Renewing Creation

A newsletter for Christians in Newcastle and Northumberland

January 2009

'Treading Lighter During Lent'

An invitation to use the season of Lent to record and reduce your carbon footprint

Lent is a time for taking stock of the way we live our lives and for learning new habits of holy living. Having been jointly organised by the Diocesan Environment Group and the Energy Saving Trust advice centre for the North East, 'Treading Lighter During Lent' provides a good combination of both spirituality and practicality. After taking part in 'Treading Lighter During Lent' you should be more attuned to the relationship between the Christian faith and environmental issues, be more aware of your own pattern of energy use, and have seen a reduction in your weekly carbon footprint.

'Treading Lighter During Lent' works as follows:

1. From 18th January (or whenever you're ready to begin), you record your weekly energy use and carbon emissions for 6 weeks before Lent, 7 weeks during Lent and 8 weeks after Lent (or as often as practicable).
2. During Lent, you take steps to reduce your energy consumption.
3. A resource pack is available, containing:
   - Ideas and advice from the Energy Saving Trust advice centre for the North East
   - A simple log sheet for recording your energy use and calculating your carbon emissions
   - A cycle of prayers from the Diocesan Environment Group

If you'd like to get involved, either contact Rob Kelsey (see over for contact details) or attend one of the following seminars:

- 7.00pm, Mon 26th January Monastic Workshop, Hexham Abbey
- 7.00pm, Tue 27th January Church House, Newcastle
- 7.00pm, Fri 30th January Parish Hall, Stobhill, Morpeth

Bishop Martin has said, *"Treading Lighter During Lent provides an opportunity, for those of us who wish to do so, to measure and reduce our carbon footprint. It's good to see the Energy Saving Trust and the Diocesan Environment Group working together on an initiative that combines practicality and spirituality. The office at Bishop's House will be taking part, and I invite you – either as an individual or as a church – to join us in using Lent next year as a means of becoming more aware of our own carbon footprints, and of treading lighter on the earth."*

'Treading Lighter during Lent'

Hexham Abbey presents a series
of high-profile speakers
on the impact of climate change
as part of Evensong
on Sunday evenings during Lent

6:30pm Sunday 1st March
Brendan Callaghan
Regional Conservator, The Forestry Commission
The challenge for forestry

6:30pm Sunday 8th March
Dr Paula Clifford
Christian Aid and
Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor
on Climate Change
The challenge for the poor

6:30pm Sunday 15th March
Professor Sam Berry
Past President of the British Ecological Society
The challenge for ecology

6:30pm Sunday 22nd March
Professor Dermot Roddy
Science City Professor of Energy,
The University of Newcastle
The challenge for renewable energy

6:30pm Sunday 29th March
Professor Michael Northcott
Professor of Ethics, The University of Edinburgh
The challenge for ethics

For more information contact Canon Graham Usher, Rector, Hexham Abbey, Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3NB, Tel. 01434 602031, Email rector@hexhamabbey.org.uk

Does your church have a churchyard?
Would your church like to do more for wildlife?

The Diocesan Environment Group
is planning a seminar

"Encouraging Wildlife in the Churchyard"

to be held at
St Nicholas's Church, Gosforth
10.00am to 3.00pm, Saturday 25th April 2009
by kind permission of the Revd Philip Cunningham
and St Nicholas's PCC

Some of Britain's native wildlife
is currently under pressure.
Come along and see what your church could do
to enhance conditions for wildlife in God's Acre.

Drinks will be provided,
but please bring a packed lunch.
Some time will be spent in the churchyard,
so please bring appropriate footwear.

For more information, contact Mrs Janis Irvine
at Slaley Vicarage, Tel. (01434) 673609

Worth a look?

Amber Links

The Amber Links web-site, www.amberlinks.org, has been created by Isabel Carter, who helped to found the Jubilee 2000 campaign. It has a wealth of information about climate change and peak oil, with a strong faith-related section. Isabel herself says that, 'Amber Links is designed to help people respond effectively to climate change, with information about sustainable living, links to hundreds of useful web-sites and opportunities to share experience and tips. There are no adverts, no registration, no membership, just a site for shared information.'

If you have a view about the usefulness of this web-site, or know of any other good web-sites, please let other people know through *Renewing Creation*.

The Earth is the Lord's: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues

This is the title of a Grove booklet (ISBN 978 1 85174 705 4) that looks at a range of texts and themes in the Old and New Testaments, and shows how the whole of the non-human created order is included in the biblical vision of God's restoration. It includes questions for reflection and points to resources for practical action.

WhizzGo

According to their web-site, WhizzGo is 'the leading pay-by-the-hour car club with a network of low-emission cars located in dedicated parking bays in towns and cities across the UK. Once you've become a WhizzGo member you can use any car for as little as an hour or as long as you like. You only pay for the time you actually use a car, so being a WhizzGo member can save you money.'

Find out more at www.whizzgo.co.uk or (0845) 4779966.

A selection of forthcoming environmental dates

20th March	International Earth Day
26th April	Walk to Work Day

And finally ...

Contributions to *Renewing Creation* are welcome. Please send them to Rob Kelsey. The copy deadline for the next issue is **29th March 2009**.

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