



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



Bishops' Lent Appeal 2020



Offering study materials, daily challenges and devotionals, suggestions for Lenten giving, and many other ideas to help you and your church to grow deeper in God this Lent.

The Bishops Write...

2020 is a significant year for our Church as we prepare to welcome Bishops from all over the world to the Lambeth Conference. Many of them will bring news of great difficulties caused by changing seasonal patterns and extreme weather events in their home countries. Indeed, few of us can be unaware these days of the critical and urgent environmental challenges facing us. Christians are rediscovering that caring for the creation God brought into being, and which He loves, is a vital part of our mission as well as being an issue of justice.

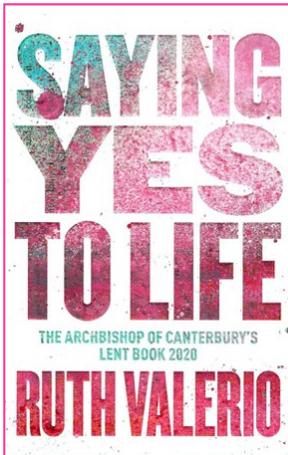
Our appeal this year is not just about fundraising but offers a set of resources for groups and individuals to engage positively and actively with environmental issues, including study aids on what the Bible has to say on these matters, what God's creation itself is telling us, and what our brothers and sisters across the globe are experiencing at this time. We urge every member of the Church in Suffolk to consider taking up at least one of the ideas in this leaflet in 2020.

Grace and peace for a blessed Lent

+ Mark

+ Mike

1. STUDY



We commend to you the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book “*Saying Yes to Life*”, a delightful and thought-provoking exploration of the biblical story of creation in which God himself said “Yes” to life. It can be read on its own or as part of a discussion group over six sessions. Extra resources will be available online including a study guide, extra questions, a youth group resource and video content. As an alternative there will also be a simplified Lent course following the same themes available to download from the Diocesan website (coming soon). More details on the book can be found on the enclosed leaflet.

2. BE CHALLENGED

Many people told us that they enjoyed last year’s ‘Kagera Challenge’ over the 40 days of Lent, so this year we have made an ‘Environmental Challenge’ along similar lines. See how many green stars you can score, and pick up tips and ideas along the way for living out your mission to care for creation. One copy is enclosed—more can be obtained from the Diocesan Office, or it can be provided as a .pdf file by emailing environment@cofesuffolk.org. We will also post each daily challenge on the Diocesan Environment Group’s FaceBook page and Twitter feed.

Wed 26 Feb		It's Ash Wednesday. With Christian Aid's help, women in Ethiopia are making and selling stoves that burn less wood. Use less power by using a steamer or only boiling the amount of water you need.	
Thurs 27		Women in Africa often make soap as an extra source of income. Swap your single-use plastic bottle of shower gel for a bar of soap.	
Fri 28		Preparing for the weekend shop? Find your nearest shop that sells refills and loose goods you can store in jars and shop there instead. You won't have to throw all that packaging away!	
Sat 29		Climate change is seriously affecting people in developing countries. Campaigning makes a difference. Is there a climate march or strike near you during Lent that you can join?	
Sun 1 Mar		Micah 6:8 ... <i>do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.</i> Fairtrade products do less damage to the environment. Are you a Fairtrade church? Could you become one?	
Mon 2		Yes it's Monday morning - back to work. But you could feel better if you were doing your bit by sharing a lift to work or cycling and taking one more car off the road!	
Tues 3		Trees soak up carbon dioxide. Change your search engine to Ecosia and let your searches plant trees around the world www.ecosia.org/.	

#LIVE LENT

CARE for GOD'S
CREATION



3. PRAY

Join in with the Church of England national Lent campaign, either through the #LiveLent booklets or electronically via the #LiveLent app or by email. There are daily devotionals for adults and for children, inspired by the Lent Book.

More information can be found in the enclosed leaflet

4. GET INVOLVED



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Almost 100 churches in our Diocese have joined the Eco Church scheme, and we are proud to have achieved a bronze Eco Diocese award. This Lent it would be good to see many more churches join this growing movement, which encourages members to take manageable yet very meaningful steps towards caring better for God's creation. Imagine if all of our 477 churches were taking part, what a huge force for good that would be across our county. To register free, visit the Eco Church website at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

5. GIVE

Many Christians rightly see sacrificial giving as an important part of their Lenten devotions. May we suggest these environmental causes as options if you wish to reflect love for God's creation in your Lenten giving?

The Bishops' Environment Fund

The Bishops propose to start a new seed fund for environmental initiatives across our diocese – providing small grants of up to £250 to be administered by the Diocesan Environment Group. Your gifts to this fund will enable us to offer small grants to parishes for projects focusing on our mission to care for God's creation. A giving leaflet is enclosed should you wish to support this scheme either as individuals or churches. Information on how to apply for grants will be shared later in the year.



A Rocha UK is the Christian environmental charity behind the Eco Church Scheme. They are committed to keeping the scheme free to join, but clearly it is not free to run. They need our support to continue this vital work, as well as their other initiatives in creating nature reserves such as Foxearth Meadow, near Sudbury, an important site for dragonfly conservation and well worth a visit. Details on how to give to A Rocha can be found at www.arocha.org.uk/donate - please do let them know you are giving as a result of our Diocesan Lent Challenge.



Recently Diocesan Environment Officer Sandie Barton and World Development Adviser Richard Stainer visited Ethiopia and saw at first hand the amazing work Christian Aid are doing to mitigate the effects of climate change in a very vulnerable area of the world. Christian Aid need to raise £200,000 in the next year to continue their good work in that country alone, and this would be a worthy destination for your Lenten giving. Sandie and Richard would be glad to come and speak in your parish about their experiences. Details on how to give can be found at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money> - please do let them know you are giving as a result of our Diocesan Lent Challenge.