

Saving God's World

1)

A project on Climate Justice 2010

The prospect of lasting damage to our planet and the consequences that might result for ourselves and our children is very frightening. While the great effort that went into the Copenhagen summit in December 2009 has largely come to nothing because of the unwillingness of nation states to take firm and positive action, the burden now falls on individuals and groups to try to make a difference. Concepts such as 'greenhouse gases' and 'global warming' might not be easy for people with learning difficulties to fully appreciate but this does not mean that no meaningful work can be done, hence SPANNED's effort for this year. Originally we thought we might divide the work into sections, linking each with an event – Mickleover (May), Scunthorpe (June), Hinckley (September) and Leicester (November) – and that those sections would be:

- God's beautiful world & How we can look after it
- Things that go wrong
- How to mend the damage

It may be, however, that once we have got into the project, we find that sections 2 and 4 are rather similar, and that there is enough in section three to divide it up into two. The number of group sessions we will need before each 'event' may depend on how much material we have and who is preparing what. The use of the SPANNED "Live Simply" song once again throughout might be appropriate. CAFOD have got a lot of information in packs or on the website that can be used as power point – www.cafod.org.uk/climatephotopack . This can be simplified to explain the problems involved. Here are some other references that can be used:

<http://tiki.oneworld./het/globalwarming/climate>

<http://education.arm.gov/studyhall/globalwarming/begincauses.stm>

npower.com/wallaceandgromit

www.edinburgh.gov.uk - links to recycling

BBC Breathing Places – autumn watch

rubbishchallenge.windows.internet

sparklebox.couk

Session 1 - God's beautiful world

"And God saw what he had made and it was good..."

1. God made this world for us to live in – David Kossoff's story of creation read over Dvorak's "Largo" from the "New World Symphony:

This is the story of the beginning of everything, before anything and anyone ever was., when there was only God on his own, a quiet, thoughtful God, full of love to give and with no one to give it to. God had been by himself for a long time. Perhaps he felt a bit empty, even bored, looking out into nothing. Sitting, silent, still. Then suddenly he thought, I need something to do, something to live for; I know, I'll make a world. Mind you, before God started to make the world, he gave it a lot of thought. Big job, not much to go on, no previous experience of such a thing; and no good materials either. 'Right', said God, 'first things first. Some light to work by. Let there be light,' and there was. 'Pleasant effect,' God thought and turned it on and off a few times. Sometimes more dark,

sometimes more light, 'and I'll call them night and day,' he said. God then looked at the endless water. 'Too much,' he thought, and decided to halve it. But where to put the other half, nowhere to empty it. So he pointed upwards and the water lifted into a gorgeous roof with every colour and every kind of cloud. God looked up. "I'll call that 'heaven'," he said, "it looks like a nice place to live." So he moved in.

God drew on the waters below with his finger and the land came up – "the earth and the seas" – he said. It looked a bit bare so he covered it with plants and all kinds of vegetation, each with its own seed. Then God thought of a way to improve on his day and night invention, which was a bit harsh on the eyes with its sudden change. He hung outside his home two globes of light – a large one to look after the day (the Sun) and a smaller one for the night (the Moon). Nice effect. Then he made a million smaller moons, which he called stars. God was enjoying himself. "Next," he said, things that fly and move and crawl and swim and walk." He used every colour and shape that came into his mind to make huge sea monsters and birds, tiny insects, delicate dancing creatures and slow heavy ones. Nothing was forgotten. "Multiply", he said, "fill the seas and the land and the sky; there's plenty of room." And so they did.

God was pleased with his work, but he still had an odd feeling of loneliness, of something still to do. He sat looking down into a calm lake, down at his own reflection. Then he smiled. "That's it," he said, "I'll make someone to talk to. A man. He can look like me." So God took some dust and wet it. He moulded it into a shape, like a statue, lying on the ground. Then he bent over it and gently blew into its nostrils. Very slowly, it began to move and got unsteadily to its feet. And they looked at each other. God said, "at last I have a friend...I'll call him Adam."

God tells us to look after his world. Music: "The Sea" (Alan Stivell)

2. What do you love about the world in which we live? eg. sunsets, the sea, spring flowers, walking in the mountains, clouds, trees, etc. Resource: David Attenborough's "The Planet Earth" (BBC publications – show disc one programme one. Song: "What a wonderful world?" (Louis Armstrong)

3. Find a large map of the world and point out different countries. How big is our country compared to some of the others? Do you know people who live in different parts of the world? Can you find where they live on the map? Have a competition to see how many countries you can think of. Fruit competition – prepare samples of several different fruits – who can tell what they are and where they come from?

4. How many different species of animal can you think of and where do they live?

5. People are beautiful – show some photos of people from all round the world. Suggested song: "The ink is black" How many people live in the world? Where do most of them live? Who is the richest and who are the poorest? Why do you think that is?

6. The natural world reveals God to us – how can we see his beauty in flowers, insects, creatures, the sea etc.? Meditation: "The Salutation", by Thomas Traherne

7. God has asked us to look after his world not to exploit it – do you think we do that?

8. The tree:

- what do we know about trees? They are tall or small, thick or thin, with lots of different colours, particularly at autumn time, when the leaves turn before they fall. Think of as many different sorts and sizes of trees that you can.

