

CIRCUIT NEWS

CIRCUIT NEWS AND VIEWS FOR BANGOR & HOLYHEAD METHODIST CIRCUIT

THE MISSION OF THE BANGOR & HOLYHEAD CIRCUIT IS TO LIVE OUT GOD'S WORD AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST BY LOVING AND CARING WHOLEHEARTEDLY THROUGH SERVICE AND WORSHIP WITH FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND JOY FOR ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.

Welcome to our Circuit Newsletter for May 2021. This month the Newsletter is focusing on Climate Sunday and issues people will be exploring during this time.

Climate Sunday 16 May 2021



What is it and why are we having one?

“Climate Sunday is an inter denominational initiative calling on local churches to hold a climate focused service on any Sunday before COP26 which is in November 2021. The vision of the initiative is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their discipleship and Mission, and to make a significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure national and international action at COP26. The collective action and commitments from local churches will be presented to the UK Government at a Nations Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow on Sunday 5 September 2021.” (climatesunday.org)

This circuit has registered to be part of this initiative and we have decided to set May 16 as the date for our service. The purpose of the service is to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray and to commit to action. When we originally set the date we had anticipated that restrictions would have sufficiently eased by now to enable us to do group activities throughout the week beforehand and to have interactive participation in the service itself. Sadly, as we all know, restrictions are still such that what can do is very limited and we are very much feeling our way back into live services, so many of these planned activities are not feasible right now. Nevertheless there are still things we can do.....

Climate Sunday 16 May 2021

What we have been doing at St John's

- We have formed an Eco-Action Group and are actively looking at how we can make our church life more environmentally friendly by reducing our carbon footprint and use of plastic, working on a Land Management Plan to encourage wildlife and inviting community participation in the grounds.
- We have registered to be part of the Eco-Church initiative and are working towards making an application within the next few years to have Eco-Church status.
- We have been using our weekly notices sheet to inform people and suggest useful tips on how to reduce energy consumption and the use of plastic, and to encourage recycling. These have been prepared by Cliff, who has put much time and effort into them, for which we are very grateful and two such examples are shown later on in the Newsletter.
- We have invited people to share tips and these are presently being collated into one comprehensive document which we hope to have available for use across the circuit by the date of the Climate Service.
- We have a section dedicated to climate issues in our prayers for the week which goes out as part of the weekly notices sheet.
- The Wednesday Study group recently completed the York Courses "Caring for Creation" Course which is run over 5 sessions



Plastic can hurt animals and stop them breathing if its not recycled.

To help the environment



Its bad for the environment. Some plastics can be recycled but plastic that goes into the bin goes in to land-fill which is covering parts of the earth

We asked a local brownie group why we should use less plastic, look out for their comments throughout the newsletter. The photos of the litter in this newsletter were taken by members of the circuit.

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Climate Sunday – 16 May 2021

Things we can do for Climate Sunday

Litter-Pick

Commit to spending 10 mins every day between 10/5/21 to 16/5/21, collecting rubbish near where you live either on your own or with a friend, making sure that you use gloves and preferably a litter-picking stick to ensure you remain safe and that you comply with current covid restrictions. Take a photo and post it to me, if you like, we might be able to display them on our facebook page or as part of the service.

Creativity

Bring out the inner artist in you. Draw, paint or create something focusing on the beauty of creation or the problem of climate change. Take a picture and send it in for us to show on our facebook page or at the service.

Walk

Take a walk in the countryside with a friend and dwell on the beauty of God’s gift of creation.

Hymns

Work your way through the Hymn book section STF 99 to 118 (The Glory of God in Creation and Providence) and read/sing the words out loud as part of your daily devotions.

Get involved

Consider getting on the mail lists for any one of the activist groups like WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, which are currently running various climate focused campaigns; write to your MP about climate issues and the need to invest in green energy, or make “The time is now declaration.” (see link <https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration?partner=106>)

Wear green on Climate Sunday

A way for us to identify with the cause of Climate Sunday, as well as being a fun thing for us to do, is to wear a visible green item of clothing. The green socks I was given at Christmas will come in handy for this, but you might want to be more imaginative than that!

There are lots of things out there. Let us know what you do.

Photo Liz Jackson
Clouds over Penmaenmawr



Protect Planet Earth



Are you eco friendly ?

Beaumaris has been awarded plastic free status



Could S' John's be also?



Do You?



Buy pre-packed meat and dairy?

Buy plastic drinking straws?

Buy pre-packed fruit and veg, or loose in a paper bag?

Use tea-bags or fresh tea?

Use one-off plastic carrier bags?

Buy paper tissues, or use cotton hankies

Buy cotton buds with plastic stalks?



Think of Alternatives.

It's our future, please protect it.



Greenpeace Campaign re plastic

- **Every day, millions of us do our bit to cut plastic waste.** We recycle plastic fruit tubs, yoghurt pots, plastic juice bottles -- making sure they're in the right bin.
- **But what happens next is shocking.**
- Instead of being recycled, a large amount of UK household plastic packaging is being **shipped to other countries** much of it ending up in Malaysia, Indonesia and Turkey.
- When it arrives, it's at high risk of being **dumped or burned, causing serious illnesses for people living close by.**
- **It's plain wrong this is happening.** Our government would never allow another country's plastic to be dumped in the UK. How is it okay the other way around?
- Greenpeace have launched a campaign to end this, calling on our government to **stop the UK dumping plastic waste on other countries.**

Dr Rachael Warrington who is Julian and Heather's Daughter, lives with her husband Chris in North London. She works as a Mathematical Consultant for the Smith Institute and worships at St Barnabas North Finchley. She has had a lifelong passion for justice and fairness. Here she shares how this impacts upon her cooking.



