



Please pray the Livesimply Prayer with us

- Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.
- Creator God, You gave us responsibility for the earth, a world of riches and delight. Create in us a desire to live sustainably, so that those who follow after us may enjoy the fruits of your creation.
- God of peace and justice, You give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.

Amen



St Anne's RC Church, Buxton Diocese of Nottingham

 *live* simply

Our Livesimply Journey

2017 -20



 livesimply

On 5th March 2017, a meeting of 25 people voted that the parish should work for the award

We reviewed where we thought we were at, as a parish, and discussed and prioritised some targets

We were awaiting the appointment of a new priest, and decided to wait until he was appointed to the parish, had settled in and taken stock of everything before finalising the targets together and registering for the award



 livesimply

2018

After further discussions with members of the Justice and Peace Group and Fr Gerry, the targets were signed and sent off.

We invited Maggie Mairura from Cafod to speak at our weekend masses to launch this project.

We also publicised it with leaflets handed out after mass, a display at the back of church and notices in the bulletin



 livesimply

We wanted to ensure that all of our planning and actions came from a place of love of God and of God's Creation, as expressed Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si*.

We aimed to make sure that our targets addressed all the dimensions of Livesimply: Reflection and Worship; Teaching and Learning; Practical Activities/Actions, and Reaching out Beyond the Parish Community



 *live* simply

Communication was going to be key to *making Livesimply an ongoing experience for everyone*

We used as many ways as we could, there were almost always Livesimply prayers during Mass, the preaching and Children's Liturgies, the displays at the foot of the altar, the Livesimply notice board and displays at the back of church, talks given at church, notices in the bulletin and speakers from the community being invited into church.

Actions to live simply

Main action: Everyone to say the Livesimply Prayer during Masses on Sunday (including Saturday Vigil Mass). Livesimply Prayer Cards to be placed in front of Hymn Books, the person reading the Bidding Prayers to begin by asking the congregation to pick up their prayer cards and say together..... To be done each week for the duration of the work towards the award (18 months – 2 years)

Other activities:



1. 'Livesimply' tip or thought to be communicated to parishioners regularly
2. Parishioners to be encouraged to make personal pledges relating to the 'I buy what I need' campaign during Advent
3. Parishioners to be encouraged to recycle and avoid single use plastics

What we did

- Livesimply Prayer Cards were given out for people to take home, and also put in the front of all the hymn books
- We said the prayer together before the Prayers of Intercession at every weekend Mass

The logo for 'livesimply' features a stylized blue cross inside a circle, followed by the word 'live' in a cursive script and 'simply' in a clean sans-serif font.





livesimply prayer

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you created the world for us all to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply,
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Creator God,
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Create in us a desire to live sustainably,
so that those who follow after us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice,
you give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free.
Amen.

Find out more about the livesimply award:
cafod.org.uk/livesimply

Prayer: Linda Jones | CAFOD
Photo: CAFOD
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The CAFOD logo consists of the letters 'CAFOD' in a bold, sans-serif font, with a green cross symbol integrated into the letter 'O'. Below it, the full name 'Catholic Agency for Overseas Development' is written in a smaller font.

What we did

- After a year we changed the prayer to the 'Care for Creation' Prayer to help people see Livesimply with fresh eyes. This is ongoing.
- Many people, both parishioners and visitors, said how much they loved saying these prayers and it often became a dialogue about Livesimply.

Livesimply



PRAYER FOR CREATION

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

Every part of the earth is sacred.

The air is precious, for all of us share the same breath.

This we know: the earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth.

This we know: all things are connected; like the blood which unites one family.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

We did not weave the web of life: we are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Every part of the earth is sacred.

For all belongs to our Creator.