- What do they do? Provide shelter and shade for birds and animals, fruit for us to eat, flowers for us to enjoy, but above all else, they provide oxygen for us to breathe and absorb the harmful carbon dioxide gas that we produce.
- TREES ARE ESSENTIAL
- Each group is asked to make a tree that is portable yet large (ie. 6 feet). On the second liturgy, the trees will be chopped down so that they can be used for paper, thus demonstrating the problem of deforestation. At the third liturgy (in Hinckley), each group will plant a tree as a sign of hope for the future.
- Information – an average 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet tree can produce nearly 90,000 sheets of bond quality paper or 2,700 copies of a 35 page newspaper. Question – can you work out how many trees does it take to produce one edition of “The Sun”, which sells 3 million copies a day in Britain alone? Answer: 1,111 trees for one daily paper in one country . The Sunday ones take many more trees!

How to make your tree!

Thank to Ian Thomas of the Loreto Group for inventing our tree!

Buy a 6 foot cylindrical post from your local garden centre. (Focus - £5.40). Mount it on a Christmas tree stand. Drill diagonal holes into its sides so that branches can be inserted. Collect suitable branches and insert them. Next time, we will decorate the tree with leaves, fruit, birds to show how we should look after it. These decorated trees will then be brought to our Scunthorpe Retreat Day. Then we will publicly destroy them to show how trees are abused and deforestation takes place. Next we will plant new trees at Hinckley to make up for the damage, and finally we will decorate a Christmas tree in Leicester to show how beautiful tree really are.

Saving God's World - Liturgy 1 - God's Beautiful World

Entrance Hymn Morning has broken

Introduction *Pictures mounted on cards may be used to illustrate each section:*

Loughborough This year we are thinking about God’s beautiful world that he made for us and how we can save it from being destroyed. These are big things to think about but vitally important for all of us. Just think for a minute, what do you love about God’s world in which we live?

Several people could each say, “I love.... (such as sunsets, the sea, spring flowers, walks in the mountains, lakes, trees, cherry blossom etc.) and hold up a placard as they do so.

Isn’t this a wonderful world for all of us to live in?

Derby How big is the world and how many people are in it? How many countries are there? How big is ours compared to all the others? Do we know many people or family who live in other parts of the world? How many of our group were born here? If not, where do they come from?

Group members could ask and answer some of these questions

Scunthorpe Aren't people beautiful? Look at these pictures and see how different we are all. God has made each of us special and individual. No two people anywhere in the world are the same. Think of that! Think too about how many people don't have enough food to eat or water to drink. Is that all their fault? How can we help them?

Find nice pictures of people from different countries and hold them up for us all to see

Song The ink is black, the page is white

Prayer Dear Father, we thank you for this beautiful world and we are very sorry if we have damaged it or the people who live in it. Help us to appreciate what you have given us and to look after your world always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The Word of God *All take part in the mime to the Book of Genesis and Dvorak's "New World" Symphony*

Can each group make elements to take part in the mime?

Hinckley – animals

Nottingham – birds

Derby – stars + the two large blue cloths to make the sky and sea

Loughborough – a large moon and sun

Leicester – pictures of different trees

Scunthorpe – fish and insects

A reading from the Book of Genesis

This is the story of the beginning of everything, before anything and anyone ever was, when there was only God on his own, a quiet, thoughtful God, full of love to give and with no one to give it to. God had been by himself for a long time. Perhaps he felt a bit empty, even bored, looking out into nothing. Sitting, silent, still. Then suddenly he thought, I need something to do, something to live for; I know, I'll make a world.

Mind you, before God started to make the world, he gave it a lot of thought. Big job, not much to go on, no previous experience of such a thing; and no good materials either. 'Right', said God, 'first things first. Some light to work by. Let there be light,' and there was. 'Pleasant effect,' God thought and turned it on and off a few times. Sometimes more dark, sometimes more light, 'and I'll call them night and day,' he said. God then looked at the endless water. 'Too much,' he thought, and decided to halve it. But where to put the other half, nowhere to empty it. So he pointed upwards and the water lifted into a gorgeous roof with every colour and every kind of cloud. God looked up. "I'll call that 'heaven'," he said, "it looks like a nice place to live." So he moved in.

God drew on the waters below with his finger and the land came up – "the earth and the seas" – he said. It looked a bit bare so he covered it with plants and all kinds of vegetation, each with its own seed. Then God thought of a way to improve on his day and night invention, which was a bit harsh on the eyes with its sudden change. He hung outside his home two globes of light – a large one to look after the day (the Sun) and a smaller one for the night (the Moon). Nice effect. Then he made a million smaller moons, which he called stars. God was enjoying himself. "Next,"

he said, things that fly and move and crawl and swim and walk.” He used every colour and shape that came into his mind to make huge sea monsters and birds, tiny insects, delicate dancing creatures and slow heavy ones. Nothing was forgotten. “Multiply”, he said, “fill the seas and the land and the sky; there’s plenty of room.” And so they did.

