earth Hour reflection
- An appeal for help from Nidderdale High School
- Answers to the Bird Quiz from last week
- An invitation to join Alan Jordan's Nidderdale Prayers
- Offers from Spring Harvest and Revelation Media
- A daily reading for Lent

Enjoy!
Rose



From Peter Wright...

A reflection on Earth Hour, Saturday 28th March from 8.30-9.30pm.

Earth Hour has just ended – 60 minutes sitting quietly in the dark, or candle light. Across the world major buildings and monuments are



'How was your dinner?' email item from April 2020 regarding making informed choices about chicken and other meat, an extract from which appears below...



Today's thought for the day is from **Peter Wright**.

Peter has helped us to focus on environmental issues at Summerbridge Methodist Church, particularly in encouraging the Church to carry out an eco audit in 2019, using the A Rocha Eco church questionnaire. Having carried out the audit, we identified a number of areas for improvement, which we worked on during 2019.

In January 2020, when we reviewed our progress, we were pleased to find that we have achieved the Eco Church 'gold' standard across all areas of our work, including worship, land, buildings and sharing information with the congregation. We are awaiting the Eco Church assessor to visit to confirm this grading. If any other Church is interested in taking this step please speak to **Peter** or Rose or take a look at the A Rocha Eco Church website at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

How was your dinner?

So was it chicken for dinner this weekend? Did you buy it from a local shop or from a supermarket? Do you know where it was raised? Have you every thought about how your choices can make a big positive difference to the effects of climate change?



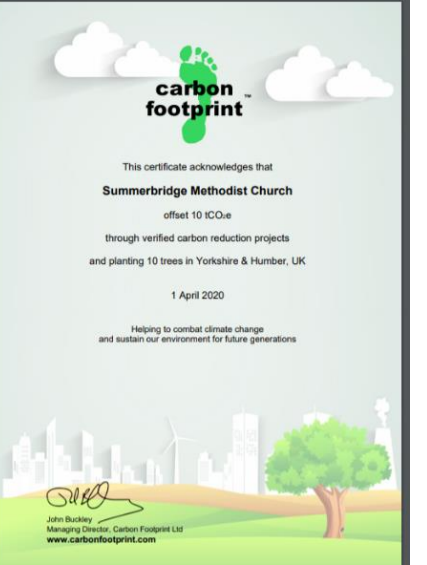
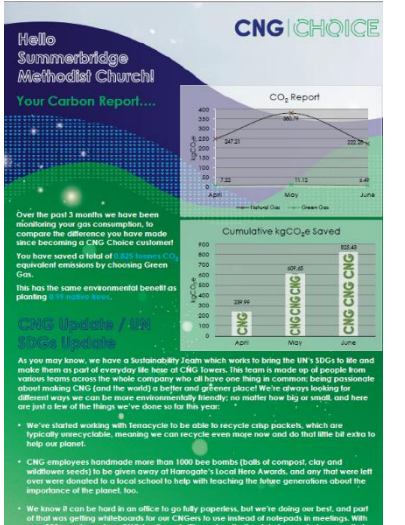
One billion chicken are farmed in the UK for food every year, and 95% are from intensive rearing operations. The methods used to produce these intensively bred animals is to feed them with industrial feed stuff, made with soya. Around 3.2 million tonnes of soya are imported by the UK each year, and as we turn to more meat based meals, that number will only increase. To grow that 3.2 million tonnes you need an area of land larger than Northern Ireland – and remember that's just the UK's soya requirement, the rest of the world has its' own requirements also.

90% of the soybean crop produced globally goes into animal feeds, and around half of that feed is consumed by the chicken breeding

Encouraging the congregation to reflect on and appreciate God's Creation as we take part in an annual art festival called the NiddArt trail, running an exhibition and workshops at Church which have explored aspects of Creation, including water, leisure, woodlands and 'Art and Soul'. Some pictures from previous years are below...




The leadership have made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our church by endorsing the undertaking of work towards an Eco Church Award:	<p>Yes</p> <p>The leadership team have driven the environmental agenda and are fully aware and supportive of this application. They have added 'Creation Care' to our key areas for strategy development for 2020-22.</p>
Category: Buildings	
We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our church premises:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Using the carbon footprint calculator recommended for churches on carbonfootprint.com. Our carbon footprint to March 2020 was 9.93 tons of CO2.</p>
We have set sufficient targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our church premises and achieving year-on-year improvements in energy efficiency:	<p>Yes</p> <p>We have set a target to reduce consumption by 8% this year. There are signs in each room reminding users to save energy and turn off heating when they leave.</p> <p>We have three boilers and have taken steps to reduce useage for all three. The annex boiler was in fitted 2015 when the annex was built. This is a well insulated space, so heating only needs to be on when people are there. We encourage potential renters and those holding meetings to use this room if possible to reduce energy use.</p> <p>Programmers have been fitted to all three boilers. The Church Hall boiler was fitted 2011 and is linked to three zones to reduce useage, with thermostats for each zone. A thermostat was fitted in the main church in January 2020 to replace the original which was located in a cooler lobby area. Two of the boilers provide hot water and both are combi-boilers so no preheating / storage of hot water takes place.</p>

<p>We offset the carbon footprint of our church premises for those things we can't reduce:</p>	<p>No</p> <p>We have offset our annual 9.93 tons of CO2 via carbonfootprint.com by supporting the planting of native trees in the Yorkshire and Humber area.</p>	 <p>A certificate from carbonfootprint.com acknowledging that Summerbridge Methodist Church has offset 10 tCO₂e through verified carbon reduction projects and planting 10 trees in Yorkshire & Humber, UK, on 1 April 2020. The certificate includes the Carbon Footprint logo, a signature of John Buckley, and a website link.</p>
<p>The electricity supplied to our church premises is generated from renewable resources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff':</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Moved to 100% Green electricity from SSE in late 2018.</p>	
<p>The gas supplied to our church building(s) is generated from renewable sources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff':</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Moved to 100% Green gas from CNG in November 2018, saving nearly 3000 kgCO₂e in the first 6th months of 2019 according to the CNG Carbon Report for our church for Jan-June 2019.</p>	 <p>A 'CNG CHOICE' carbon report for Summerbridge Methodist Church for January to June 2019. It includes a 'CO₂ Report' line graph showing a decrease from 347.21 in April to 222.29 in June, and a 'Cumulative kgCO₂e Saved' bar chart showing savings of 298.10, 596.16, and 894.32 kgCO₂e. The report also contains text about the church's sustainability efforts and a list of actions taken.</p>