(From 'The Rhythm of Life' Celtic daily prayer, by David Adam)

What we did



- We put regular Livesimply tips in the bulletin
- Regular talks were given during mass
- During the first year we ran a 'I buy what I need Campaign'
- During the second year we ran a 'Live Christmas Simply Campaign'. There were notices in the bulletin and a talk given during weekend Masses reinforcing the ideas of reflecting, reducing, re-using recycling, and not buying items (e.g. foil wrapping paper) that could not be recycled. Every parishioner was given a 'Live Christmas Simply sticker on which they could write a personal pledge.
- We lead by example in re-structuring our parish Christmas Card Appeal: not only did this encourage people to send just one Christmas card to the whole community instead of to individual parishioners, but we collected old cards and drew our Christmas Angels on the back of these, thereby recycling and not needing to use new card. Money saved from sending fewer cards on recycled card was donated to the Foodbank and Charis House

What we did



- We promoted recycling through all the usual means: the bulletin, a talk at mass, the topic was regularly included in our Bidding Prayers during weekend masses, posters on the Livesimply noticeboard in church, and in the Parish Community Centre
- The recycling facilities in the Community Centre were much upgraded and improved
- We reduced the amount of paper that we were using by making use of technology. We had a large screen installed in the church onto which liturgies and prayers could be projected, thereby reducing the number of hard copies needed. We also began using screens in the Parish Centre for Parish Council Meetings to save paper.
- WiFi was installed in the Parish Community Centre, which meant that people could access their own material on their tablets or laptops and annotate them if they wished
- We publicised Day Zero, a zero waste shop which opened in Buxton in November 2018 and linked it to the Livesimply campaign. Parishioners were encouraged to go and shop there

What we did



Samples of Evidence (Living Simply)

- The weekend masses which have been live streamed and are on St Anne's Facebook page provide evidence for use of the Prayer Cards, Bidding Prayers and how we have evolved from using paper to using a projector and screen. The range of sermons of Fr Gerry, our parish priest, demonstrate our holistic approach to living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with those who are poor in any way, and have been very important for embedding the values of Livesimply [Click here for St Anne's Facebook Page](#)
- Our weekly bulletins, which are both online and emailed to parishioners, contain evidence of the Livesimply talks, tips and encouragement to live simply since we began this project [Click here for St Anne's \(Buxton\) Website](#)
- Next slide: A sample of 'I buy what I need' talk given at masses Autumn 2018; 'Live Christmas Simply' stickers to remind us of our pledges; Recycled card for parish cards to each other – money saved on cards donated to Foodbank and Good News Family Care (NB the tinsel was re-used... many many times)

What we did



Samples of Evidence (Living Simply)



Livesimply – St Anne’s Buxton: I buy what I need, a campaign for 2018 onwards - Talk at weekend Masses

We have made ourselves slaves of consumerism. We buy too much, we buy things we don’t need, we buy things we can’t afford. We shop in traditional shops, we buy online, we spend our free time on Amazon and other retail websites. We click and collect, and we acquire stuff.

Why do we do it? Because we feel we deserve it, because advertising tells us to do it, because we are persuaded that owning things will make us feel better, and will give our lives meaning. And we are falling for a lie. Buying won’t make us happy. It will make us poorer. It will create waste, it will put plastics in our oceans and pollution in our air, it will keep the world’s poor in low-paid employment, often in dangerous or degrading working conditions. Consumerism encourages child labour. It destroys traditional ways of life and divides families. The consequences of our uncontrolled spending are far-reaching.

Pope Francis has spoken out against the consumerist culture. He has asked us to reject *‘the banality of consumerism’* and *‘the blare of commercials with their ‘stream of empty words, waves of empty chatter and loud shouting’*. However, it isn’t easy to do. We have become used to rewarding ourselves and our children with treats, with luxuries, with ‘must have’s’ which we will have forgotten about tomorrow, and which we never needed.

Proposal for change



What we did

Samples of Evidence – Living Simply

LIVE CHRISTMAS SIMPLY – Talk at end of Mass

Thank Fr Gerry for letting me speak

As you know, our parish is working towards the CAFOD Livesimply award and we say the prayer at the weekend masses.

Christmas, just like every other season, is a time to think about living simply, living [sustainably](#) and living in solidarity with the poor.

You may have noticed the Live Christmas Simply parish Christmas cards at the back of church and I'd like to invite you all to join in. You just write one Christmas greeting to the whole of our parish community – and we are all included in your greeting. [It's](#) good for the planet, it's good for the community and any money saved can be donated to High Peak Homeless Help (in the box at the back).

