

## From the Earthing Faith network

The Earthing Faith gathering on 6th June, from 7.30pm until 9.30pm, will introduce the idea of **Forest Church** and explore how we might nurture expressions of this way of being church in our local areas and hear from those already running such groups.

The ethos of Forest Church is a fresh expression in nature, and draws on contemporary research that highlights the benefits of spending time with nature in wild places.

**The evening will take place in Wytham Woods on the edge of Oxford and will be largely based outdoors.**

It is free of charge and open to anyone, but you are asked to register using the form available at the link below:

<http://www.earthingfaith.org/2013/04/earthing-faith-gathering-7-30pm-on-6th-june-2013/>

## Resources for Environment Sunday

A Rocha's 2013 Environment Resource Pack for churches is now available. The pack contains a flexible service order (suitable for adult and all-age worship), sermon, group Bible study, prayers, children's resources, songs, ideas for further activities, and a presentation on coral reefs as home to many marine species.

This is what A Rocha says about the theme:

*Where is your home? Many Christians have been taught that our 'real' home is in heaven. Yet, the Bible actually says that God's home will be with humanity (Revelation 21:3), and God calls us to put down roots and bear good fruit in the places where we've been planted. A Rocha's 2013 Environment Resource Pack on Home provides resources for churches to celebrate their local area – the human and wildlife communities they share it with – and to seek ways to be involved in caring for their homes.*

The pack is designed to be used on Environment Sunday (7 June 2013), at Harvest, Creation Time, or any other suitable occasion and can be downloaded from the page:

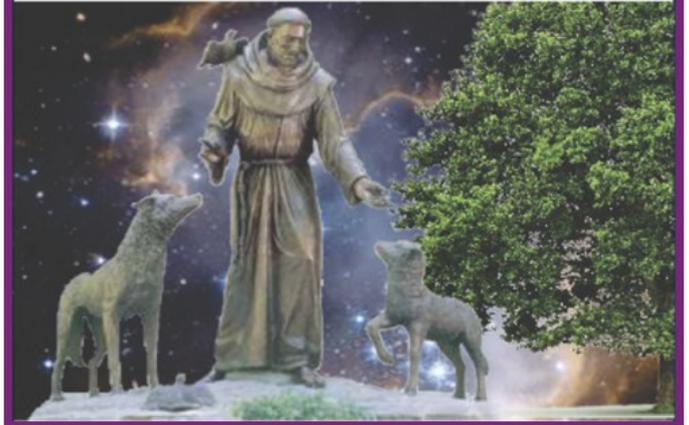
<http://www.arocha.org/gb-en/resources/11887-DSY.html>

## Our next event

Continuing with the theme of the natural world and our relationship with it, I remember clearly the advice of the pastor of the church in Leipzig-Grunau that we were visiting a couple of summers ago as part of the MK-Leipzig link. He said that there were times when it was good for us to focus on creation in order to learn things about God that we might otherwise miss, helping us to gain a more complete view of what He is like.

An opportunity to spend time doing just that is provided by our next event which is being organised by the Well:

## Re Enchanting Nature



### The Well, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 10.00-4.00

The flyer describes this as a Quiet Day to re-engage with the natural world and through prayer and contemplation to explore our response to the current understanding of the cosmos and the sense of the connectedness of all creation as experienced through Franciscan Spirituality.

#### Programme for the day

10.00 am	Coffee and Introductions
10.30 am	Into Creation – A Prayer Walk
11.30 am	Reflection & Quiet Time
12.30 pm	Eucharist
13.00 pm	Lunch
14.00 pm	Reflection & Quiet Time
15.30 pm	Closing Worship
16.00 pm	Tea & Depart

The day will be led by Revd Liz Baker, Anglican Priest and Director of the Well Community and a trained Labyrinth Facilitator, drama and movement teacher. Liz has lived and worked at the Well since 2001 and is an Associate of the Society of the Sacred Mission and has a particular interest in the sacramental in the everyday.

The cost is £15.00 including lunch. Please book by phoning the Well (MK 242190), by completing the booking form on page 3 of the flyer \*, or by emailing [bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk).

\* The flyer is supplied as a further attachment to the email bringing this newsletter to you.

