PLYMOUTH CHURCHES GREEN ACTION

Newsletter Spring 2017

At its inaugural meeting held at the St.Budeaux Church Community Hall on the 1st April the PCGA group, a branch of the Devon Churches Green Action Group was formally launched.

Our Vision

Our vision is for churches of all denominations in and around Plymouth to care for creation in five key areas of church life:

- ❖ *Worship and Teaching,*
- ❖ *Building Management*
- ❖ *Land Management,*
- ❖ *Community and Global Engagement,*
- ❖ *Lifestyle*

As an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

Aims

To resource and encourage churches and individuals to engage with making caring for God's creation ('Our Common Home') more a part of normal church life and personal Christian discipleship.

Achievable Outcomes

- • Shared information to ensure churches are fully resourced
- • Established forum to address local issues such as low carbon, open spaces, marine environment, built environment, food and waste, protecting heritage
- • Churches actively involved with Eco Church and Living Churchyards schemes
- • Churches celebrating God's Creation in teaching and worship

HOW SUSTAINABLE IS YOUR CHURCH?

A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales.

A Rocha's vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

Help us bring that vision to reality in Plymouth. Make a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of your church by endorsing and working towards an Eco Church Award:

https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/

Help our bees and butterflies this year

In the UK we have lost 25% of our widespread butterflies in just 40 years. Iconic pollinator species such as bees are struggling to survive.

There is still time to plant wildflower seeds to provide the essential nectar and pollen throughout this summer. Choose native flowers or cultivars of native species to benefit the most wild pollinators.

Provide a mix of flower types to cater for all. Open, daisy-type flowers and umbels are great for hoverflies and many solitary bees, whilst some other bees, butterflies and moths prefer tubular flowers. Also plant night-scented flowers for moths, such as Jasmine and Honeysuckle. More info at: https://www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-gardening#sthash.is6sdiRZ.dpuf

Food Glorious Food

The Biblical landscape is peppered with meal stories. From an early age Jesus joined His family in celebrating the annual cycle of Jewish festivals and feasts. Celebrating the Passover was His last meal.

Every year we experience the cycles of the natural world as spring gives way to summer and summer lengthens into autumn and it is likely that we associate certain meals with different times of year.

There are many traditional Christian festivals which have been lost through time, each associated with certain foods; January **–** celebrate *Plough Sunday* with a ploughman's lunch, February – *Candlemass and Lent*, pancakes and oatcakes.

Rogation Sunday in May is a time for reminding all of us of where our food comes from, to give thanks for the fact that we have enough to eat, and also to remember those who rely on the land for their livelihood. Have a look at the Food Plymouth web site: http://www.foodplymouth.org/

Why not celebrate *Rogation* with your family, friends or home group? During your preparation remember to choose food that fulfils at least one of the following criteria. **L**ocally produced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal friendly and **F**airly traded. See LOAF - http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/resources/loaf/

Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan
The Joint Local Plan now enters the public consultation phase. This commenced on 15 March and ends 26 April 2017. Please read the plan and respond accordingly. You should only comment on areas that you wish to be changed. No representations now mean no 'seat at the table'.
You can visit the consultation portal at:
http://plymouth-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/JLP