God was pleased with his work, but he still had an odd feeling of loneliness, of something still to do. He sat looking down into a calm lake, down at his own reflection. Then he smiled. “That’s it,” he said, “I’ll make someone to talk to. A man. He can look like me.” So God took some dust and wet it. He moulded it into a shape, like a statue, lying on the ground. Then he bent over it and gently blew into its nostrils. Very slowly, it began to move and got unsteadily to its feet. And they looked at each other. God said, “at last I have a friend...I’ll call him Adam.”

Bidding Prayers *Nottingham group ending with LiveSimply prayer*

- Priest Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for the beautiful world you made for us and everything you have put in it
- Reader 1 Thank you for the mountains and hills
- Reader 2 Thank you for the sea with its crashing waves and gentle tides
- Reader 3 Thank you for the sunrise and sunset – how beautiful they are
- Reader 4 Thank you for the moon – I wonder if it’s really made of green cheese
- Reader 5 Thank you for the animals and all your creatures
- Reader 6 Thank you for the birds that fly so fast and so gracefully
- Reader 7 Thank you for the butterflies and coloured insects
- Reader 8 Thank you for the wonderful spring flowers, their smell and what they look like
- Reader 9 Thank you for people, especially my family and my friends – isn’t you so clever to be able to make us all?
- Priest Dear Father, we thank you for everything and everyone and now we thank you for our dear friends whom you love and have called home this year to be with you for ever:
- Reader 10 Tony Burns, Anne Moloney, Madeleine O’Grady, Teresa Dabrowska, Paddy & Bridget Doyle, Helen Swiderska, Katie Robinson, Fr.Brendan O’Sullivan and Fr.David Everitt. Bring them into your light and love for ever

Lighted candles are brought up in memory of each person

Priest Let us now say together our LiveSimply prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, help me to live simply
To follow your steps,

To share what I have,
 to think about those who have nothing.
 Help me to be kind and helpful to people;
 Help me not to waste food or water;
 Help me to eat smaller meals;
 Help me not to destroy your world,
 But to think before I do things.
 Lord Jesus Christ, help me to live simply,
 So that others may simply live. Amen

Rite of Offertory *Each group brings up its tree, mounted and places it on the sanctuary*

Reader What do we know about trees? They are tall or small, thick or thin, with lots of different colours, particularly at autumn time, when the leaves turn before they fall. How many different sorts and sizes of trees can you think of? What do they do? Provide shelter and shade for birds and animals, fruit for us to eat, flowers for us to enjoy, but above all else, they provide oxygen for us to breathe and absorb the harmful carbon dioxide gas that we produce. Trees are essential to our survival. Here are the trees that each group has made – you will be seeing a lot of them this year

Hymn All things bright and beautiful (selected verses)

Prayer over the gifts Dear Father, we bring you this bread; we bring you this wine. We bring you ourselves and the world that you have made for us to live in and look after. Please help us to offer our whole lives and everything we think, say or do, to you, for your honour and praise in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever. Always and everywhere we want to thank you for your great goodness to us. You made this beautiful world for us to live in and asked us to look after it for you. You gave us light and water and food and family, so many thanks that we can never thank you enough. Above all else, you gave us Jesus your Son, to be our brother and friend, to show us how to live splendidly in your way. He gave up his whole life for us on the cross, so that we could be free from all those things that prevent us from loving you. And so we praise you in the company of all the angels and saints as we say:

Eucharistic Prayer No.2

Communion Hymn Laudato si

Meditation The Salutation - *Hinckley group*

Music “What a wonderful world” – *Each group holds up the items it has made for the mime and moves them in time to the music*

Final Prayer Father, we thank you for all that you have been to us, all that you are to us and all that you will be in Jesus Christ our Lord

Final hymn The SPANNED ‘LiveSimply’ song (selected verses)

If you want to change the world, then change your life (*repeat*)
 Change your habits, change your thinking,

Change your eating, and your drinking,
If you want to change the world, then change your life

If you want to save the planet, start yourself *(repeat)*
Love the world and fairly use it,
Never damage or abuse it,
If you want to save the planet, start yourself

Realise what we are doing to our earth *(repeat)*
Our water's never clear,
The rain forests disappear
Realise what we are doing to our earth

Do not stash your household rubbish in the bin *(repeat)*
Recycle it, don't throw it,
There's receptacles to stow it
Do not stash your household rubbish in the bin

Don't blame anybody else but only you *(repeat)*
You're the one to make the start
In your head and in your heart
Don't blame anybody else but only you

Eco-friendly is the only way to be
Make the air pure, clean and fresh for you and me
To avoid noise and pollution,
Simply try a new solution
Eco-friendly is the only way to be

If you want to show you care, then do it now *(repeat)*
All our habits we must break,
Our whole future is at stake,
If you want to show you care, then do it now

If you want to change the world, then change your life *(repeat)*
Come on make a start today,
And live simply every day
If you want to change the world, then change your life

Session 2 - How to look after God's world

Go outside to look and listen and smell God's world – what can you see? What can you hear? What can you smell? Isn't all this very beautiful? *(we hope the groups are doing this on a bright sunny summer's evening!)* Look at the trees – how many can you name?