Living Christmas Simply does NOT mean being glum and having no celebrations, it just means bringing more awareness, mindfulness and perhaps prayerfulness to what we do during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. It means cutting down on what we buy, and perhaps choosing not to buy things that will quickly end up in landfill sites.

We all know that the earth, the earth that God created, is reaching a crisis point because of global warming, and because of the tons and tons of plastic waste we are creating that will not bio-degrade.

Christ was born in poverty, in a stable in Bethlehem. In the carol 'In the Bleak Midwinter' the singer [asks](#) 'What can I bring him, poor as I am?'. [It's](#) a question that, as Christians, we ask ourselves today. What gift would **Jesus** like from us? Would he like some tinsel? A bigger television perhaps? Or would he like to see us putting some effort into buying less stuff to help care for the planet. And maybe helping people who are in need. Just as he was.



Actions to live sustainably with creation

Main action: **Parish Walk through Grinlow Woods, linking this local beauty spot to sustainability and learning about Laudato Si.** Walk led by Dr Mike Monaghan, parishioner and Chair of Buxton Civic Association.



Other activities:

- 1 Parish Prayer Day led by Sr Treasa Ridge focusing on Laudato Si, care for creation, life, beauty and colour in our world as gifts from God.
2. Parish Energy Audit followed by measures taken to reduce the consumption of energy in the church, parish centre and presbytery.
3. Celebrate Pope Francis's Season of Creation in the Parish each year

What we did



- We had our first parish Laudato Si walk through Grinlow Woods. We offered a 'short walk' and a 'long walk', finally meeting up at the outdoor café, to make sure that it was accessible at some level to everyone. We invited our MP but she was unable to come. We shared what we'd done in the Buxton Advertiser, our local paper. Mike Monaghan was both our walking guide, our Laudato Si spiritual guide and our history guide, and we discovered, prayed and chatted and one occasion sang together.
- Our second walk was through Corbar Woods and up to Corbar Cross. The same formula was repeated except that this time there was no 'short walk' alternative, and refreshments afterwards were in Mike and Mary's garden
- Our third walk was a social walk, and a parishioner who knew all the nooks and crannies of the town took us on a round walk of Buxton, with refreshments in the Community Centre
- We were going to do more, but winter came....

What we did



- We had an Eastertide Parish Prayer Day in the Community Centre on *Laudato Si*, facilitated by Sr Treasa Lee. There were displays of colour, with readings and reflections from *Laudato Si*. But this was just a starting point, as some interesting things evolved from this day (about which more later).
- Some work needed doing on the church property, which was a great opportunity to overhaul our energy use and consumption. Fr Gerry bore the brunt of this, having to go through all the processes of setting it up, overseeing it, and living with the disruption. Several parishioners helped out with different knowledge and skills.
- We celebrated the Season of Creation with walks, beautiful displays at the foot of the altar and at the back of church, prayers, hymns, Harvest Festivals, and Cafod collections.

What we did



Samples of evidence (Live Sustainably)

- The Laudato Si reflections prepared by Mike Monaghan for two walks
- Photographs
- Posters
- Notices in Bulletin



St Anne's Buxton Livesimply Journey

What we did



Samples of Evidence (Living Sustainably)

- Parish Energy Audit – Fr Gerry (Parish Priest) and Margaret Swift (Parish Administrator) described to the Parish Council what has been done in the Community Centre, the Presbytery and the Church throughout this time to make the buildings more energy efficient, and a 'Buildings and Premises' group was set up.
- [St Anne's Facebook Page](#) and [St Anne's Website](#) will give you links to past events and notices, and you can see and hear what we've been doing by watching some of the masses online. Look out for the beautiful displays around the altar and Fr Gerry's explanations of them as he introduces the liturgies each time

What we did



Samples of Evidence (Living Sustainably)

Season of Creation

Join in the Creation Story

St Anne's Parish Walk

Sunday 2nd September
at 2 30pm
Corbar Road
entrance

BIDDING PRAYERS 7th – 8th September 2019

Please take your 'Care for Creation' Prayer Card which you will find at the front of hymn book...(pause)... Let us pray together: "Whatever befalls the earth

1 In his intentions this month, Pope Francis focuses on Creation. He says that Creation is a project of love given by God to humanity. Let us join our prayers with his, and make sure that we treat all of Creation with love and respect.