In terms of energy efficiency, the boiler on our church premises is rated (an engineer should be able to determine this as part of the annual service):	A (or above) Boiler to main Church A (SAP 2005) Boiler to Hall A (SAP 2005) Boiler to Annex A (SAP 2005)
Our church premises (Main Church) are insulated as follows:	All lofts/ceilings only Main Church has more than 300mm insulation, fitted 2007, checked 2018.
Our church premises (Church Hall) are insulated as follows:	All lofts/ceilings only Hall and associated rooms have more than 300mm insulation, fitted 2011, checked 2018.
Our church premises (Church Office) are insulated as follows:	Not Applicable The Church Annex was built 2015, replacing the old vestry so was built to current building regs at the time.
Our church premises (Other building, e.g. vicarage, manse etc) are insulated as follows:	Not Applicable
Our church premises (Main church) are double-glazed as follows:	Full secondary glazing Secondary glazing fitted to the stained glass windows in the main church in 2011. Large glazed wall provides insulation between here and the vestibule area which has a 10m high stained glass window which we hope to secondary glaze eventually when funds permit.
Our church premises (Church hall) are double-glazed as follows:	Full double-glazing Secondary glazing fitted to all windows in hall and room 1 in 2011. Double glazed Velux windows fitted to upper rooms at the same time.
Our church premises (Church Office) are double glazed as follows:	Not Applicable
Our church premises (Other building, e.g. vicarage, manse) are double glazed as follows:	Not Applicable The manse is double glazed throughout

The lighting in our church premises (Main Church) uses energy-efficient light bulbs as follows:	All LED bulbs All emergency lighting in the Main Church replaced with LED's in Autumn 2019.
The lighting in our church premises (Church Hall) uses energy-efficient light bulbs as follows:	All LED bulbs All fluorescents replaced with LED in 2018. All emergency lighting in the Main Church replaced with LED in Autumn 2019.
The lighting in our church premises (Church Office) uses energy-efficient light bulbs as follows:	Not Applicable
The lighting in our church premises (Other building, e.g. vicarage, manse etc) uses energy-efficient light bulbs as follows:	Not Applicable Energy efficient light bulbs throughout
We have a policy designed to limit the amount of energy consumed by floodlighting and/or security lighting around our church premises:	Not Applicable Outside lights are only on in the dark and are low energy.
The water supply to our church premises is metered:	No

Rainwater collection facilities are installed and used on our church premises (e.g. 'grey water' systems, water butts etc.):	<p>No</p> <p>We have a small stream running to the rear of the Church just beside the boundary which is used for watering containers etc.</p>	
The toilet cisterns on our church premises are fitted with dual-flush buttons or other water-saving devices:	<p>All</p> <p>Fitted when toilets refurbished in August 2017, but we still need to check they are connected and working. This is on the 2020 action plan.</p>	
We have installed a composting/waterless toilet (see, for example, eco-toilets.co.uk) on our church premises:	Not Applicable	
Recycled toilet paper is provided on our church premises:	Exclusively	
The cleaning products used around our church premises are environmentally-friendly:	All	
The disposables (e.g. paper cups and plates etc.) used on our church premises are:	Never use disposables	
We are reducing our paper usage (e.g. through double-sided copying/printing etc.):	Always	

Our church administration uses recycled paper:	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Senior Steward uses recycled paper for all church administrative printing and the church photocopier on the premises has been supplied with recycled paper ('Bright white' recycled as the greyer paper did not provide enough contrast for older folk).</p>
In the event of the need to undertake a building/refurbishment project, our church would insist that it adhere to BREEAM (or similar) standard to ensure best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Peter Wright, one of our Environmental Champions was a BREEAM Assessor.</p>
Cycle racks are available on our church premises:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Purchased but not yet fitted as the car park needs to be line marked following our Disability Audit in January 2020. A contractor has been identified but is not able to complete the work due to Covid-19.</p>
Recycling facilities are available on our church premises:	<p>Inside (primarily for use by church members)</p>

In September 2019 we launched our new recycling centre, collecting the items not commonly recycled and passing them on to Terracycle collection points (In the local area, but also only when members of the congregation are making journeys in that direction anyway). A full list is on the leaflet below. The centre is open when the church is open and is becoming more widely known and used e.g. the local WI have distributed leaflets. The launch deliberately coincided with our community café opening which extended the hours of access to the Church and therefore the recycling centre.



RECYCLING AREA



Summerbridge Methodist Church

We are collecting a number of difficult to recycle items and passing them on via local organisations so they can be made into new products. We would love it if you could support us. We need your...

Plastic pet food packets	Chocolate bar and sweet packaging
Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes	Pens, markers, highlighters, Tippex
Disposable contact lenses and cases	Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers
Crisp packets	Beauty/personal care packaging
Pringle tins	Black plastic packaging (Clean please!)



The Recycling Area is open whenever the Church is open, including Sunday and Wednesday mornings. Pop in and pick up a leaflet from the Church for more information about the items we can collect.



	<p>We have a general recycling bin in the Church kitchen collecting items which would usually go in household recycling – a member of the congregation takes these home and puts them in their own recycling. Sorry it is not very respectable, but it is very well used!</p> <p>The Manse has a Bokashi home composting bin.</p>  
Our church has given due consideration to the possibilities of generating renewable energy on our premises (e.g. air or ground source heat pump, solar PV panels, wind turbine, etc.):	<p>Yes</p> <p>Our restricted site means a ground source heat pump and wind turbine are not practical. One boiler is due for renewal in 3 years and we will consider air source at that point. Solar PV/Solar hot water have not been pursued due to cost and we have added the investigation of grant funding for this to our Environmental Plan for this year.</p>
Our church generates renewable energy on/for our premises (e.g. from air or ground source heat pump, solar PV panels; solar hot water; wind turbine etc.):	<p>No</p>
Category: Land	
The land at our church is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants)	<p>Yes</p> <p>Ivy has been left to grow on the fence at the west boundary of the site to provide a habitat for bugs and nesting birds. The hedges and overhanging trees are only trimmed outside the nesting season (March-August inclusive) minimal pruning ensures they do not impede access or endanger the building. Self seeding native wildflowers are left to grow and native wild garlic can be seen in</p>

the photos, along with prolific native species on the stream bank, including nettles for butterflies to lay their eggs. Wildflowers (From seed from the Green Gas provider CNG and Ecotricity) have been sown in the recycled tyre planters at the front of the Church (Made by the children attending the 2019 Holiday Club) and we look forward to seeing these grow. Buddleia and Eupatorium were planted to attract Butterflies and sunflowers and bronze fennel to provide a source of winter food for Birds.

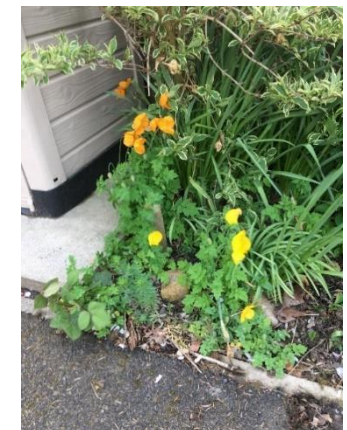


We encourage native wildlife on our church land through provision of the following:	<p>Bird boxes</p> <p>Bat boxes</p> <p>Bug hotel</p> <p>Hedgehog boxes</p> <p>We have obtained some recycled timber and a member of the congregation has offered to make additional items including a wildlife feeding station, owl box, swallow boxes etc.</p>
Stocked wildlife feeding stations are present on our church land:	No
Our church land contains a pond or wetland area that is good for wildlife:	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>We have a small stream running through at the rear boundary of the church which is great for wildlife.</p> <div><p>We have a small water feature made of a recycled dustbin lid to attract birds, dragon flies etc.</p></div>

We grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc.:

Yes

Buddleia and Eupatorium have been planted in pots at the rear of the Church to attract butterflies. Poppies have seeded at the front in the narrow strip of land where there is also a cherry tree which attracts pollinating insects. Some herbs were planted in pots in the summer last year, also to attract pollinators. This year we have added mint and lemon balm. We have left the overhanging ivy on the fence to the annex side of the church to provide a habitat for nesting birds and bugs. Sunflowers and fennel were planted to help feed birds in the winter including sunflowers grown from seeds distributed at a District event in October 2019. Wildflower seeds were planted in the recycled tyres at the front of the church.