I'd like to share with you some of the ways that my husband, Chris, and I have been trying to act justly when it comes to food. Rather than giving you a list of points, I'd instead like to invite you in to the story of a meal - well, in truth, it's a mixture of parts of different meals: lunch with our life group (small group Bible study), dinner with neighbours, 2 to 4 (accountability group), and other random meals with friends.

We've got a friend coming to share dinner with us tonight, I'm really looking forward to catching up with them. I've finished work for the day, and it's time to prepare the meal.

I get the oven preheating, and start preparing the vegetables. The veg are the star of the show in this meal - carrot, beetroot, and squash, all in season, coming in little packaging, and bring lots of colour and flavour. We've been trying to eat more veg, pulses, nuts, and seeds, keeping meat as a treat, and trying not to just replace meat with dairy. This shift in focus is part of how we are trying to reduce the environmental impact of our food.

Back to the veg - I give the carrots a good scrub, there's no need to peel them - there's less food waste that way. Once the veg is chopped and in an oven-proof dish, I drizzle it with oil and put it in the oven to roast. We get our veg from an online supermarket that tries to be ethical, and, in particular, ensures that the farmers who grew our veg get paid fairly for it. While the veg is roasting - getting nice and crisp on the outside and beautifully soft inside - I fry up some onion in a pan on the hob. When the onion is soft, I add some spices, then after a minute or so, add a tin of tomatoes. We've got the makings of a good sauce for the stew and the kitchen smells good! I add a little water, using the empty tomato tin, to get the consistency right, then add a can of UK-grown carlin peas: they are like chickpeas, and they taste great!

There's a knock on the door, and we welcome our friend, who comes to join us in the kitchen as I add the roast veg to the sauce.

I've put half a loaf of bread on the table, that I made from scratch yesterday. We've been finding out how to make various things from scratch, like houmous and pitta, motivated both by wanting to reduce the amount of packaging waste that we produce, and also by wanting to make tasty food!

Now, dinner is ready! Rather than plating it up, I just pop the pan onto the table, with a ladle, and we all help ourselves to as much food as we like - I've made more than enough. After seconds - or thirds! - it's easy to put the leftovers from the pan in a box, to go in the fridge for lunch tomorrow or in the freezer for dinner another day; very little food is wasted.

We talk - about the big, important things, and about the little things too, we share dessert, we have tea and coffee - fair trade, so we know the producers are paid fairly.

It's been a lovely evening, and when the time comes for our guest to leave, we're really thankful to God for a good evening, with good friends, and good food - all good gifts from Him.

Protect Planet Earth

S. John's



Eco-Church

When Shopping Think Alternatives



Are you eco friendly ?



Avoid BOGOF & Multi-packs Buy only what you need

Own re-usable bags not one off throw away

Buy milk in bottles from a milkman

Buy refills rather than new

Find a shop where you can fill your own container with what and how much you need



Throw away batteries or rechargeable ones?

Pre-packed ice cubes? Make your own

Newspaper or on-line newscasts

Is the seafood you buy from a sustainable source?



it's our future, please protect it.



Following on from Rachael's article, John Hay shows us some of the steps we may take in our daily lives





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Sue and Grace on the Scripture Union Searching for Christmas QR Code Trail Dec 2020

Three of the children’s team from St John’s are currently being trained as “ Faith Guides “ by Scripture Union , with whom we are partnered .

This training encourages us to look at how we reach out to the 95% of young people who today have NO contact with Church through friends , family or Community .

These are the “mobile phone” , “social media” generation and we need to look at how we connect in a relevant way so we can share the Good News of Jesus .

The four stages of the Faith Journey for young people are : **Connect , Explore, Respond and Grow .**

Scripture Union offer a range of exciting activities for outreach such as “Sweaty Church “ (sports and games) , nature based activities and computer games .

Following the Christmas event , Bangor CYTUN are currently busy setting up an Easter QR Trail around Bangor during which children scan QR codes which link to Scripture Union videos telling the Easter Story

We would be very happy to share what we have learned and learn from others around the Circuit .

For more information see www.scriptureunion.org.uk or contact Sue Eckersley

CAP
money:course

A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well.

budget. save. spend.

Thursday 20/5 7.30pm
Thursday 27/5 7.30pm
Thursday 3/6 7.30pm
All sessions on line
Please contact sue.eckersleybangormethodist@gmail.com or ring 07713225028



If I was ...

If I was black
what would you see -
the colour of my skin
or would you see me?

If I was disabled
what would you do -
look at me - different -
or see me as you?

If I could not hear,
what would you say -
try to communicate
or send me away?

If I could not see
what would you do -
give me your eyes
so I could see through.

The Judgement of others
is not always true;
instead of be'in me,
I should have been you.

Anthony Pitchstock
(Royce's neighbour)

CIRCUIT NEWS

We need you to help us to fill future editions of Circuit News. If you have any words of wisdom, jokes, pictures, stories you would like to share please send them to us.

Thanks to John Hay for his contributions and assistance with this edition of the Newsletter and to Rev Rosemary Nunn for proof reading.

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In the April Circuit News Rev John Hughes was commenting on the various theories regarding April Fool's Day.

Here is another theory that Tricia Dann from Amlwch has shared.

In 1'582 France switched from the Julian calendar (which began the year on April 1) to the Gregorian Calendar. Some people were slow to get news of the change and continued to celebrate the New Year at the start of April and so were called April Fools.