

While the TLG is committed to living in solidarity with the poor and marginalised in our society, we do realise we are all responsible for, as Pope Francis calls it, '*our common home*'. You already support the environment by using our TerraCycle facility.

In Sonning Common, there is an environmental group called EcoSoCo - look them up on Facebook. They have lots of ideas on how we can '*green up*' Sonning Common and improve the biodiversity of our village. New ventures include a repair café at Springwater Church on the first Saturday of every month and establishing a community orchard. Why not contact them in the coming weeks and volunteer to plant some of the 3,000 crocus bulbs they have, in the verges near your home. Also look out for information on the Garden Tree Giveaway - you can have two native tree whips for free; applications open at the end of September.

Do you ever wonder how you might make your Christmas preparations more sustainable? Following our Thoughtful Christmas display last year we thought we could share some more ideas and offer some practical advice on the evening of 18th October. It is a free event, so come along and learn how to make your own Christmas crackers, reusable gift bags, and Christmas cards and gift tags, for example.

The TLG hope St Michael's parishioners can build on the good work that led to the Live Simply Award. You have always responded so positively to our projects, so thank you!

God bless.

Mary

Aide memoire:

- * **The Laudati Si' prayer is available at the back of Church**
- * **27-29th September - Parish W/E with Craft and Produce Sale**
- * **5th October - Ramble for Reading Refugees.**

THOUGHTFUL LIVING NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024



The end of August saw a fantastic group of 10 members of St Michael's Church support the Loddon Vale Rotary Club's River Tidy at Sonning. The weather was kind to us and we were all happy to leave the stretch of the Thames Path from Thames Valley Business Park to Shiplake litter and plastic free. A real contribution to the wider 'Plastic Blitz' initiative.

Two forthcoming, but completely different, activities are separated by only a week. First up during our patronal weekend, we have a produce and craft sale. We have donations of chutneys and jams, as well as craft items for sale and all proceeds are going to CIRDIC, one of our local charities. If you have excess supplies of such items, we will gladly accept further donations. These items will be on sale after all Masses on the weekend of 28/29th September.

The following weekend we are planning '**A Ramble for the Reading Refugee Group**'. Some of you may remember 20 parishioners took part in Cafod's Walk against Hunger two years ago. Well, we are hoping to have an equally wonderful event on 5th October, meeting at 11.00am in the Church car park. The 10km route is all on designated footpaths and we plan to make a lunch stop at the Unicorn pub at Peppard Common. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church. We are not asking participants to find sponsors; instead we ask for a suggested £5 donation to the charity from individuals or £10 per family.

Thank you so much for your donations to Smart Works. One of our group had a tour round the impressive Smart Works HQ in London Street, Reading. Not only do they provide smart clothes for that first interview when women are trying to get back into work, but they offer tips on hair styles, makeup and also provide a capsule wardrobe for the initial months before that first pay check comes through. Another wonderful charity in our area.