Our church maintains an area of land for native wildflowers:

Yes

Our narrow front border and rear garden wall have self-seeded wild poppies and wildflower seed has been scattered in the old tyre planters at the front of the Church.



Our church has researched and established a mowing regime

Not Applicable
We have no lawn area.

appropriate to the conservation of the grassland and wildlife present:	
Our church avoids the use of harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers) in the management of our land (excluding paths and driveways):	Yes No pesticides or herbicides are used on the land except on the car park and path tarmac edges where we have mares tail coming through and breaking up the tarmac surface.
Our church participates in responsible native tree planting schemes in accordance with guidance from environment professionals:	Yes Our carbon offsetting in 2019/20 was by supporting the planting of native trees in the Yorkshire and Humber area.
Our church undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land:	Occasionally
Our church participates in a scheme, other than Eco Church, designed to promote conservation on church land (e.g. 'Living Churchyards'):	No
We grow fruit and vegetables on our land (including in planters, window boxes etc. as well as in a community garden/allotment):	Not Applicable We have grown beans, strawberries, herbs and sunflowers in the church 'Garden'. We are currently trying to grow potatoes on recycled compost bags but it may be too dark for this and now we are unable to visit regularly this is quite a challenge! We have a cherry tree at the front.
Composting facilities are available on our church land:	No Most items are taken home by the congregation to add to their own composting. There is much debate about tea bags – to compost or not! We save the leaves cleared from the gutters and around the Church grounds and make leaf mulch.

Our church actively encourages members to use church land for recreation/contemplation (e.g. picnics, prayer etc.):

Yes

Our Church holiday clubs regularly use the car park area for games and activities.



In July 2019 the Eco garden was launched after a service and the congregation encouraged to take their refreshments out there. The Children and young people regularly use it in the summer as part of their young church sessions.



Our church actively encourages members of the local community to use the church land for recreation/contemplation:

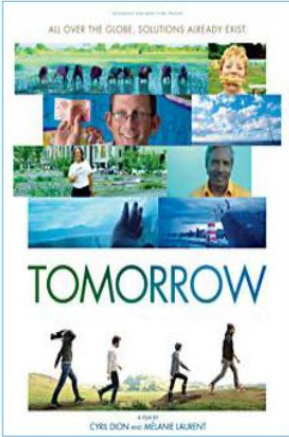
Not Applicable

Our church has established a management plan for the land for which we are responsible:

Not Applicable

Category: Community and Global Engagement

Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local MPs, AMs or council leaders)	<p>Less often</p> <p>Planned for Autumn 2020. The day to be based on the October 2020 York Diocese Environment Conference with Ruth Valerio, at which one of our environmental champions, Peter, was due to lead a workshop, but this has been postponed.</p>
Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, AM, local council or Public Service Board on environmental matters:	<p>At least annually</p> <p>Planned as part of an environment event in Autumn 2020 (as above).</p>
Our church arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services:	<p>At least annually</p> <p>As part of the Environment Sunday service in January 2020.</p>
Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local sustainability movements like Transition Towns:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Zero Carbon Harrogate are working with Harrogate Borough Council who are considering becoming a transition town and some members are involved. Harrogate is also aiming to become the UK's first 'low emission bus town', having introduced a fleet of electric buses.</p>
Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings, Fairtrade events etc.):	<p>Yes</p> <p>Promoting and supporting Nidderdale Climate and environment group events which are held at the church about e.g fracking, renewables, the Leonardo DiCaprio film '<i>Before the Flood</i>' etc.</p>

	<div data-bbox="745 129 1285 906">  <p>ALL OVER THE GLOBE, SOLUTIONS ALREADY EXIST.</p> <p>TOMORROW</p> <p>Showing solutions and telling a feel-good story... is this way to solve the ecological, economic and social crises the world faces. After the journal Nature announced the possible extinction of a part of mankind before the end of the 21st century, Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent, together with a team of four people, carried out investigations in ten different countries to figure out what may lead to this disaster and above all how to avoid it.</p> <p>During their journey, they met pioneers re-inventing agriculture, energy, economy, democracy and education. Joining those concrete and positive actions which are already working, they began to figure out what could be tomorrow's world</p> <p>NIDDERDALE CLIMATE+ ENVIRONMENT GROUP</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1081 148 1272 579"> <p>Thursday 5th December Summerbridge Methodist Church 7.30 to 9.30pm Tea + Coffee 7.15 Free Entry Donations Towards' Costs Welcomed</p> </div>
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From Academy Award® Winners
Leonardo DiCaprio and Fisher Stevens




THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR, THE FUTURE IS NOT

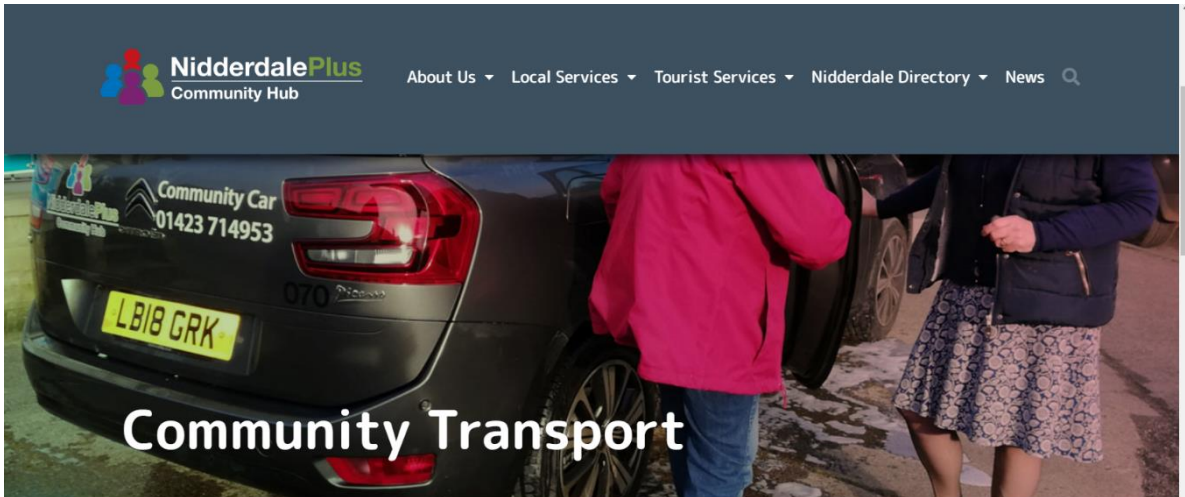
BEFORE THE FLOOD

Executive Producer: **Martin Scorsese**

"Time is not a luxury we have," says Leonardo DiCaprio. "Our natural world is quickly nearing unprecedented, irreversible and catastrophic change that threatens the very future of humankind. I don't want the film to scare, or present statistics and facts already known, but to focus on what can and must be done immediately so that we can leave our planet a liveable home for future generations. We are quickly running out of time."

