

THOUGHTFUL LIVING NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025



At this time of year it is really worth remembering that it is "*the thought that counts*". The TLG feels it is particularly important to bring the word thoughtful to the foreground and we were delighted when a merry band of 12 ladies from the parish took part in our Charity Shop Challenge. The challenge was to purchase potential Christmas gifts while remembering the three tenets of Laudato Si' - to live simply; to live in harmony with creation; to live in solidarity with the poor. In the local charity shops it was possible to shop for relatively little money, find items produced by communities and groups in developing countries and support the marginalised by shopping there. I hope you were impressed by the array of reasonably priced gifts - some brand new - available at the back of the church at the weekend. It was also rather lovely to spend time, have lunch, and some fun together - all of which are part of what it means to be a family.

Like most families, we also look beyond our immediate circle. The family of St Michael's is a great supporter of those in need and marginalised in our community. Your unstinting generosity has helped groups like Cafod, the Reading Refugee Support Group, CIRDIC and PACT. Most recently, you have enabled us to provide a Christmas meal for 50 guests at CIRDIC, including the Christmas puddings made by the TLG and mince pies donated by parishioners. You generosity has also provided toiletries and gifts for those guests and the TLG spent a fun evening wrapping essentials and goodies as well as signing Christmas cards from all at St Michael's.

In addition, some of the monies we have raised this Autumn will be going to help PACT's Operation Elf scheme at our local Huntercoombe prison; which provides presents for prisoners to give to their children on Christmas day, allowing prisoners and their families to be treated with dignity.

Such thoughtful little touches are important, especially at this time of year. Once again, a huge thank you to you all and (it may be a little early!) best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas from the TLG!

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