

Thoughtful Living Newsletter
March-April 2026

One of my favourite hymns is "Whatsoever you do" inspired by Matthew 25:35-36:

*I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink;
I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me;
I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.*

I feel very blessed to be part of the community of St Michael's, where everyone seems to embrace these verses. Your response to our request for good quality work clothes for women was generous and involved three trips to the Smart Works HQ in Reading. The Easter egg collection meant that 60 vulnerable children in our area, including children of prisoners at HMP Huntercombe, had fun chocolates to enjoy on Easter morning. Women being able to attend interviews smartly dressed and parents being able to give their children a treat offers dignity and improved self esteem, so thank you very much all of you.

Our April plant sale has gone well and the funds raised are to help with future projects for the Reading Refugee Support Group, PACT (Prisoners Advice and Care Trust), CIRDIC and perhaps any other cause which falls into our Laudato Si' remit:

*To live simply
To live in harmony with creation
To live in solidarity with the poor and marginalised*

Bearing in mind our commitment to our common home, I'd like to highlight Earth Day on 22nd April (I hope I'm not too late!). There are lots of easy ways to do your bit to save the planet; on 22nd April, try turning off the gadgets for an hour or use public transport as much as possible, cycle or walk. Beyond 22nd April, you could leave a part of your garden to grow wild, enjoy 'no mow May' and make sure there is water for wildlife. While we continue to facilitate recycling with our bins at the side of the church, we propose to go a little further in the month of May by offering recycling opportunities for postage stamps, small household batteries (nothing with wires) and inkjet cartridges. Look out for our recycling receptacles at the back of the church.

These small actions can have great results, as the ripples from a pebble thrown into the lake can show.

Mary