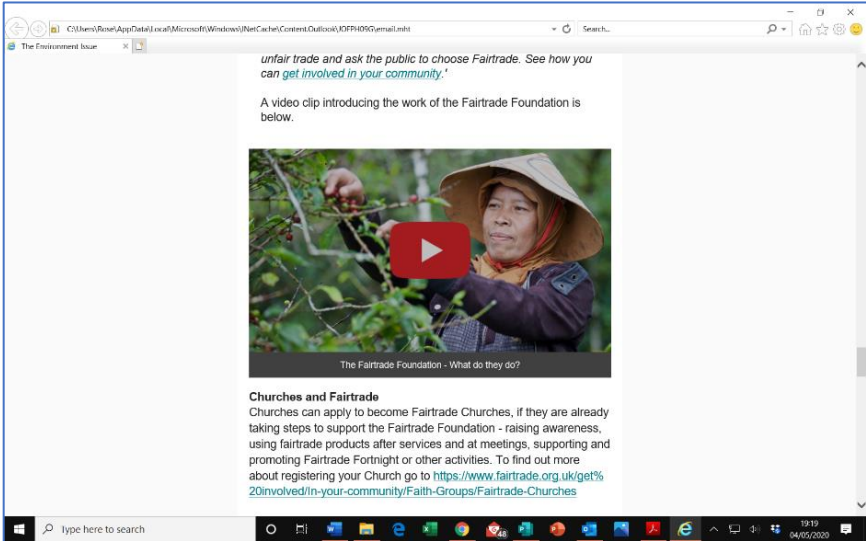
SUMMERBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
SATURDAY 23rd MARCH
7.30 to 9.30pm
FREE ENTRY – DONATIONS
TOWARDS COSTS
REFRESHMENTS FROM 7.15
NIDDERDALE CLIMATE + ENVIRONMENT GROUP

<p>Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) hosts a green fair, showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental issues:</p>	<p>At least annually Planned as part of an Environment event in Autumn 2020 (As above).</p>
<p>Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to get out and enjoy God's earth in our local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.):</p>	<p>Regularly Ladies and church family walks take place regularly. A number of people walk or cycle to Church and sometimes to other events – e.g finishing cycle rides at our HUB community café.</p> <div data-bbox="725 480 1270 869">  <p>Church Walk Friday 20th March 10.30am Meet at 10am at Swiss Cottage in Beverley (Julie Hickson's house) for coffee followed by a lovely spring walk and a lunch stop at the Craven Arms at A... Join us for all or p... Please book via J... or email wjcj.hick...</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1373 480 1926 876">  <p>Ladies Walk Friday 17th January Meet at Swiss Cottage in Beverley (Julie's house) at 10am for coffee. We will enjoy a bracing winter walk and lunch.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1057 762 1576 1157">  <p>Circuit Walk Sunday 29th May There will be no Service here on Sunday 29th May. Instead there will be a Circuit walk, with food and worship, visiting each of the churches and finishing with a 6.30pm Circuit Service at Darley Church. There will be a buffet lunch at 1.30pm at Summerbridge to which everyone is invited, even if you have not been walking.</p> </div>
<p>Our church either provides or supports a local car-share scheme (this includes members sharing lifts to church):</p>	<p>Yes Members informally share lifts to church and support one another. Some members are drivers for the Nidderdale Community bus and minibus scheme, encouraging car sharing for groups and individuals and currently delivering prescriptions locally to save COVID 19 community support volunteers making unnecessary trips. A screenshot of their website is below.</p>

	 <p>Community Transport</p> <p><u>To book a journey, call 01423 714953</u></p>
Users of our church premises are encouraged to minimise resource use (e.g. people are trained in reducing energy use, notices about turning off lights are displayed):	<p>Yes</p> <p>Notices about turning off lights etc. are in every room. The Hall heating is zoned into three areas (Hall, kitchen and upstairs rooms) and there are separate boilers for the Hall area; main church and annex. There are programmers for all three boilers and thermostats for each boiler / zone.</p>
Our church actively promotes Eco Church to other local churches:	<p>Yes</p> <p>We have encouraged other churches in our Circuit to become involved with the Eco Church initiative by including it in the Circuit Voice Magazine in March 2020 and by email in April and also May 2020. We have also encouraged the ecumenical local grouping of Churches 'Church in the Dale' to discuss getting involved as our Minister is on the Steering Group. A couple of our local Methodist and Anglican churches are actively exploring this idea as a result.</p>
Our church has committed to pray for a specific overseas environmental project (for Welsh churches this might be through Wales4Africa):	<p>No</p>



<p>Our church participates in regular sustainability initiatives (e.g. Carbon Fast, WWF's annual Earth Hour event):</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>We advertised Fairtrade Fortnight in 2019 and Earth Hour in 2019 and 2020 (Combining it with a candlelit hour of a Ladies church dinner) and World Car Free Day in September 2019 via Church onscreen notices, email and the Church Newsletter.</p>	<div data-bbox="1308 118 1597 256"> </div> <div data-bbox="1608 156 2047 212"> <h2>World Car Free Day</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="1308 276 2002 488"> <p>Sunday 22nd September is World Car Free Day. Why not leave the car at home and travel to Church another way? We also welcome the UCI Sportive the same day, as we are a 'Cheering Point', so cycling would be a great option!</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1352 499 2011 700"> </div>
<p>Our church participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues:</p>	<p>At least annually</p> <p>Members have taken part in local and national campaigns related to climate issues including the Climate March in June 2019, local and national fracking protests and so on.</p>	
<p>Our church participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues:</p>	<p>At least annually</p> <p>We participate in Christian Aid week in May each year, which involves campaigns related to refugees and other issues linked to the climate emergency.</p>	
<p>Our church participates in the Tearfund/Cord 'Toilet Twinning' scheme as follows:</p>	<p>All our toilets are twinned</p> <p>All 5 toilets were twinned before 2015. The manse (Vicarage) toilet is also twinned and at least 12 'congregational' toilets have been twinned. We advertised World Toilet day in our Newsletter in September 2019 and encouraged more members to twin their WC's.</p>	




	  
Our church keeps the congregation informed about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on Christian communities elsewhere in the world:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Via a variety of emails, Newsletters and Church onscreen notices, as already detailed. This year the Christian Aid week focus was on Climate Justice, but due to the current Covid -19 situation it has not been possible to promote or raise awareness as much as usual.</p>
Our church financially supports an environmental charity:	<p>Yes</p> <p>We are regular supporters of Tearfund and Christian Aid as well as All We Can, the Methodist Relief and Development Charity. We support many other charities, but these are the most directly linked to climate change and its effects.</p> <p>In 2019, we raised the following:</p>