So what about our tree? Let's make some fruit to grow on it and birds and animals to shelter in it
Make birds and fruit on card and paint them)

We have seen what a beautiful world God has made for us but remember this – he asked us to look after it. How do we do that? Be careful about how we live and how we treat the earth. Can you

think of any ways to look after God's world and all that is in it? (*Ask group members for answers and write them down*) What can each of us do every day to look after God's world?

What does Jesus say about growing things? Cf. John 15 – he talks about the vine and the branches and how the vine must be pruned so that it can bear fruit. Can you think of any other examples of Jesus talking about God's world – eg. mustard seed, fig tree, vines

Now we are thinking of what can happen to God's beautiful world and the expression that we use is called "Climate Change". What is 'climate'? Climate is a sort of huge machine, and a small part of it is what we call 'weather' which we notice and think about a lot. English people talk about the weather all the time – other people think we're strange! How many different types of weather can you think that we have had already this year? Frost, snow, wind, rain, hot days, humidity etc. Sometimes the weather is extreme – this is what we call 'tornado' (a big wind), 'blizzard' (lots of rain and wind together), 'hurricane' (a huge storm of wind and rain spreading over a large area), 'flood' (too much water) 'drought' (too little water), 'earthquake' (the crust of the earth breaks up), 'eruptions' (mountains called 'volcanoes' spit hot gas and lava into the air? What is your favourite weather?

Let's have a little competition – how many songs can you think of that are about the weather or have the weather in the title?

So, back to the climate machine – what drives it? The sun. Without the sun there would be no climate, no weather, no animals and no people. The sun warms the air and hot air rises up, bringing with it moisture from the sea. As the moist air rises it gets bigger and thus cooler, so any moisture in the air gathers together in what we call, 'clouds'. And clouds bring rain, which helps things to grow. The sun also warms the seas and the oceans creating what we call 'current's of streams that make the waters flow.

We love to moan about the weather but what have we to moan about? It's a little bit chilly, or hotter than usual, or icy in the winter, or raining – we are never satisfied, are we?? But what if our weather was one of these things all the time – always rain, always dry, always icy – what would we think then? This is what happens all over the world:

In some parts of Kenya and Ethiopia in Africa people do not have enough water to drink or to grow crops. Often the women have to walk up to 20 kilometres a day (every day!) to collect water in a big container and bring it home on their heads for their families. They have little or no food because they do not have water to make it grow and the animals die for lack of food as well. It is a terrible plight to be in.

In Bangladesh, the opposite takes place: too much water, rain that never stops and brings storms and floods with it. Homes are washed away and the crops planted are washed away as well. sometimes the water is salty and cannot be drunk. It is estimated that in 40 years one fifth of Bangladesh will be under water and in 50 more years the country will not exist at all.

So the poorest people of the world are staying poor because of the changing climate, while we moan at a bit of rain, while taking our shower, flushing our toilet, swimming in our pools, eating healthy food and plenty of it – sometimes too much.

"Well, that's too bad for them", we might say, "it's not our fault that they don't have enough rain or have too much". "Yes, I suppose we are lucky living here, but we're too busy to be thinking about these things." But what if it is our fault? What if it is we who are causing the changes in climate that bring too much rain or not enough to different parts of the world? What then?

Think of how many trees have to be cut down to produce a newspaper that sells 3 million copies a day in England – 2,700 – for one paper on one day. Think about all the other papers and magazines, and ‘junk mail’ and that is an awful lot of trees every day – and that is an awful lot of oxygen we are depriving ourselves and our world of.

Listen to these words written by an Indian chief to the President of the United States many years ago:

Letter from Chief Seattle to the President of the United States, 1855:

How can you buy or sell the sky – the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He kidnaps the earth from his children. He does not care. His father’s graves and his children’s birthright are forgotten. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.

So things can go wrong and they have gone wrong and a lot of it is our fault. In our next section we will think about all the things that can go wrong, how we have caused them and what we can do about it.

Session 3 – What can go wrong

Put your hand slowly over your mouth and see how difficult it is to breathe. This is what it is like when the air is thick with fog and pollution – where does this come from? Factories, car, planes and all sorts of things that come into the atmosphere that really shouldn’t be there.

The duvet game

Ask someone to lie on the floor and then cover them with a duvet. Ask them how they feel? Then cover them with another one and another and another until they feel far too warm and very uncomfortable. The duvet represents the gases that have gone up from the earth into the clouds. They destroy the natural covering of clouds and what is called the ‘ozone layer’ – a sheet that protects the earth from the harmful rays of the sun – so that the sun is not filtered and becomes hotter and hotter. Not only does it make the person on the floor hot, but it also destroys large parts of the plants and vegetation of the earth. Therefore no food for people to eat or grow.

“The Eighth Day” – adapted from CAFOD

Narrator One day, one week, God decided to create the earth. On day one, God created the day and night

Enter ‘Day’ dressed in bright clothing, and “Night” dressed in dark clothing

Narrator God was impressed

God I’m impressed

Narrator So the next day, God created the sea and the sky

Enter the Derby group with their two cloths – light and dark blue

Narrator God liked it

God I like it

Narrator On the third day, God made the plants and the trees

Enter the Leicester group with pictures of trees and plants

Narrator God loved it

God I love it

Narrator Especially the fruit and the flowers

God walks around the trees, picks an item of fruit from the trees and eats it

God Mmmmm...this is good

Narrator On day four, God made the sun and the moon and the stars

Loughborough and Derby groups enter with the sun, moon and the stars

Narrator Guess what? God liked them!