## Cycling in Milton Keynes

The first meeting of the re-launched Cycling Forum is to take place on May 30th. It is hoped that priorities will be agreed for some of the improvements proposed in the recently-adopted Cycling Strategy. More news in the next Newsletter.



## Open Farm Sunday

9th June 2013

discover life on our farms!



The Open Farm Sunday website describes how this project has seen hundreds of farmers across the UK opening up their farm for one Sunday each year since 2006! It provides a fantastic opportunity for everyone, young and old, to discover at first hand what it means to be a farmer.

Take time to listen to the birds, soak up the scenery, experience the smells of the farmyard and really get in touch with the land that feeds us. So come and feed your senses on Open Farm Sunday.

Each event is unique with its own activities - based around the farm's own individual story. Activities during the day may include a farm walk, nature trail, tractor and trailer rides, pond dipping, activities for children, a mini farmers market or picnics.

This year the event takes place on **Sunday 9th June** and if you visit the website (link below) you can enter your postcode to find which farms closest to you are participating in the event.

<http://www.farmsunday.org/ofs12b/visit/findfarm.eb>

I have noted a few that are reasonably close by - Stagsden, Waddesden, North Crawley, Aston Abbots and Slapton.

Opening times vary from farm to farm. Most, but not all, farms do not charge an entry fee but donations to charity are requested at several.

### East-West Rail route

Last week it was announced that the construction of the section of this route between Oxford and Bicester will press ahead this summer, after the High Court dismissed a legal challenge that had been hindering progress.

Completion of the route to Milton Keynes and Aylesbury is scheduled for December 2017.

### Low Carbon vehicles

A report recently posted on the *Low Carbon Vehicle* website indicates that petrol and diesel cars are likely to continue to be present in large numbers until at least 2030 which means that reductions in emissions from cars needs to come from improved performance.

The EU Environment Committee has voted for the adoption of a new car emissions limit of 68-75g CO<sub>2</sub>/km by 2025, a significant reduction from the current targets of 130gm by 2015 and 95gm by 2020. This would mean that an average new car would consume less than 3 litres of fuel to drive 100km (equivalent to approx. 80mpg) by 2025, saving motorists money as well as helping the environment.

See more from the LCVP at:

<http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/news/>

## Local Suppliers

HomemadeBunting.co.uk was created in November 2012 and like most great ideas, completely by accident. While thinking about what to buy my two year old niece for her



birthday, it dawned on me that I could design and make something personal and therefore unique and even more special. I decided that some handmade bunting with her name highlighted in her favourite colours would be the perfect surprise gift. After dusting off my sewing machine, I set off to the shops to find just the right coloured fabrics to commence my new project. From there friends and family asked if I could make them some and I was having so much fun choosing fabrics and creating unique gifts for people, which is how the business was created. I now have a variety of coloured fabrics to choose from and can make bunting for any occasion. In December my most popular was of course Merry Christmas, however the named bunting is also popular for new baby gifts, birthdays, Baptisms the list is endless. I am also looking into making soft toys, draft excluders and door stops, depending upon demand.

<http://www.homemadebunting.co.uk/>

*Nicola Whitmore*

## Global CO<sub>2</sub> levels reach 400ppm

In recent times the UK has been so preoccupied with the cuts and the economy, that the relentless rise in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has taken a bit of a back seat.....but the reaching of the 400 ppm milestone has made the news.

Three years ago the coalition government pledged to be the greenest ever and they said that our response to climate change would require sacrifices by all of us - we would have to live differently. We haven't heard that message from them lately, but it is a more difficult one to promote with an election less than two years away....

It is easy to get depressed about all this. But it is always worth remembering that lots of organisations and companies are working really hard at making major cuts to their environmental impact.

But what about us? If we accept that God loves what He has created and that we must therefore look after it, then a personal commitment to more sustainable living is a natural consequence for a Christian.

Like learning to drive a car this can be hard work to begin with, but becomes second nature after practice! If lots of us follow that path, others should be inspired to follow and the dream is that in a few years time environmentally damaging behaviour will become as socially unacceptable as dog fouling has become.....so keep persevering!

*David Miller*  
24th May 2013