Lord, hear us..... Lord graciously hear us

2 Let us pray for all those affected by the hurricane in the Bahamas and the south east coastal region of America. We pray for those who have lost their lives, their loved ones, their livelihoods and all their possessions. May those of us who are more fortunate be generous in response to their suffering.

Lord, hear us..... Lord graciously hear us

3 We pray for our leaders of business and government, that they may build an economy which safeguards the Earth; for those yet unborn who will face the consequences of our choices; and for the poor, who are the true heirs to God's kingdom.

Saturday 3rd March
10:00 - 3:00pm in the Parish Centre
Prayer Day with Sr Treasa Ridge/



Laudato Si "Praise be to you, my Lord"



What we did

Samples of Evidence (Live Sustainably)



Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

St Anne's Parish Walk September 2018 Reflection by Mike Monaghan

Introduction *Laudato Si* – Corbar Woods

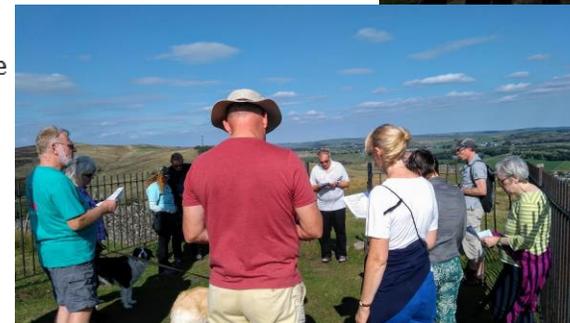
"*LAUDATO SI*, *mi Signore*" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs"

First Reflection *The healing power of the natural world.* Quote from Bishop John Arnold: Spending time with each other, unplugged and outdoors is a beautiful way to grow relationships. Whether it's tending a garden or simply finding a few moments for a walk connecting with the people we love in the splendour of nature has a richness that simply can't be replaced

Second Reflection *Our Responsibility to restore the natural world.* This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (*Rom 8:22*). Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

Third reflection *Every Living Thing brings Glory to God.* Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: "by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory", and indeed, "the Lord rejoices in all his works" (*Pss 104:31*).

Fourth Reflection *Hymn of St Francis* Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of you, Most High. Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.





What we did

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong

Reflection at Corbar Cross *What we can all do*

We require a new and universal solidarity. "Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation". All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (Silence)

Prayer of Pope Francis from Laudato Si

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us we pray in our struggle for justice love and peace. Amen

And finally from Laudato Si..... ***Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.***



Actions to live in solidarity with the poor

Main action: To increase parish support for the local Foodbank and Night Stop Shelter (now High Peak Homeless Help)

Other activities:



1. Hold 'Livesimply' Stations of the Cross during Lent
2. To celebrate the life, faith and vision of Blessed Oscar Romero at the time of his canonisation, encouraging people to see and respond to the 'poor' through the eyes of faith
3. Restructure parish Christmas Card Appeal in line with Livesimply values
4. To promote the use of Fairtrade in the parish, and use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar for all parish refreshments

What we did



- We had visitors who worked at High Peak Foodbank, Zinc Employability and High Peak Homeless Help come and give talks at weekend masses to explain why people needed their services and to tell us how we could support their work. We held second collections of money and food, and highlighted the importance of regular giving. Members of the parish went on a visit to the Foodbank and saw at first hand all the work involved. Several parishioners went to the monthly communal meal on a Friday evening. We also invited someone from the Grapevine Wellbeing Centre to speak about their work giving support to people who find themselves at a vulnerable time in their lives, and we had a collection for them too. These services, and the Source Café, are run together with our partner churches in 'Churches Together in Buxton'. Given the size and geography of our town and its relative isolation, we think that it is important to work ecumenically to address local people's needs.
- We took part in the Churches Together weekly 'Lenten Lunches' to raise money for charities which support the poor, both locally and abroad