God They're brilliant

Narrator On day five, God made the animals, fish, bird and insects

Enter Hinckley group with animals and Scunthorpe group with fish, Nottingham group with birds

Narrator God was absolutely delighted

God I'm absolutely delighted

Narrator And on the sixth day, God created human beings to be his friends

Enter four human beings dressed normally

Narrator God thought these were especially cool

God Wow! Someone to talk to

They all shake hands with him

Narrator God was so proud of his new friends that he decided to put them in charge of the world he had created . He told them to look after his world because it was so precious to him

God Now look after it

Narrator And on day seven, after a busy week of creating, God was tired

God yawns

God I'm tired

Narrator So he decided to have a good rest

God I need a rest

They all settle down and go to sleep. Soon, an alarm clock rings and everyone wakes up

Narrator Then on the eighth day, the earth got moving The fish were swimming, animals were moving about...the birds and insects were flying and the plants started growing

Everybody starts moving about vigorously

Narrator But then.....then....things started to go a bit wrong

Human 1 Hey, I could use some of this stuff!

Human 2 Yeah, so could I!

Human 3 Me too!

Human 4 These trees look useful, I could make things with them if I just chopped them down

Human 1 And I could burn them to keep warm

Human 2 And if I could just chop down one or two, I could have more space for my family to live in

Two men in hard hats, yellow jackets with a big axe each enter and start to chop down the trees

Narrator Hey, what are you too doing?

Man 1 We need these to make newspapers...it takes two thousand seven hundred of these to make one edition of the 'Daily Mail' you know

Narrator What?

Man 1 You heard me...people have got to be able to read you know

Narrator So all those trees for one newspaper in one country in one day?

Man 1 Yes... you heard me

Narrator But how many trees do we have to chop down all over the world to make every newspaper and magazine for everyone to read

Man 1 And the junk mail...don't forget that

Narrator But that's millions...every day

- Man 1 That's right, mate....millions every day
- Narrator But what about the air they produce for us to breathe?
- Man 1 Doesn't worry me, mate...those rain forests are not in my back yard, so what do I care?
- Narrator But you must care
- Man 1 Look mate, I'm only doing my job...if you want to argue about it see someone else
- Human 1 We could use these animals and fish to eat, you know
- Human 2 And the birds...I'm quite partial to a bit of chicken myself
- They start gathering up the birds, fish and animals*
- Human 3 But what about us....there's plenty for us too
- Human 1 Sorry, we you never know we might have a famine and where would we be then....we can't spare any for you. If there's any left over we might give you some; if not, we'll probably throw it away
- Human 4 But that's waste
- Human 1 No, it's not...look we need food to eat, wood to build our houses
- Human 2 And power...power that comes from using up the fuels of the earth; they're not meant to stay in the ground for ever you know. God made them for us to use them
- Narrator Are you quite sure about that?
- Human 1 'Course we are...we can plug things in, switch things on whenever we need...that's what living's for
- Human 3 But what about us? We have to live too you know
- Human 2 Too bad...if there's not enough for us, why should we be worrying about you?
- Human 4 Because we're your friends...we're your brothers and sisters
- Human 1 What you are is rivals...when there's not enough food to go round and when we need the wood for ourselves...you are our competition...and we won't help you
- Narrator Then God got angry
- God Stop...what are you doing with my world? It's mine, not yours...I made it for all of you....all of you to live in together

They all look ashamed

Narrator God told them off. He said don't just throw things away when you've finished with them; don't take from other people what is theirs and leave them with nothing; don't waste anything. Think about other people. Share your money and all you have

God takes the birds, animals etc., from Humans 1 and 2 and take them back to the groups who owned them in the first place

God And stop cutting down my trees!

He goes over to the cutters and takes the axes from their hands

Narrator God told them they could recycle all the paper they use and use it again and again....there was no need to cut down so many of his beautiful trees every day

God 'repairs' the trees and puts the fruit and birds back in them

God Look after my world; don't destroy it.

Greenhouse Earth

The sun is getting hotter and it's incredibly old – about 4,500 million years old! One day it will be so hot that it will blow up but that won't be for about another 4,000 million years or so, so we're all safe! But the earth's climate seems to be heating up much much faster than can be explained by the sun making more heat. and the reason is us – and our machines! Almost all machines use gas, oil or coal to power them. All of them produce pollution – you know, the smelly stuff that comes out of car exhaust pipes and factory chimneys, that sort of thing. Much of this is a gas you can't see called carbon dioxide. It's this gas which seems to be the main cause of the trouble.

There is a Greek legend about a lady called Pandora – in the story the gods gave her a mysterious box. They'd put something nasty in the box and told her never to open it. But she was so curious that she couldn't resist the temptation to take a peak – so she opened it! Out flew horrible stuff like plagues, diseases, sorrow and misery. She tried to shut the lid but it was too late – the horrors were free. It's a bit like that with oil and coal, which are under the surface of our earth, but we need them, so we have to get them out – think of what is happening in the Gulf of Mexico at the moment, when they can't turn the oil tap off and its polluting all the ocean, and killing birds and fish. For us to burn these fuels like coal and oil is to create this poisonous carbon dioxide gas.

