

We can show our care for the environment and the marginalised in our locality in a practical way also...

Are you able to spare a couple of hours of your time on **Saturday, 9th September**, in the morning?

CleanupUK are organising a **Plastic blitz** event in our area with the support of the Rotary Club of Loddon Vale. It is a citizen science-led event engaging in a simultaneous litter pick and data collection activity around the Thames in Sonning. Groups of volunteers take on short stretches of the Thames and pick up litter from and around the footpath. Litter picking equipment and bin bags are provided. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church as well as a poster with contact details. We meet at Sonning Bridge to start at 10.00am and finish around 12.00pm with tea and sandwiches. Parking is available at the Reading Hockey Club in Sonning Lane opposite Reading Blue Coats school, then you can walk down through the Churchyard to the river.

The TLG continues to be committed to supporting the Churches In Reading Drop in Centre (CIRDIC).

As harvest time approaches, we aim to run a **produce sale** at our parish lunch on **Sunday, 1st October**. If you make jams or chutneys and have a few spare jars, would you donate them for sale on our stall to raise funds for CIRDIC? They would be gratefully received. Excess vegetables and fruit also welcome. Goods can be handed in to the office from Friday 29th September

Thank you for your continued prayers and practical support. God bless.

Mary

Aide memoire:

- * **Laudati Si' prayer** available at the back of Church
- * **9th September - Thames clean up**
- * **1st October - parish lunch and produce sale.**

THOUGHTFUL LIVING NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023



The Thoughtful Living Group (TLG) continues to invest in efforts to improve our environment and to raise awareness of the climate change crisis.

The screening of The Letter: Laudato Si' film was very successful: almost 50 people attended and the messages of the plight of indigenous people and climate refugees as well as the decline in health of our natural world certainly hit home.

The terracycle project is proving popular in our community of St Michael's - particularly the soft plastics, which we tend to recycle through the Co-op in the village. The soft plastics are converted into plastic pellets and used to make bags, sacks, stacking crates and buckets. If you are unsure of what can go in the soft plastics bin, remember: if you can scrunch it, you can recycle it!

Friday, 1st September, was the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. In his message for this year, Pope Francis invites us to *"the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited, but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our creator."* The power of prayer can never be underestimated, which is why the Laudato Si' prayer for our common home is available at the back of the church for you to take home for your own use.