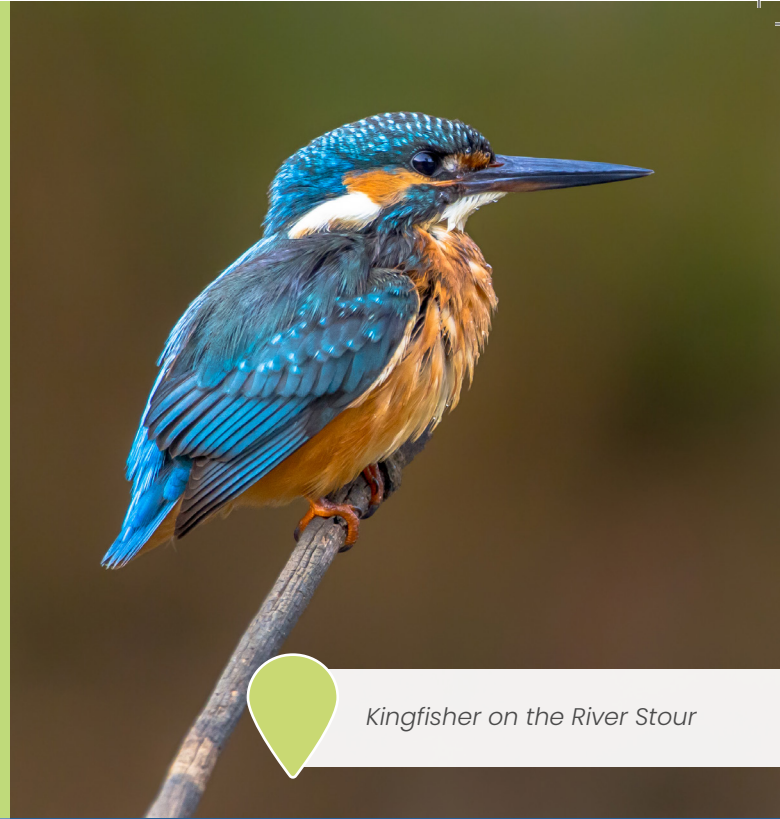


Bikes collected for charity at Brentwood Cathedral

“The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (97)



Kingfisher on the River Stour

“In making your personal pledges – in working to heal the planet, and in striving for justice for the poorest people in the world – you are a living witness to Jesus Christ: do not be afraid to tell people why you are doing whatever you choose to do.”

Bishop Alan Williams



Wild flowers in front of the Olympic Stadium, Stratford

“In every living creature, there is a trace of the Trinity”

St Thomas Aquinas



Food Bank at St. Margaret's, Canning Town



Diocese of Brentwood Laudato Si Invitations Commitments and Actions, 2021-2024

A personal invitation to every Catholic in Brentwood Diocese to pray and act, to cherish God's creation and strive for justice for the world's poorest people.



Rubbish on Southend-on-Sea beach

“Is what I am doing to serve the poor just a drop in the ocean?

Yes.

But many drops make a different ocean”

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Swan with cygnets on the River Colne, near Colchester

“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (21).

What is the Diocese already doing?

Electricity and gas generated from renewable sources (wind & solar – and gas from a gin factory!) supply over 95% of our Diocesan buildings.

We have, since 2018, ensured all Diocesan employees are paid the 'Real Living Wage', ensuring that everyone is paid enough to support themselves and their family.

We are aiming to dramatically reduce the amount of carbon generated through Diocesan buildings and activities. We will achieve this by:

- Understanding the energy usage of every building, with professional advice and support.
- Working to become more energy efficient, especially with our heating, lighting and water usage as well as travel.

We campaign against injustice in the UK and all over the world, by working with agencies such as CAFOD and Aid to the Church in Need. These charities work to ensure everyone, including those already affected by Climate Change, are treated with their God-gifted dignity.

We are building on a long heritage of ethical investment. In 2021 we phased out the final small amount of investment in companies where production or trading of fossil fuels makes up more than 10% of their business. As a Diocese, for 30 years we have not invested in tobacco, arms, alcohol, gambling and pornography, nor any company with products that contravene Church teaching on the sanctity of life.

We have many excellent initiatives already happening in our schools and parishes, linked via our Diocesan Caritas network. We are continuing to strengthen links between parishes and schools to ensure every young person has the opportunity to get involved with projects dedicated to care for creation and serving those most in need in our Diocese.

This is excellent. What can I do? What can my parish do?

We are inviting every parish to work towards the national LiveSimply standard. This involves making changes to parish life, purchasing decisions and activities to enhance spaces for wildlife, reduce energy consumption, and ensure environmental sustainability. Could you start, or join, a parish LiveSimply group?

We are inviting every parishioner, member of the clergy, and Diocesan staff member to personally commit to three lifestyle changes which they choose, in order to reduce their environmental impact, alleviate poverty, and offer it all to God in prayer.

These pledges can range from small, everyday changes to larger lifestyle choices. You can take inspiration from the list on the right or the 'resources' page on the website. These pledges should not be chores, but things that bring your faith to life for the good of our common home.

We especially encourage this as a moment of evangelisation. Discover why care for our common home is integral to our Catholic faith by reading the Diocesan Laudato Si' Invitations, Commitments and Actions document – then tell people about it! Begin conversations in your family, and listen to the ideas of young people, in your home and in your parish.

We can unite our individual efforts with others in our parish community. Use the pledge card in your parish offertory. As a parish create a display of everyone's pledges, as encouragement to each other. Share moments and photos of achievement and inspiration in the newsletter and on the parish website.

Discover the full Laudato Si' Invitations, Commitments and Actions document, including words from Bishop Alan, on the website www.dioceseofbrentwood.org/laudatosi

What can I do?

Make three Personal Commitments from 4th October 2021 – 4th October 2022

You will find more information about each of these, and why they matter, on the website www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/laudatosi. There are many more resources and ideas there too.

Ideas for everyone



Pray grace before each meal, thanking God for what is provided for you from creation and all those who brought it from the earth to your table



Read Laudato Si'



Plant a window box with flowers to attract bees and butterflies



Volunteer to help at a local park or nature project, or see if your local school needs help to create wildlife-friendly areas. Tell people why you are getting involved – it is a great way to start a conversation about Jesus Christ, your faith, and your inspiration to act



Organise a litter pick on your road



Walk or cycle more



Get informed about the issues of climate change, and campaign for action – start by looking at the Cafod website www.cafod.org



Commit to regular prayer on these issues



Join or start a group working towards the Cafod LiveSimply Award for your parish

Ideas if you own your own home, or have a garden



Let part of the garden go wild



Create a wildflower bed



Grow your own vegetables – give some away to neighbours or local food banks



Put some logs around the garden to create a home for bugs



Conduct a "home energy audit" to see how and where you use most energy; install a smart meter, and check your home insulation



Change your energy supplier to one which uses energy from renewable sources



Look into adding solar panels, or ground source heating, especially at the time when your boiler is near the end of its life

Share your ideas with family and friends – encourage them to join you. Include it all in your prayers.