Trinity Climate Action Prayer Support – August

Dear Supporter,

There were many areas of our church and its adoption of “green” Eco Church priorities that were admired by the A Rocha judges. One such area was the work of the Floral Committee (their words), the creation of floral displays (their words) on the altar every Sunday and giving out regular bouquets (again their words) to the older members of the congregation.

* 1. Give thanks for the Flower Committee and their dedication and inspiration in producing floral displays every Sunday and the thought that goes into giving out bunches of flowers usually to the older members of the congregation afterwards.
  2. Give the Flower Committee wisdom and guidance about how they consider the A Rocha judges suggestion to think about sustainability, avoiding Oasis and focusing on locally grown flowers and plants.
  3. Give thanks for the beauty of the Eco Community Garden and all that it is producing – peas, potatoes, turnips, lettuce, chives and parsley! Give thanks for all the faithful gardeners and their hard work.
  4. Pray for wisdom and guidance about the Eco Group organising another “Eco Prayer Walk/Event” in September or October this year.
  5. Pray about what the Trinity Eco Group decides to do after achieving the Gold Eco Church Award and any change of leadership. Give them wisdom and guidance.

But “caring for God’s earth” is not just about us here at Trinity. At this holiday period, you read a lot about locals demonstrating about the influx of tourists at holiday destinations.

However, there are two sides to the problem.

Firstly, more and more people are able to afford holidays, particularly to the Mediterranean and Canary Islands, which increases the pollution – from jet engines, extra sewage, extra water, extra energy use, rubbish on beaches and residents being priced out of local housing.

But secondly why would hotel-owners, shop-owners, restaurants, cafes complain at the extra custom? However, greedy landlords make profits from hiring out the accommodation. Did you know that hardly anybody actually lives in Venice? It is much, much more lucrative to hire out your house and live in cheaper accommodation away on the mainland.

* 1. Pray that holidaymakers will act sustainably, take care not to pollute the holiday locations, only take what they need, tread lightly and not harm the environment.
  2. Pray that the greed of the locals will be curbed and locals appreciate the situation.

“Heavenly Father, to share the good news, your Son, Jesus, climbed mountains, wandered through fields and crossed over waters. Help us remember today, as we travel down different roads, that this earth remains precious, created in love and graced by your presence; so we may tread lightly and discover afresh the way of your kingdom. Amen.

*(Prayer from the ‘The Earth is the Lord’s’, Methodist Prayer Handbook, 2020/21, by Stephen Wigley, Wales Synod Chair, 2021.)*

Archie Whymark, Climate Action Champi