



Longfield-Links

19th September 2021 - 16th Sunday of Trinity

Hi everyone and welcome to the current edition of the Longfield Links, we hope that you will enjoy the information regarding St. Mary Magdalene Church in Longfield this week.

This autumn and in 2022 St. Mary Magdalene Church will be joining hundreds of churches across the country who together, will be turning a spotlight on safeguarding.

Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message and is what we do at St. Mary Magdalene. Safeguarding Sunday is all about creating an opportunity for churches to show their communities that they take this responsibility seriously. This year Safeguarding Sunday will be on the 10th October, as this falls on our Harvest Festival Sunday this year we will be having our own Safeguarding Sunday sometime in early 2022.

In the meantime, it's our chance, as a church, to use our regular Sunday services to help explore together what safer places look like, and to thank all those working behind the scenes to make our church safer for all.

We will be dedicating our own service to safeguarding so please keep an eye out for further information in the future.

Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Archbishop of Canterbury join together for the first time in urgent appeal for the future of the planet



For the first time, the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion have jointly warned of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation.

Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby urge everyone to play their part in 'choosing life' for the future of the planet.

In a joint statement, the Christian leaders have called on people to pray, in this Christian season of Creation, for world leaders ahead of COP26 this November. The statement reads: 'We call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.' The joint declaration strikes a clear warning - 'Today, we are paying the price...Tomorrow could be worse' and concludes that: 'This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it.'

The three Christian leaders spoke against injustice and inequality, saying: 'We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth's resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them.'

The statement calls on people to:

- Pray for world leaders ahead of COP26
- For individuals: To make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet, working together and taking responsibility for how we use our resource

THE RNWK BIBLE COURSE w/c 13th September- 11th November via Zoom or in person

Combining video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings.

Monday Bible Study

Adele, Elizabeth and Susan are running this evening session

Zoom Monday 7.30pm - links available from emailed notices or on request from parishoffice@fawkhamandhartley.org.uk

Please contact Paul Thomas at paulnthomas@outlook.com for the Zoom link and a copy of the weekly notes.

Thursday Bible Study Group, Study @1.30pm

Alan and Susan Heads are running this Bible study group on Thursdays at 1.30pm via Zoom.

Contact Alan or Susan for more details or for the link to Zoom.

Link address is as follows - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83194076977>

In person study with Helen and Alison on Saturdays at 10.30am New Ash Green venue dependant on the number attending please register your interest to helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk



Christians join the Psalmist in proclaiming the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. (Psalms 24:1) However, the current climate crisis is accelerating ecological instability, which results in the loss of habitats that are homes for millions of species, including humans whose homes are at risk due to climate conflict, loss and damage.

As people of faith, our baptismal call compels us to till and keep God's garden, and participate in the renewal of the whole inhabited Earth, so that life may flourish and all may have a just and sustainable home.

Please keep yourself informed about what is happening to our world and how you could help care for it in our own local environment.

Talk to members of the RNWK Green Matters group about your ideas to make a difference in our environment. (St. Mary Magdalene representatives - Alan Strachan or Pat Dixon)

Celebrate and pray about what is happening locally and in the world regarding our environment.

Clean all your birdfeeders to avoid the spread of disease to migrant winter feeders and put up a nest box well in advance of the breeding season. A nest box can also be a cosy home for some small birds for the odd day or two in the coldest winter nights.



For early Spring 2022 plant Alliums, Tulips, Daffodils and wildflower this Autumn. Wildflower seeds which can be sowed now include Cowslip, Common Knapweed and Meadow Buttercup. You can find wildflower seed packets at most of the normal garden centres locally.

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