



UPDATE ON PARISH "LIVING SIMPLY" PROJECTS

May 2018

Following on from the lead given by Pope Francis in his encyclical “Laudato Si” and the parish meeting held last November to consider ways in which we at Holy Innocents might try to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, the Justice and Peace Group have been working to set up a number of Living Simply projects. A full list can be found on the parish website but this note sets out some of the progress which has been made so far.

1. Project to Eat More Simply

We had a very successful Lent Family Fast Day in February when everyone was encouraged to fast or eat more simply on a particular day and to contribute the money saved to CAFOD’s programmes to combat hunger and malnutrition in Africa. This raised £1145, which doubled up by the Government’s matched funding amounted to £2290 in real terms.

We would now like to extend this by encouraging parishioners to commit to fasting or eating more simply one day per month with the money saved going to support those less fortunate than ourselves. If you are willing to take part please sign the form in the entrance lobby at the back of the church or contact the project leader, Russell Brockett, for further details.
[\(brockett@btinternet.com](mailto:brockett@btinternet.com) or 07842 259815).

2. Project to Encourage Recycling of Surplus Materials

You may have noticed that we now have two boxes in the entrance lobby at the back of the church for recycling used batteries and old pairs of spectacles. Sister Lucy is leading this project. Please do remember to bring along your old glasses and batteries for the boxes.

In addition to this we are also participating in the “Tools with a Mission” charity. This is a Christian organisation which each year sends out over 20 shipping containers full of tools and equipment to support poor and disadvantaged communities, mainly in African countries. We will be having a special weekend in May to collect from parishioners any spare tools or equipment which can be donated. Leaflets describing what is needed will be given out at Masses. The project leader for this is Ron Munro, (contact details via Parish Office).

3. Participation in the Bromley Foodbank

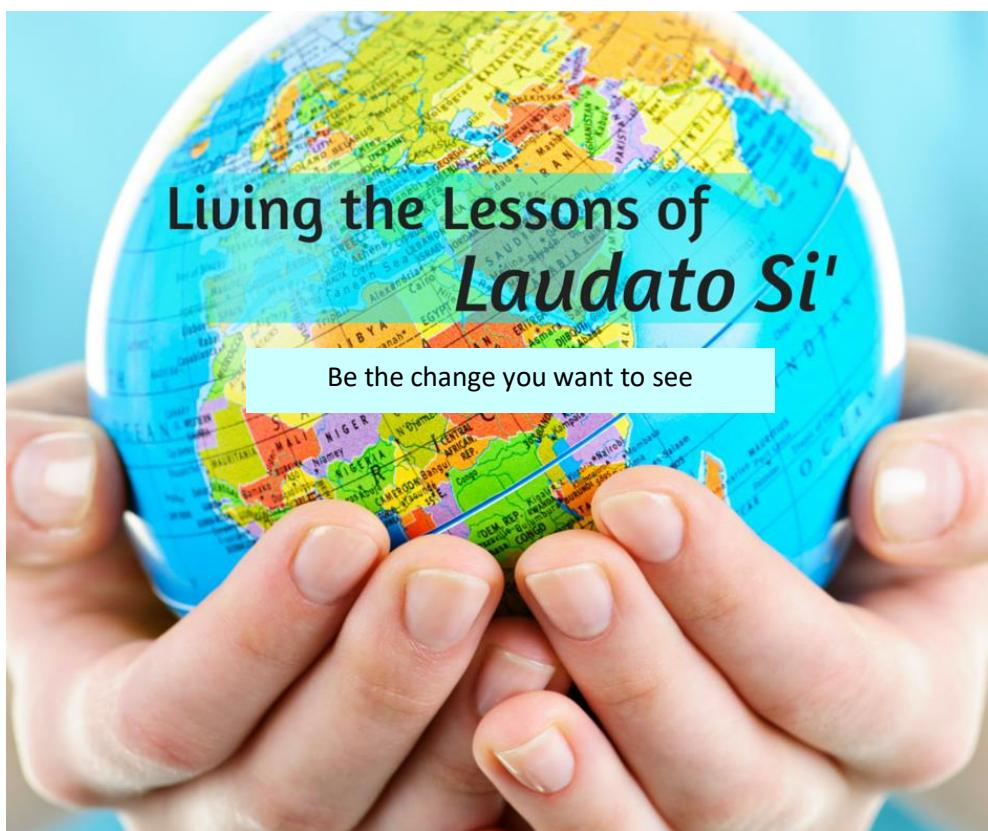
As you may be aware, we contribute food and grocery items to the Bromley Foodbank. There is a large wooden box in the entrance lobby at the back of the church for receipt of non-perishable food items. Cans of meat, vegetables and soup are particularly needed. Donal O’Sullivan makes regular trips to the Foodbank whenever the box is full. Three other parishioners (Mick and Jackie Low and Olwen Whiteside) also work at the Foodbank on a voluntary basis.

4. Reducing food waste and improving recycling

We are working together with Holy Innocents School and our liturgy and confirmation groups on projects to improve awareness of how we can reduce waste products, especially surplus food.

5. Other projects

We are planning later in the year to hold a special week of prayer and reflection on how we can individually change aspects of our **lifestyle/purchasing decisions to fit better with “Living Simply” principles**. We have also been talking with the Parish Finance Committee about how the design and operating arrangements for our new Parish Centre can be consistent with green principles.



If you wish to know more about “Living Simply” projects or would like to join the Parish Justice and Peace Group please contact either Russell Brockett or Ian Wilson. (contact details as above or via Parish Office).