

THOUGHTFUL LIVING NEWSLETTER
APRIL/MAY 2024



Hopefully you enjoyed the fine weather over the Easter weekend and as Spring advances, you may be looking to make some space in your wardrobe for new items of clothing. Please remember that CIRDIC will accept donations of men's clothing, which is in good condition. There is also a local charity called Smart Works Reading, which accepts good quality work clothes for women. Smart Works Reading is dedicated to empowering unemployed women to achieve success in the work force. They provide smart work outfits to women for interviews and work placements and have supported nearly 2,500 women into employment since 2015. You can leave suitable donations at the back of the church in a bag labelled CIRDIC or Smart Works.

Our next community event is a Plant and Book Sale, which will take place on the weekend of the 11th/12th May in the Parish Hall. If there are any gaps in your borders or you would like some seedlings to get a vegetable patch going, do come along. Equally if you are wondering what to do with some of the plants you have split, please donate them to St Michael's for sale. Books can be left at the back of Church from April 27th/28th. We are accepting only books which are in exceptionally good order for sale, perhaps you will find a good read from a favourite author that will also look well on your bookshelf!

Once again, thank you for your unfailing support.

Mary

Laudato Si' Week, which marks the anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for creation, will be celebrated from 19 - 26th May. The theme this year is "Seeds of Hope", inspired by Laudate Deum, which calls on us to tackle the climate crisis as a matter of urgency.

"There are no lasting changes without cultural changes [...] and there are no cultural changes without personal changes" (LD 70)

The parishioners of St Michael's always respond to our appeals generously, espousing Pope Francis' call to care for our planet and the marginalised in our society.

For our planet: to give an idea of the difference that your recycling of soft plastics makes, I made a note of how many 70 litre bin bags were taken to recycling in the month of March. Six full bags were collected from the bin at the church. When counted along with the bags recycled by members of the TLG individually, 1400 litres of soft plastics that would have gone to landfill has been recycled by members of St Michael's in the month of March alone! That is probably a conservative estimate, because we are sure many of you recycle these tricky items without using the bin at St. Michael's. Please keep up the good work! These personal changes can become lasting changes. We know the bin at church can get very full at times, but we do our best to empty it on a regular basis. If you are visiting the Co-op in the village, you can recycle there, as well as in the supermarkets in Henley and Caversham.

For those in need: not only did you offer wonderful prizes for our "Santa doesn't always get it right" raffle, but you also bought lots of tickets so that we can continue to support local charities. CIRDIC received a cheque for £200, as well as supplies of tea, coffee, sugar and sweet treats, including cream eggs! The Reading Refugee Group received a cheque for £274 which will be used to buy toys and books to help adults and children learn English. Thank you so much!

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