

## Number 2, February 2020



### LENT

This year the Church of England is encouraging us to have a Lenten focus on “Care for God’s Creation”. See <https://www.churchofengland.org/livelent> for resources. This also ties in with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 'Saying Yes to Life' which the Abbey will be running as a Lent course with Churches Together in Romsey.

### FOLLOW-UP FROM THE FIRST NEWSLETTER.

We have more than 60 “Subscribers” to the PEG Newsletter. Thank you for saying “yes”. Please feel free to share these Newsletters with friends/colleagues who may be interested.

Several of you gave us feedback about environmental issues that concern you. That is exactly what we hope this Newsletter will stimulate.

Here are responses to topics you raised.

- [Recycling in the Abbey](#) (and at home).

First of all, an apology: we talked about recycling bottle tops in the bins in the Abbey. We should have said **MILK BOTTLE TOPS**.

We all know that we could do better but it turns out that recycling is a complicated and often confusing issue. We have therefore arranged for a talk on March 25<sup>th</sup> by Mike Pratt the Recycling Officer for Test Valley Borough Council. See “Dates for your diary” for details.

- [The Abbey’s energy use](#).

Two newsletter readers raised the issue of how the Abbey can reduce its energy use and offset its carbon footprint.

The PEG had started to address this issue but the challenge has now been brought into sharp focus. On February 12<sup>th</sup> the Church of England Synod debated a resolution (GS 2159) that the C of E should be carbon neutral by 2045 and also passed an amendment that the target should be carbon neutrality by 2030.

So, how will Romsey Abbey and St Swithun's respond to such a challenge? At present our electricity is "green" but our gas is not as "green" as we would like. Gas use is the main contributor to the Abbey's carbon footprint. (St Swithun's is all electric). We have a 900 year old, Grade 1 listed Abbey. The church rooms have very little insulation and these factors present a great challenge. Meeting that challenge will require a strategy that will involve energy saving, carbon offsetting and moving to new energy sources (solar panels?, ground source heating?). These go far beyond the remit of the Fabric committee and must be part of the Abbey's Development project.

- Reducing printing.

The Abbey does a considerable amount of printing. Could it be reduced? The answer is almost certainly yes, BUT, not all of our congregation have access to the internet and we need to ensure that people are not excluded. Again, a strategic approach is needed across all the avenues of communication within the Abbey to ensure that we are doing as well as we can and avoiding duplication. The PEG can, and will, advise.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.**

7 March. The start of Christian Aid's Climate Justice Campaign.

Wessex Centre, Winchester Cathedral. (9am for 9.30 start).

(<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change-campaign> )

25 March. Recycling talk by Mike Pratt, Test Valley Borough Council.

This is your chance to ask the expert. 7.00 for 7.30 , Romsey Abbey, Church Rooms.

23 April. "Our changing climate: What do we know and how do we know it?" by John Gould.

Romsey British Legion, 7.00 for 7.30 (<https://www.cafscientificeromsey.com/>)

24 May. Nature Festival 2020 at the Gilbert White Museum, Selborne.

(<http://www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/nature-festival-2020/> ).

It is 300 years since the birth of Gilbert White (18 July 1720). He was a great observer of nature and his diaries provide a us with a valuable insight into how our world has changed.

9-19 November, Conference of the Parties COP-26. Glasgow. (<https://www.ukcop26.org/>).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the mechanism through which governments negotiate agreements to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## **RESOURCES AND LINKS**

- The Church of England's Environment Programme web page.

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment-programme> )

- Synod resolution GS2159 is at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/GS%202159%20Climate%20Emergency%20and%20Carbon%20Reduction%20Target.pdf>

- The "Live lent" book is available from the Abbey book stall, as is another book with an environment theme, "Soulful Nature: A spiritual field guide", by Brian Draper and Howard Green.