What happens when you go into a greenhouse on a sunny day? It's hot, isn't it? That is because the glass in the greenhouse traps the heat from the sun. This gas, carbon dioxide does exactly the same in the earth's atmosphere. It acts like glass in a greenhouse and just like these duvets do in keeping N. warm. The glass in the greenhouse keeps the plants warm and the carbon dioxide and other gases keep the planet warm. Without them we would freeze; too much of them and we boil, as you will see when we put more duvets over N. Because people are burning fuels with carbon in – oil, gas, and coal – which you use in cars, aeroplanes, power stations and so on, all this carbon gets dumped into the air and so adds to our problem – the planet warms up more than it should. This is what we call 'global warming'.

What happens next? This is not good news. The ice in the polar areas melts – some animals have to swim miles for food like our polar bear in the film and they do not like to be in warm water anyway, so many of them will die. But what about us? The ice that melts will start to fill up the oceans and make them overflow onto land. And the water itself will take up more space simply because it is warmer. That will make it overflow even more on to the land.

Picture this scene: here is N. all ready for his holidays – he’s got his bucket and spade, flippers, snorkel, towel, picnic basket and he’s off on holiday to Grantham by the sea. But Grantham’s miles from the sea – it’s just outside Nottingham. True, Grantham used to be miles from the sea, but if the ice cap melts and more and more water flows into the ocean, all the land east of Grantham – Stamford, Peterborough, Skegness – will be swallowed up by it and Grantham will be on the coast. Who knows, even Nottingham might be on the coast some day! And as for Scunthorpe – well!

First, this will happen to the poorer parts of the world, like Bangladesh, and then come to richer parts like Europe. Some people would drown in the water and wouldn’t be able to grow their crops because plants need a little heat and a little water to grow – not too much of either!.

Think about this: Here is N. in the shower. He loves the shower; it freshens him up in the morning, or cleans him when’s he’s got sweaty from work or playing games. Listen to him singing; he’s really enjoying it – the more water the better. But what if....what if....the water dried up? What then? He wouldn’t be able to have his shower....he might get a bit smelly and dirty then when he couldn’t clean himself. Then he mightn’t be able to make a cup of tea, or cook because there was no water. Then he might catch a disease like malaria, because he was dirty and the insects bite him. Pretty soon, he would be in great difficulty and that would be terrible. But that’s what’s happening to some people in our world already today – they are in difficulty; they have little water to live on, so they have to move house and take what possessions they have and walk miles to find water and live there with no home.

Another thing: people who study the earth’s climate have found that as it warms up, the weather is going to get more violent and unpredictable – so there will be big winds and storms called hurricanes or tornadoes as well as floods. These winds destroy homes by blowing them away – and this is happening already in some parts of America.

The greenhouse gases are produced by burning oil, coal and gas and by chopping down our trees, which provide us with clean air.

Saving God's World - Liturgy 2 - What can go wrong

Before Mass everyone goes outside to breathe in the air and listen to the birds in silence. How many birds can you identify by their sound? Put your hand over your mouth and keep it there for a moment, then think what it is like not to be able to breathe properly because the air is polluted.

Entry Hymn All the nations of the earth

Introduction *Scunthorpe Group*

Hello everyone and welcome to Scunthorpe. It’s so nice to have you with us once again. This year, as you know, all of us have been thinking about the beautiful world that God made for us and how we can look after it. When we met in Derby, we all brought our tree with us and we have done so again today, so will you please bring them forward now

The trees are brought to the sanctuary

Last time, we learned about what trees do, that is provide us with oxygen to breathe and soak up the harmful gases that we make. Since then, we have been making birds to go in our trees, where they like to live, and different fruits that grow on them for us to eat

The birds and the fruits are brought up and put in each tree

Don't our trees look wonderful now? We will need to look after them carefully so that they keep us all alive. Therefore we must always treat them carefully, but today we will find that this is not always the case

Prayer Dear Father, we thank you for this beautiful world and we are very sorry if we have damaged it or the people who live in it. Help us to appreciate what you have given us and to look after your world always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Word of God "The Eighth Day" – *all groups*

Narrator One day, one week, God decided to create the earth. On day one, God created the day and night

Enter 'Day' dressed in bright clothing, and "Night" dressed in dark clothing

Narrator God was impressed

God I'm impressed

Narrator So the next day, God created the sea and the sky

Enter the Derby group with their two cloths – light and dark blue

Narrator God liked it

God I like it

Narrator On the third day, God made the plants and the trees

Enter the Leicester group with pictures of trees and plants

Narrator God loved it

God I love it

Narrator Especially the fruit and the flowers

God walks around the trees, picks an item of fruit from the trees and eats it

God Mmmmm...this is good

Narrator On day four, God made the sun and the moon and the stars

Loughborough and Derby groups enter with the sun, moon and the stars

Narrator Guess what? God liked them!