	<p>All We Can £237 Tearfund £739 Christian Aid £868</p> <p>In 2018, we raised the following:</p> <p>All We Can £237 Tearfund £1600 (Taking part in the sponsored 'Mean Bean' bean/rice diet challenge) Christian Aid £870</p>
Our church is registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade Church:	<p>Yes</p> <p>We use Fairtrade tea and coffee, sugar and cocoa. We based our 2018 Harvest service on Fairtrade as well as publicising Fairtrade Fortnight in our Newsletter in February 2019. In the past we held Traidcraft stalls at Christmas services. We have encouraged our congregation to support Fairtrade and to get involved in a variety of ways, in our 'Environment issue' of the Church email in March 2020 - https://mailchi.mp/8c241aeef804/the-environment-issue</p> 
Wherever possible, Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods are used at church services and events:	<p>Yes</p> <p>We use Fairtrade instant coffee, caffeinated and decaffeinated tea bags, ground coffee (In the Community Café), hot chocolate and sugar. We sometimes use Fairtrade biscuits.</p>
Any meals provided by the church use food that is locally grown:	<p>Sometimes</p>

Any meals provided by the church use organic ingredients:	Sometimes
Any meals provided by the church use food that is animal-friendly:	Sometimes
Any meals provided by the church use Fairtrade ingredients:	Sometimes
Any meals provided by the church include a vegetarian and/or vegan option:	<p>Always</p> <p>We always offer vegetarian and gluten free alternatives- other dietary requirements can be catered for on request.</p>
Our church takes steps to reduce food waste (e.g. through composting all waste, minimising leftovers at church meals, partnering with a local food waste scheme), and we encourage our members to do likewise:	<p>Yes</p> <p>We pass any leftovers on to older members of the congregation or those in need. We also have three freezers to avoid waste and at our Thanksgiving dinner in 2018, we offered leftovers to the whole congregation to 'takeaway' in various containers afterwards – having somewhat overcatered! Although not having composting facilities onsite as we would not fill a bin in a year (No lawns!) many of the congregation have chickens/ compost bins and take peelings etc. as well as dead flowers etc.</p>

Category: Lifestyle	
<p>Our church has appointed an individual or group to champion the cause of our church community becoming more environmentally sustainable:</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Peter Wright and Linsay Pooley are our Environmental Champions and Rose Gosling and Julie Hickson support them and are the Leadership team representatives.</p>
<p>Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church</p>	<p>Occasionally</p> <p>We promoted World Car Free day in September 2019 and encouraged walking, cycling and any other creative way of getting to Church.</p>   <p>We opened as a café welcoming cyclists for the Tour De Yorkshire in 2017. In 2018 we offered the Church as a viewing point for the same race. We were 'refreshment point 5' for the Yorkshire Beast cycle race in June 2019 (And planned for 20th June 2020) as well as a cheering point for the UCI Cycle Championships in September 2020.</p> <p>Those in the congregation who cycle to Church can bring their bikes into the Church entrance to safely store them during the service.</p> <p>Cycle racks have been purchased but are awaiting the car park being line marked before they can be fitted.</p>
<p>The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church:</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Other than car free day we do not regularly encourage this as we are a rural area and have some older people in our congregation who would find it hard to use alternatives, but there has been a noticeable increase in people offering lifts and walking to church in the last year.</p>

<p>The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit:</p>	<p>At least annually</p> <p>This was encouraged in the Environment service in January 2020 and included in the Newsletter for March-May 2020 – an extract is below. A young church session including this topic was planned for Lent but has not yet been delivered due to the church being closed. A reminder about carbon footprint calculators went out to the congregation as part of a Church ‘Environment Issue’ email in May 2020.</p> <div data-bbox="1120 135 1579 167" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Kieren Barnes update continued</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1120 167 1579 813" data-label="Text"> <p>The new role As it is very early days Kieren is still discovering the extent of the job. Mercy Corps is a bigger organisation than Tearfund, hence the job will be more demanding. One example being that his budget, in millions of US dollars, will be 5 times that which he had in his previous role.</p> <p>The following extracts are from Mercy Corps’ website and may give a feel for the ongoing work in Syria...</p> <p>Syria “Mercy Corps has been working in Syria since 2008 — delivering assistance and support both before and during the ongoing civil war. We are supporting those affected by the conflict in both Syria and neighbouring countries by providing emergency assistance to meet basic needs, creating safe spaces for youth, increasing economic opportunities and more. In 2018, we provided assistance to 1.5 million people all across Syria.</p> <p>The context</p>  <p>With a population of 18.4 million people, an overwhelming majority of Syrians have been impacted by the conflict that started in 2011. Approximately seven out of every 10 people in Syria — 11.7 million in total — are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. 40 percent of them are children under 18.</p> <p>Derek Barnes</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1624 143 2083 175" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Climate Change, hunger and poverty continued</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1624 175 2083 813" data-label="Text"> <p>We don’t have to stop enjoying life, but we do need to think before we do anything that will increase our carbon footprint. Today the average person in the UK is responsible for around 6 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year. We need to reduce that to 2 tonnes, and soon.</p> <p>Have you done a carbon footprint for yourself and your family? Do make the effort to do one, you will be surprised just what your footprint looks like. A simple calculator is found at https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/. A more precise calculator can be found at https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx, and this will allow you to look at offsetting your footprint via various options.</p> <p>We all need to think carefully about what sort of world we want our successors to inherit. We can’t agree with the science but then do nothing to change the way we live any longer. We can’t moan about the extreme weather events experienced from time to time, but continue to live as if nothing was wrong. The latest science predicts 10 years is the time we have to change our ways.</p> <p>It’s time to make that change. Peter Wright and Linsay Pooley.</p>  </div>
<p>Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:</p>	<p>Regularly</p> <p>See the item above.</p>
<p>Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle:</p>	<p>Regularly</p> <p>Regular articles appear in the Newsletters and have been mentioned in response to previous areas of the audit. The July and August 2019 Church and Circuit Newsletters covered Earth Overshoot Day and the Zero Waste Lifestyle by focussing on the principles of the Circular Economy and refusing, reusing, reducing, recycling, rotting and so on. The most recent ‘Environment Issue’ email to the congregation expanded this to cover the 7’rs – take a look at the email at https://mailchi.mp/8c241aeef804/the-environment-issue</p>