What we did

- We celebrated the life and work of St Oscar Romero on the occasion of his canonisation. We learned about him during mass, said one of his prayers and everyone took one home.
- We were wondering how to introduce him to people beyond our parish community, perhaps by naming a room in our Community Centre, as it is used by people throughout Buxton. The Parish Council supported Fr Gerry in his idea of buying two large, Romero Crosses, one for each of the main downstairs rooms, and we held a short service in the Centre to bless them.
- The re-structured parish Christmas Card appeal reviewed where to give the money that was raised, and encouraged people to be more generous. People felt that they wanted the money to be given to the Foodbank, as well as to Good News Family Care (Charis House). We reinforced this message by borrowing a supermarket trolley and put a notice requesting donations of food (placed near the Christmas Card display and donations box). If people had forgotten to bring food they could therefore make an extra donation instead



What we did

- We had 'Livesimply' Stations of the Cross on the Palm Sundays while working for the Livesimply award. We adapted the Stations written by the J&P Group at St Barnabas Cathedral (with permission) and presented them ourselves. We had large art works representing the all Stations painted by former pupils at St Thomas More School, Buxton. The Livesimply Stations were well attended on both occasions
- We campaigned to inspire people to use Fairtrade at home, and for all parish groups to only buy and use Fairtrade products in the Community Centre. There were notices in the bulletin, posters and notices in church and the Community Centre. The PPC was supportive in encouraging our groups to do this
- We publicised and attended the Annual Lecture at the Dome presented by a speaker from the Fairtrade Foundation. Several parishioners attended, including St Anne's Brownies, who were very engaged and then enjoyed all the samples – as we all did. Feedback from families was that the Brownies wholeheartedly agreed that buying Fairtrade was the right thing to do, and they were encouraging family members to do so

What we did

Samples of Evidence – Living in Solidarity

- Notices about visitors speaking at masses, visits, collections, appeals, letters of thanks etc in church bulletin
- Cafod displays in the church and the Centre which are regularly Changed using materials ordered from Cafod
- Family Fast Days and Collections
- New developments and actions regarding Living in Solidarity as we progressed through the project



What we did

Samples of Evidence – Living in Solidarity

live simply



Stations of the Cross



Third station: Jesus falls

> We adore you O Christ and we praise you

R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

"Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our sickness. Yet we encountered him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions. Crushed for our iniquities. Upon him was the punishment that made us whole. And by his wounds we are healed."

We remember the many children throughout the world who bear adult burdens - who are victims of human trafficking and modern day slavery, who work in sweatshops, who care for sick parents. We remember the Aids orphans who look after their younger brothers and sisters, and the girls and boys who are sold into domestic servitude or the sex industry so that the rest of the family can be fed.

Lord Jesus, you know what it is to carry a heavy load, to fall, to be beaten. Give courage to all children and young people who have to bear great burdens with no-one to help them. May we, your Church always be in solidarity with young people who are oppressed or struggling to survive.

R: Amen.

> Lord by your cross and resurrection you have set us free

R: You are the Saviour of the world

What we did

Samples of Evidence – Living in Solidarity



A reflection for today using the words of Saint Oscar Romero

“We know that **every effort to better society**, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that **God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us.**” These words were spoken by Blessed Oscar Romero in his final homily, moments before he was assassinated whilst celebrating mass.

“Love must win out, it is the only thing that can”

“A civilisation of love that did not demand justice of people would not be a true civilisation.”

“When we hear of injustice here below and denounce it they think we are playing politics.”

“It is in the name of God’s just reign that we denounce the injustices of the earth.”

“the Church believes that **in each person is the creator’s image** and that anyone who tramples on it offends God”

“In the theology of human nature there is only one class: **children of God.**”