God They're brilliant

Narrator On day five, God made the animals, fish, bird and insects

Enter Hinckley group with animals and Scunthorpe group with fish, Nottingham group with birds

Narrator God was absolutely delighted

God I'm absolutely delighted

Narrator And on the sixth day, God created human beings to be his friends

Enter four human beings dressed normally

Narrator God thought these were especially cool

God Wow! Someone to talk to

They all shake hands with him

Narrator God was so proud of his new friends that he decided to put them in charge of the world he had created . He told them to look after his world because it was so precious to him

God Now look after it

Narrator And on day seven, after a busy week of creating, God was tired

God yawns

God I'm tired

Narrator So he decided to have a good rest

God I need a rest

They all settle down and go to sleep. Soon, an alarm clock rings and everyone wakes up

Narrator Then on the eighth day, the earth got moving The fish were swimming, animals were moving about...the birds and insects were flying and the plants started growing

Everybody starts moving about vigorously

Narrator But then.....then.....things started to go a bit wrong

Human 1 Hey, I could use some of this stuff!

Human 2 Yeah, so could I!

Human 3 Me too!

Human 4 These trees look useful, I could make things with them if I just chopped them down

Human 1 And I could burn them to keep warm

Human 2 And if I could just chop down one or two, I could have more space for my family to live in

Two men in hard hats, yellow jackets with a big axe each enter and start to chop down the trees

- Narrator Hey, what are you too doing?
- Man 1 We need these to make newspapers...it takes two thousand seven hundred of these to make one edition of the 'Daily Mail' you know
- Narrator What?
- Man 1 You heard me...people have got to be able to read you know
- Narrator So all those trees for one newspaper in one country in one day?
- Man 1 Yes... you heard me
- Narrator But how many trees do we have to chop down all over the world to make every newspaper and magazine for everyone to read
- Man 1 And the junk mail...don't forget that
- Narrator But that's millions...every day
- Man 1 That's right, mate....millions every day
- Narrator But what about the air they produce for us to breathe?
- Man 1 Doesn't worry me, mate...those rain forests are not in my back yard, so what do I care?
- Narrator But you must care
- Man 1 Look mate, I'm only doing my job...if you want to argue about it see someone else
- Human 1 We could use these animals and fish to eat, you know
- Human 2 And the birds...I'm quite partial to a bit of chicken myself

They start gathering up the birds, fish and animals

- Human 3 But what about us....there's plenty for us too
- Human 1 Sorry, we you never know we might have a famine and where would we be then....we can't spare any for you. If there's any left over we might give you some; if not, we'll probably throw it away
- Human 4 But that's waste
- Human 1 No, it's not...look we need food to eat, wood to build our houses
- Human 2 And power...power that comes from using up the fuels of the earth; they're not meant to stay in the ground for ever you know. God made them for us to use them

- Narrator Are you quite sure about that?
- Human 1 'Course we are...we can plug things in, switch things on whenever we need...that's what living's for
- Human 3 But what about us? We have to live too you know
- Human 2 Too bad...if there's not enough for us, why should we be worrying about you?
- Human 4 Because we're your friends...we're your brothers and sisters
- Human 1 What you are is rivals...when there's not enough food to go round and when we need the wood for ourselves...you are our competition...and we won't help you
- Narrator Then God got angry
- God Stop...what are you doing with my world? It's mine, not yours...I made it for all of you....all of you to live in together

They all look ashamed

- Narrator God told them off. He said don't just throw things away when you've finished with them; don't take from other people what is theirs and leave them with nothing; don't waste anything. Think about other people. Share your money and all you have

God takes the birds, animals etc., from Humans 1 and 2 and take them back to the groups who owned them in the first place

- God And stop cutting down my trees!

He goes over to the cutters and takes the axes from their hands

- Narrator God told them they could recycle all the paper they use and use it again and again....there was no need to cut down so many of his beautiful trees every day

God 'repairs' the trees and puts the fruit and birds back in them

- God Look after my world; don't destroy it.

Hymn This is the day that the Lord has made

Homily *Loughborough, Hinckley and Derby groups*

Narrator 1 *Loughborough*

And there's more to this problem than trees, you know. The earth is warming up; in fact it's getting very warm. Here is an experiment we want to show you. Can we have N., our innocent victim now

A group member enters

Now lie down here, that's right. We are going to conduct this experiment with you, and it won't hurt – promise! We place a duvet over him to keep him warm, and just in case he gets a bit chilly in the night, we place another one on him. How are you feeling? Nice and snug? Splendid. Now when the earth warms up we warm up too – *another duvet on him* – warming up nicely are we? Good! Soon, we begin to feel just a little bit warm and sweaty – *another duvet* – and after a while, we actually begin to feel too warm – *another duvet* – and then we are feeling distinctly uncomfortable – *another duvet* – and very soon it might become unbearably hot – *another duvet*

Man Let me out!

Narrator 1 Well, you see we can't let you out because we can't just cool down the earth once it's got too hot, and that's the problem. The duvet represents the gases that have gone up from the earth into the clouds. They destroy the natural covering of clouds and what is called the 'ozone layer' – a sheet that protects the earth from the harmful rays of the sun – so that the sun is not filtered and becomes hotter and hotter. Not only does it make the person on the floor hot, but it also destroys large parts of the plants and vegetation of the earth. Therefore no food for people to eat or grow. Thank you for helping us. You can get up now and go and cool off.