	<div>Environmental News from Linsay Pooley</div> <div>Let's talk rubbish... Caring for God's Creation.... We're currently consuming 1.5 earths worth of resources each year and we have a day to mark it called Earth Overshoot Day. It's the day that we've consumed all of the resources the earth can sustainably produce for the coming year. We hit it on August 2, 2017 and each year the day is moved up earlier and earlier on the calendar. In the UK alone 600 million tonnes of products and materials enter our economy every year and only 115 million tons of that gets recycled. Most, some of it even biodegradable material, ends up on landfill sites, which produce carbon dioxide and methane gas affecting climate and biodiversity. Individually we each throw away an average of half a ton of waste per year, at least 60% of which could be recycled. We are all part of the problem, so what can we do as individuals to be part of the solution? Be encouraged! There are actually a lot of things we can do. First, we can try to work towards a zero waste lifestyle. The goal of going zero waste is to move to a circular economy where we mimic nature and create no waste. Instead of discarding resources, into landfill or by burning them, we create a system where precious resources are continually reused and taken back into the system. A zero waste lifestyle aims to live like older generations.</div> <div></div> <div>4</div>	<div>Environmental news continued</div> <div>REFUSE what we really don't need. REDUCE our consumption by focusing on buying only what we need. REUSE what we have as long as we can by maintaining, repairing, opting for non-disposable options when possible, and purchasing second hand or borrowing from other people. Lastly focus on RECYCLING and ROTTING (that's composting!). The goal is to try to reduce and reuse as much as possible first. Is this a perfect way of living? No, of course not. Does it completely represent a circular economy? No, of course not. We're living in a flawed system, but if we realise how much power we actually have as consumers and do our bit to challenge the norm, businesses will be forced to develop more circular systems. Keep demanding change and change will come. Living more sustainably doesn't have to be rocket science. It's just a question of finding a few things that work for you and your situation and working them into your everyday. Over the coming months we'll be offering lots of simple tips and ideas you can try out. It will take time, but with patience and perseverance you'll find you can make a significant impact with just a few small changes. Linsay Pooley Note from the Ed: At the last Church Council meeting it was agreed we would take part in recycling of items which are not otherwise recyclable, via the organisation 'Terracycle'. Watch out for their collection bins, arriving in Church shortly.</div> <div></div> <div>Any questions? See Linsay at Church for a chat.</div> <div>5</div>
Our church hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes):	<div>Regularly</div> <div>We held a clothes swop in 2018 as part of a baby shower. We regularly run fundraising stalls for charity inviting people to donate unwanted items of bric a brac (Operation Christmas Child September and October 2019, Leprosy Mission November 2019). We also hold fundraising cake stalls at the annual MacMillan Coffee mornings at the end of September.</div>	
	<div>Summerbridge Methodist Church</div> <div>MacMillan</div> <div>Coffee Morning</div> <div></div> <div>WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT</div> <div>Saturday 28th September 10am-11.30am</div> <div>Join us for coffee, tea, cakes and sausage rolls</div> <div>Cake stall</div> <div>Bric a brac stall</div>	

In March 2019 we started encouraging people to grow organically with a plant 'sales' table where people donated plants and seedlings of all sorts including tomatoes, courgettes etc. in exchange for a charity donation. This raised £270 through the year to November 2019 for the Operation Christmas Child annual Shoebox appeal and raised the profile of 'grow your own', organic gardening and propagation.

Our recycling centre encourages reduction of waste by accepting 'hard' to recycle items such as – Plastic pet food packets; toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes; disposable contact lenses and cases; crisp packets, Pringle tins, chocolate bar and sweet packaging; pens, markers, highlighters, Tippex; Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers and Beauty/personal care packaging. All of these go to various Terracycle collection points locally. We also collect black plastic packaging which is recycled via Hotel Chocolat.

Operation Christmas Child 2019 Appeal

Once again thank you very much to everyone in the Dale and those in Ripon who supported this year's Shoebox Appeal. We are delighted to say that 225 boxes were collected on Thursday 21st November and these will be delivered to around the world, to needy children who otherwise might not receive anything for Christmas. A special thank you again to all our knitters who work faithfully throughout the year to produce such beautiful hats, gloves and scarves, also, to everyone who keeps supplying wool which helps to achieve the amount we do. Grateful thanks to Rachael, who once again wrapped most of the boxes.



Also, special thanks to all who gave financially towards transport costs (which cost around £5.00 per box to deliver). Thanks to everyone who supported our plant and produce stalls at Summerbridge and those who keep bringing 'Cash for Clothes' throughout the year – this all goes towards transport costs. This year we were able to send:-

Donations	£490.00
Cash for Clothes	£140.00
Plant and produce sales	<u>£270.00</u>
Total	<u>£900.00</u>

Grateful thanks to everyone who came along to help on the final packing and checking day. Without your help we could not achieve such a wonderful amount of boxes. Each box that is sent brings so much joy to the children, as seen on some of the videos we have viewed. They are often in dire conditions and have lived through horrors that we cannot begin to imagine. To receive something just for them from another part of the world is very special. For some of the children who receive a cuddly toy in their Shoebox, it might be the first time they can cuddle something of their own, bringing comfort to them.

On behalf of Samaritans Purse and all the children who receive these boxes – THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

Sister Janet, Jenny, Mabel and All the Shoebox Team.

Phones needed!



My friend Kate, a Board member of Pioneers UK, travels frequently to Africa to work with church leaders, charities and missionaries. In places like Benin, Niger and Mali where there are vast swathes of country that are too dangerous or difficult to travel, phones are a real blessing.

Generally mobile signals are really good in Africa and phones are relatively cheap to operate but affording a handset is

problematic. If missionaries have SMART phones it is so much better than just an ordinary phone as they can access websites, have team chats/calls, share documents etc. It aids security being able to use things like 'whatsapp' which is encrypted, reduces isolation and enables the team leaders to be more efficient too in reaching out to their team members.

So PLEASE could you search your house/teenagers (!) for any old smart phones!

Files need deleting and most importantly they need to be unlocked so local SIM cards can be used. Minor damage does not matter and a charger is useful but not essential. You can Google the make and model to find out how to make sure they are unlocked.

Also, she is travelling to a Bible college in Tanzania in August where they have very few resources. Any reasonable quality Bible commentaries e.g. IVP would be much appreciated so perhaps you could also search your bookshelves!

Thank you so much - this could have a huge impact on church planting in Africa!

Julie Hickson

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We also invite the congregation to donate to our local foodbank via collection boxes in the Church.

We encourage donations of the following used items for reuse – clothes to be sold by weight for Operation Christmas Child; old spectacles for VisionAid Overseas via Specsavers; used mobile phones and Bible commentaries for Missionaries in Africa via Pioneers UK; used stamps and foreign coins/notes for Leprosy Mission and good condition adults and children's clothing for the Wakefield City of Sanctuary – supporting refugees.



Our church operates a communal Christmas and/or Easter card scheme among the congregation:

Yes

Every year a creative person in the congregation creates a 'giant Christmas Card' to raise funds for charity and reduce card waste in the run up to Christmas. Charities benefitting included Christian Aid (2016 and 2017) and Guide Dogs for the Blind (2018).



This advent, instead of the usual giant Christmas card for the congregation to sign, we will be launching our Giant Reverse Advent Calendar. Each day the calendar will include a picture or name of an item of food, and the member of the congregation who opens the door for that day will be invited to bring in that item of food to add to a hamper which will be donated to the Harrogate and District Foodbank after Christmas.

The young people from Young Church will be creating the Calendar, which will be launched during the service on Sunday 1st December. It would be wonderful if you are able to support this cause, to benefit those in our midst who will be struggling to eat this Christmas. Because our hamper will be delivered after Christmas, we will not be including the Christmas treats which appear in the image above.



In 2019 we tried a different approach, with a reverse Advent Calendar. Messages were written on 'baubles' on a giant Christmas tree and on the reverse of the bauble was the name of an item the Homeless Hostel in Harrogate needed. The items were bought by the person writing the message and a boxful of gloves, hats, toiletries etc. were donated to the hostel (In a change of plan after the Newsletter article was written!) The Newsletter article from December 2019 about this is below...

Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods is promoted in our church:

Yes

Fairtrade Harvest service in October 2018; support request for Traidcraft when they were in financial difficulty in November/December 2018 newsletter; advertising Fairtrade fortnight in February 2019; promoting Leprosy Mission Christmas 'gifts for life' in September-December 2019 newsletter and promoting Fairtrade goods in the Church 'Environment Issue' email in May 2020. Some of These items are below.

Churches can apply to become Fairtrade Churches, if they are already taking steps to support the Fairtrade Foundation - raising awareness, using fairtrade products after services and at meetings, supporting and promoting Fairtrade Fortnight or other activities. To find out more about registering your Church go to <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved/in-your-community/Faith-Groups/Fairtrade-Churches>

Fairtrade and YOU!

There are lots of ways to support Fairtrade as an individual including:

Learning more - sign up for e-newsletters at https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/55342/subscribe/1?ea_tracking_id=RFOF

Shopping - over 6000 Fairtrade products exist including oil, rice, gold, flowers, clothing and beauty products as well as the coffee, tea, sugar and cocoa we are familiar with. So look out for the logo and give farmers and producers a fair deal.

Fundraising or giving - Donate via the website, or fundraise by running an event or requesting a collection box from <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved/Fundraise-for-Fairtrade>

Campaigning - sign a petition online, join a local group or contact your

Leprosy mission

While we are thinking about Christmas...On August 1st, the Leprosy Mission catalogue dropped through my letter box. It was the Autumn/winter edition and guess what- it contained a number of pages of cards- Christmas cards and also many Christmas gifts. So, this is just a reminder that the year is moving on, quite quickly it seems and the delight or annual headache of choosing gifts for friends and loved ones will soon be upon us.

Could you, would you, consider the range of gifts and cards from Leprosy Mission this year? There are some lovely items available, from scarves and chocolates, books and a number of 'gifts for life' options which will all delight your loved ones and bring much pleasure to those who suffer from leprosy as they are treated by Leprosy Mission. Please will you bring healing to those who suffer needlessly?

I will have a number of catalogues available, which can be perused at your leisure over the next couple of months, then I will be your personal shopper as I order and deliver your requests into your hands.

Many thanks and blessings to you as you bless others through your purchases from Leprosy Mission.

Joan Wilkinson

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Traidcraft shock news

I have supported Traidcraft and Fair Trade in general for a long time, since I was a student in the 1980s, and have seen fair trade develop from a radical concept on the fringes of the church to something much more mainstream with top quality fair trade products widely sold in supermarkets. Without doubt it was the vision of Traidcraft's founders which was responsible for successfully getting fair trade to where it is today.

I was shocked to discover that Traidcraft is facing difficult times. The following is a short summary of what Traidcraft is and the issues they are facing:

Traidcraft was established in 1979, as a Christian response to world poverty. It was one of the founding partners of the whole Fair Trade movement. Over almost 40 years it has pioneered new fair trade sectors and helped improve the lives of many vulnerable and poor communities around the world. Currently Traidcraft works with over 100 producers from 30 countries.

For some years the trading climate has been increasingly challenging. In recent weeks the Traidcraft board concluded that the current business model is not sustainable. A wide ranging consultation process has begun with all stakeholders and supporters, including the 70 UK based staff whose jobs are now at risk. You can read the Traidcraft update at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/traidcraft-update

Traidcraft have suggested things individuals and churches can do to help. The main one is to buy more from Traidcraft. In these most challenging times, the organisation needs a really good trading period between now and Christmas. As well as **fair trade groceries**, they offer a wonderful range of **fair trade Christmas decorations, ethical gifts, charity Christmas cards** and a wide collection of handmade homewares; from **recycled glassware** to handcrafted **cushions and soft furnishings**. Visit Traidcraft on-line shopping at their website www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Thank you for your support
Bill Hickson



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Our church encourages members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade)	Yes
Our church runs or partners with other organisations in running a food cooperative that enables members to bulk buy ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices:	No We are in the process of investigating this as a member of the congregation has previously been part of a SUMA co-operative.
The ethical investment of personal savings is encouraged at our church:	Yes
Our church funds are ethically invested (e.g. current account and/or investments):	Wholly The funds are held by the Methodist Church. Their ethical policies can be found at - https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/public-issues/ethical-investment/ This page includes all the reports of their Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment, including reports on modern slavery, plastic waste, tar sands etc.

Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth are included in our church newsletters/on our church website:

Regularly

See previous comments and pictures as well as the article from the May 2019 Newsletter about growing organically, the most recent newsletter advice on recycling 'carrier bags' from the March-May 2020 newsletter and the May 8th Church email <https://mailchi.mp/8c241aeeef804/the-environment-issue> which covers the issues below...

- Why should Christians care about the environment?
- The 7 r's of sustainability.
- Fairtrade - what is it and how can we get involved?
- Calculating our carbon footprint and carrying out a personal Environmental Audit.
- Prayer for our world.

Environmental News Continued

carbon locked up in it eventually ends up in the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

Which all says to me that I must shop around until I find peat-free compost. (By the way, it used to be that peat-free composts weren't very good, but modern developments mean that they're now just as good, if not better.)

Now, if all of us gardeners in the UK switched, it's been estimated that it would have the same impact as taking more than a third of a million cars off the road. Worth it?

We at Summerbridge want to be an environmentally-friendly church. Will you go peat-free this year with me? And if you find a supplier that doesn't stock it, perhaps ask them why not – and tell them why they should.

Happy peat-free gardening!
Peter Hayward

Note from the Ed.
Did you know it is International Compost Awareness week from 5th-11th May this year? The theme is "Cool the Climate – Compost!" recognizing the connection between soil health and climate. By composting, carbon captured by plants from the atmosphere is returned to the soil. The compost, when returned to the soil, provides resistance to drought and disease, adds nutrients, improves its workability and reduces the release of nitrous oxide. Many of us already create our own compost from garden clippings, grass cuttings, and kitchen waste (Uncooked fruit and vegetables, egg shells etc.). If you don't have this option, why not celebrate compost awareness week by buying the 100% recycled, peat-free compost available from all our local recycling centres at £4 per 40 litre bag or three bags for £10.

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Environmental News from Lindsay Pooley

Let's talk rubbish...
Caring for God's Creation...

We're currently consuming 1.5 earths worth of resources each year and we have a day to mark it called Earth Overshoot Day. It's the day that we've consumed all of the resources the earth can sustainably produce for the coming year. We hit it on August 2, 2017 and each year the day is moved up earlier and earlier on the calendar.

In the UK alone 600 million tonnes of products and materials enter our economy every year and only 115 million tons of that gets recycled. Most, some of it even biodegradable material, ends up on landfill sites, which produce carbon dioxide and methane gas affecting climate and biodiversity. Individually we each throw away an average of half a ton of waste per year, at least 60% of which could be recycled.

We are all part of the problem, so what can we do as individuals to be part of the solution?