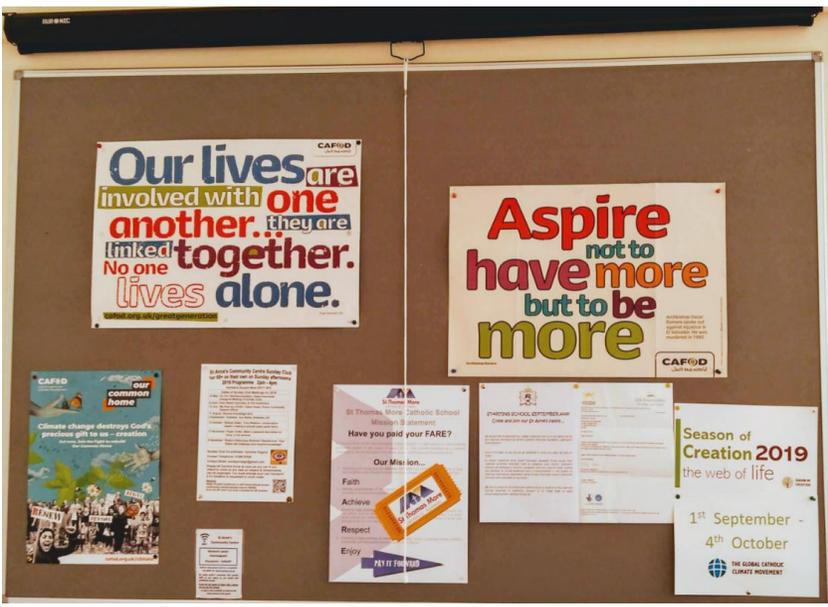
“we want a **church** that is really by the side **with the poor...** we find that we are gradually uncovering the Face of the Suffering Servant of God. We are getting to know closer at hand the mystery of the Christ who becomes human and becomes poor for us.”

“This is why I want a **church which is poor and for the poor.** They have much to teach us. We are **called to find Christ in them**, to lend our voice to their causes, **but also to be their friends, to listen to them**, to speak for them and **to embrace the mysterious wisdom** which God wishes to share with us through them. *Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel p198*



What we did

Samples of Evidence – Living in Solidarity



St Anne's Buxton Livesimply Journey



What we did

Our Livesimply journey bore more fruit
People identified what needed doing... and did it!

- A 'Parish Visiting Group' was formed, with the coordinator ensuring that any parishioner who could not come to church would be visited. During the pandemic, it became even more important to ensure that people who were self-isolating were not left to become invisible and had regular interactions via letters, phone calls or technology
- Following on from our Eastertide Prayer Day on Laudato Si, Prayer Weeks with facilitators were held. This has developed into a Scripture Study group, which met monthly before the lockdown but since then meets every week on Zoom



What we did

Our Livesimply journey bore more fruit
People identified what needed doing... and did it!

- We were able to help Zinc Employability obtain a grant for the organisation due to our knowledge and understanding of their work, resulting from the talks that were given at weekend masses. Fr Gerry obtained the details, and they applied and were successful. This money means that a person is now employed by [Zinc Employability](#) to coach people and give them the skills to get back into employment





What we did

Our Livesimply journey bore more fruit

People identified what needed doing for older people and younger ones...

- A need was identified for an activity for slightly older people on Sunday afternoons – which can be too quiet for some – and we started the monthly 'Sunday Club'. Parishioners fundraised for equipment and met all the criteria including safeguarding, and it ran until the Covid lockdown. There were a range of talks, games, quizzes and refreshments on offer and it became a very happy place





What we did

Our Livesimply journey bore more fruit

People identified what needed doing... and did it!

- A parishioner became a Cafod Education Volunteer, recruited by Maggie (from Cafod) when she came for the weekend to launch Livesimply. The volunteer visits all Catholic schools in the High Peak Deanery (with the exception of one) and beyond and has raised awareness on a number of issues, as well as raising thousands of pounds for Cafod



Become a CAFOD education volunteer and help children learn about global justice issues.



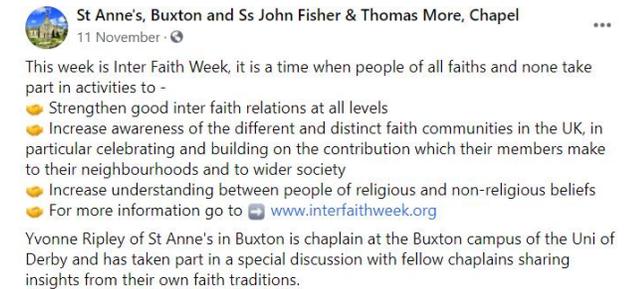
What we did

Our Livesimply journey bore more fruit
People identified what needed doing... and did it!