Be encouraged! There are actually a lot of things we can do. First, we can try to work towards a **zero waste lifestyle**. The goal of going zero waste is to move to a **circular economy** where we mimic nature and create no waste. Instead of discarding resources, into landfill or by burning them, we create a system where precious resources are continually reused and taken back into the system. A zero waste lifestyle aims to live like older generations.

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Recycling updates

RECYCLING AREA Summerbridge Methodist Church

We are collecting a number of difficult to recycle items and passing them on via local organisations so they can be made into new products. We would love it if you could support us. We need your...

Plastic pet food packets	Chocolate bar and sweet packaging
Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes	Pens, markers, highlighters, Tippex
Disposable contact lenses and cases	Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers
Crisp packets	Beauty/personal care packaging
Pringle tins	Black plastic packaging (Clean please!)

The Recycling Area is open whenever the Church is open, including Sunday and Wednesday mornings. Pop in and pick up a leaflet from the Church for more information about the items we can collect.

Supermarket Carrier Bag Recycling
Ever wondered exactly what you can put in the Supermarket recycling bins? The full list is below...

- All plastic bags, except biodegradable or compostable bags
- Bread bags
- Breakfast cereal liners
- Shrink wrap & ring joiners from multipacks of water, cans etc
- Frozen food bags, e.g. bags for frozen vegetables, chips, etc
- Dry cleaning bags/bags covering new clothing
- Magazine and newspaper wrappers
- Bags for loose fruit and vegetables
- Bubble wrap
- Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) - resin ID code 4

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Environmental News—Peter Hayward

The earth is the Lord's – and so is my garden

Spring has sprung and as this is our first season living in Nidderdale, it's exciting times in our "new" garden. Time to find a local supplier for some garden essentials. In particular, we're starting afresh with pots and containers, so we need a good supply of potting compost. Not as easy as I first thought. Our most local supplier (no names!) doesn't seem to stock any peat-free compost, so I'm having to look further afield. Why peat-free? Well, ever since I was involved in research on peat bogs many years ago, and realised the environmental impact of digging them up, I find it hard to buy anything else.

"The earth is the Lord's," the psalmist tells us, "and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24 v1)

The Lord clearly cares about his physical world just as much as the spiritual (in Christianity as in Judaism, there's no separation). But just now, "all who live in it" seem to causing a few problems. Nevertheless, many Methodist Churches take environmental issues seriously – as evidenced by Summerbridge Church's recent Environmental Audit and all the hard work that's already been done.

But my sortie to find peat-free compost reminded me that it's one thing we can all quite easily make a difference with. Many adverts on the TV try to put a bit of science in the middle to impress. So let me do the science bit now:

Sphagnum peat is the stuff that makes up 70% or more of 'traditional' potting compost. But peat typically accumulates in a bog at the rate of just 1 mm each year. Dig up 1 metre depth and you've just lost 1000 years worth of accretion. And of course, you've also destroyed the living *Sphagnum* moss on the surface, so the bog will never regenerate. In effect, peat is a non-renewable resource.

Harvesting peat not only destroys valuable habitat, it has a massive impact on the environment. A peat bog acts as a huge sponge and by destroying it, the risk of flooding is often exacerbated. But perhaps most significantly, peatlands store something like twice as much carbon as is incorporated into all the trees in all the world's forests. Dig up that peat, and all the

As part of our life together, the members of our church undertake an environmental lifestyle audit:

At least annually

The #Live Lent '*Care for God's Creation*' booklets included a daily challenge to make changes in certain areas e.g. Water use. We are also working towards preparing our own email booklet which will encourage the congregation to examine the way they live and make a number of 'pledges' to make changes over a month or year. A copy of the draft '*Choose to Change*' document is attached as an appendix. This has been mentioned in a recent email (<https://mailchi.mp/8c241aeef804/the-environment-issue>), along with the option of using an alternative personal lifestyle audit from <https://sevenseasmedia.org/rate-environmental-etiquette-time-personal-environmental-audit/>



The Church decorated as a Tour De Yorkshire Cycle Race Café in 2017



The Church decorated for the VE Day 75th Anniversary on 8th May 2020

Summerbridge Methodist Church Council and Leadership team

Environmental Audit action plan March 2019/20

Worship & teaching

Annual 'Environment' Service & regular 'Environmental Awareness' slot in service.

Introduce Environmental element to Youth, Children's and House groups – could set up a new 'Environment Group'.

Environmental articles in Newsletter, and in Notices.

Buildings

Carry out a Carbon Footprint assessment - identify and address 'weaknesses'

Plan and implement energy efficiency improvements year on year

New toilets are fitted with dual flush buttons - they're not working yet – connect .

Switch to recycled toilet paper & printer paper – use double side printing

Ensure all cleaning products are Environmentally friendly.

Use china plates /mugs & glass in lieu of paper/plastic, and don't use plastic cutlery.

Land

Plant Fruit trees around boundary

Put up Bird and Bat boxes & provide Bug hotels

Develop 'wild' area along the boundary

More Ivy or other cover along the retaining walls?

Can we do anything with the rear boundary – the stream and the hedge?

Community & Global

'Environment Saturday' event for locals, and invite MP / Councillors

As church, raise environmental concerns with MP & councillors.

Identify Environmental Charity to support.

Take part in national / international campaigns - Earth Hour / CAs' Big Shift / Show the Love, etc. – and encourage everyone to join in.

Work with and support local environment groups.

Identify Overseas project(s) we can support /pray for on a regular basis.

Become a Fairtrade Church & use whenever possible.

Consider the 'welfare' of meat / dairy produce used in meals.

Lifestyle

Congregation Carbon Footprint checks: WWF simple calculator, Carbon Conversations more accurate.

Run a Carbon Conversations Course?

Encourage ethical investing.

Regular communications on environmental issues.

Check what you buy is environmentally friendly.

Summerbridge Methodist Church Council and Leadership team

Environmental Audit action plan March 2020/21

- a. Further work on property to be carried out – secondary glazing to vestibule once the Spire is repaired and redecoration complete, dual flushes to be activated in WC's, cycle racks to be fitted once car park is line marked etc.
- b. Reminder to everyone re use of recyclable and environmentally friendly toilet paper and 'chemicals'.
- c. Reminder re not purchasing any disposable plates, cups, cutlery, napkins etc. The old stock is gradually being used up, but only for larger events where we have run out of crockery – not just for the sake of it.
- d. Additional wildlife friendly measures for the garden to be added – more Buddleia, bird boxes, bat box, owl box, hedgehog house to replace the hedgehog 'log pile', encouraging Young Church to complete wildlife/bird surveys, compost bin/water butt. Richard Pooley has agreed to make some additional items including an Owl box and Rose has some wood which can be reused for this purpose.
- e. Considering running environment workshops – based on the CofE Environment Day model – Peter to provide more info. The June day has now been moved to October so we will have to look at this for 2021 now.
- f. Investigate grant funding for Solar panels.
- g. Confirm Fairtrade church status, include in newsletter and provide Fairtrade signs in kitchens. Application made.
- h. Continue to encourage the congregation to carry out lifestyle and carbon footprint audits.
- i. Include a dedicated Environmental section on the Church website and raise the EcoChurch profile on Social media.