- The Parish Council agreed that we needed to develop more of an online presence, and volunteers agreed to set up a Facebook page. This page shares information about community events such as matchfunding for the High Peak Foodbank, the 'Christmas for the Community' initiative, and a local Interfaith Week discussion



St Anne's Buxton Livesimply Journey





Our Livesimply journey bore more fruit

People identified what needed doing for other people... and did it!

- We have a very active group of Presentation Associates who pray and work for others and for the environment. During our Livesimply project their main action has been a fundraising event for the Kaoma Orphanage in Zambia, run by the Presentation Sisters. A large amount of money was raised by organising and hosting a concert in the Community Centre
- In addition to this members visit the housebound in the Parish and take Christmas and Easter gifts. The cards are made by the Brownies and pupils at St Anne's school. Being mindful of packaging, they now donate to the Church in Need and take Mass cards for gifts which are very much appreciated
- The Presentation Associates have followed courses on 'Minding Planet Earth' and Fairtrade, both of which emphasize love and care for God's creation.
- One member made some unwanted fruit into jam to raise money for Kaoma



Our Assessment

We had planned to be assessed during Eastertide

We put a display of all we had achieved during the two years at the back of church

The evidence was gathered together

We planned to survey parishioners about the Livesimply project
But on 23rd March the country went into lockdown so we decided to be assessed using PowerPoint and Zoom during Advent 2020

Our Final Display



St Anne's Buxton Livesimply Journey



Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard and supported this initiative: Fr Gerry, The Parish Pastoral Council and all the many people who have given their ideas, enthusiasm, skills and time. Thank you.

The big question now is

WHAT SHALL WE DO NEXT???



live simply

Finally, a reflection from Richard Rohr
which arrived in my inbox as I was
preparing this presentation

Friday, December 4, 2020

I think there are three basic levels of social ministry, and none is better than the other. I believe all are the movement of the Holy Spirit within us for the sake of others. I like to imagine a river flooding out of control—symbolizing the circumstances and injustices that bring about suffering—overflowing its banks and sweeping those in its path off their feet.

At the first level, we rescue drowning people from the swollen river, dealing with the immediate social problem right in front of us: someone hungry comes to our door and we offer them some food, or invite them inside. **These are hands-on, social service ministries,** like the familiar soup kitchen or food pantry. Such works will always look rather generous, Christian, charitable, and they tend to be admired, if not always imitated.

At the second level, there are ministries that help people not to fall into the swollen river in the first place, or show them how to survive despite falling in. In general, these are the ministries of education and healing. Most of the religious orders in the Catholic Church in the last three hundred years went in that direction, filling the world with schools, hospitals, and social service ministries that empowered people and gave them new visions and possibilities for their lives.

Finally, on the third level, some ministries build and maintain a dam to stop the against all forms of systemic injustice and deceit. It is the gift of a few, but a much-needed gift that we only recently began to learn and practice. *It stops the river from flooding in the first place.* **This is the work of social activism and advocacy,** critique of systems, organizing, speeches, boycotts, protests, and resistance seeks systemic change and not just individual conversion.

I don't think most people feel called to activism; I myself don't. It was initially humiliating to admit this, and I lost the trust and admiration of some friends and supporters. *Yet as we come to know our own soul gift more clearly, we almost always have to let go of certain "gifts" so we can do our one or two things well and with integrity.* I believe that if we can do one or two things wholeheartedly in our life, that is all God expects.

The important thing is that *we all should be doing something for the rest of the world!* We have to pay back, particularly those of us born into privilege and comfort. We also must respect and support the other two levels, even if we cannot do them. *Avoid all comparisons about better or lesser, more committed or less committed; those are all ego games.* Let's just use our different gifts to create a unity in the work of service (Ephesians 4:12–13), and back one another up, without criticism or competition. **Only in our peaceful, mutual honoring do we show forth the glory of God.**

Reference:

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [*Dancing Standing Still: Healing the World from a Place of Prayer*](#) (Paulist Press: 2014), 84–86.