Narrator 2 *Hinckley*

But the earth's climate seems to be heating up much much faster than can be explained by the sun making more heat. And the reason is us – and our machines! Almost all machines use gas, oil or coal to power them. All of them produce pollution – you know, the smelly stuff that comes out of car exhaust pipes and factory chimneys, that sort of thing. Much of this is a gas you can't see called carbon dioxide. It's this gas which seems to be the main cause of the trouble

What happens when you go into a greenhouse on a sunny day? It's hot, isn't it? That is because the glass in the greenhouse traps the heat from the sun. This gas, carbon dioxide does exactly the same in the earth's atmosphere. It acts like glass in a greenhouse and just like these duvets do in keeping N. warm. The glass in the greenhouse keeps the plants warm and the carbon dioxide and other gases keep the planet warm. Without them we would freeze; too much of them and we boil, as you saw when we put more duvets over N. Because people are burning fuels with carbon in – oil, gas, and coal – which you use in cars, aeroplanes, power stations and so on, all this carbon gets dumped into the air and so adds to our problem – the planet warms up more than it should. This is what we call 'global warming'

A man enters in shorts with a shower cap on

Think about this: Here is N. in the shower. He loves the shower; it freshens him up in the morning, or cleans him when's he's got sweaty from work or playing games. Listen to him singing; he's really enjoying it – the more water the better. But what if.....what if....the water dried up? What then? He wouldn't be able to have his shower....he might get a bit smelly and dirty then when he couldn't clean himself.

The man looks puzzled then picks up a kettle and shakes it

Then he mightn't be able to make a cup of tea, or cook because there was no water. Then he might catch a disease like malaria, because he was dirty and the insects bite him. Pretty

soon, he would be in great difficulty and that would be terrible. But that's what's happening to some people in our world already today – they are in difficulty; they have little water to live on, so they have to move house and take what possessions they have and walk miles to find water and live there with no home.

Narrator 3 *Derby*

What happens next? This is not good news. The ice in the polar areas melts – some animals have to swim miles for food like our polar bear in the film and they do not like to be in warm water anyway, so many of them will die. But what about us? The ice that melts will start to fill up the oceans and make them overflow onto land. And the water itself will take up more space simply because it is warmer. That will make it overflow even more on to the land.

Enter a group member all dressed up for the seaside

Picture this scene: here is N. all ready for his holidays – he's got his bucket and spade, flippers, snorkel, towel, picnic basket and he's off on holiday to Grantham by the sea.

Narrator 4 But Grantham's miles from the sea – it's just outside Nottingham.

Narrator 3 True, Grantham used to be miles from the sea, but if the ice cap melts and more and more water flows into the ocean, all the land east of Grantham – Stamford, Peterborough, Skegness – will be swallowed up by it and Grantham will be on the coast. Who knows, even Nottingham might be on the coast some day! And as for Scunthorpe – well!

Narrator 4 First, this will happen to the poorer parts of the world, like Bangladesh, and then come to richer parts like Europe. Some people would drown in the water and wouldn't be able to grow their crops because plants need a little heat and a little water to grow – not too much of either!

Narrator 3 Another thing: people who study the earth's climate have found that as it warms up, the weather is going to get more violent and unpredictable – so there will be big winds and storms called hurricanes or tornadoes as well as floods. These winds destroy homes by blowing them away – and this is happening already in some parts of America. The greenhouse gases are produced by burning oil, coal and gas and by chopping down our trees, which provide us with clean air, and that is what is damaging God's world, and we are doing it

All We are damaging God's world.....and very soon....!

Priest All this is a bit frightening but it's true. So much depends on you and me to make a difference to the world we live in. so if we want to change the world, then we must change our lives

Song If you want to change the world then change your life

Priest Let us pause for a moment and tell God we are sorry for all the times we have been so thoughtless and selfish that we have not seen these problems or done anything about them

A moment now to remember all those we want to pray for today

Now let us say our LiveSimply prayer together:

Lord Jesus Christ, help me to live simply
 To follow your steps,
 To share what I have,
 to think about those who have nothing.
 Help me to be kind and helpful to people;
 Help me not to waste food or water;
 Help me to eat smaller meals;
 Help me not to destroy your world,
 But to think before I do things.
 Lord Jesus Christ, help me to live simply,
 So that others may simply live. Amen

Offertory Hymn One bread, one body

Prayer over the gifts Dear Father, we bring you this bread; we bring you this wine. We bring you ourselves and the world that you have made for us to live in and look after. Please help us to offer our whole lives and everything we think, say or do, to you, for your honour and praise in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever. Always and everywhere we want to thank you for your great goodness to us. You made this beautiful world for us to live in and asked us to look after it for you. You gave us light and water and food and family, so many thanks that we can never thank you enough. Above all else, you gave us Jesus your Son, to be our brother and friend, to show us how to live splendidly in your way. He gave up his whole life for us on the cross, so that we could be free from all those things that prevent us from loving you. And so we praise you in the company of all the angels and saints as we say: Holy, holy

Eucharistic Prayer No.2

Our Father

Communion Hymn This is my body
 O Lord my God

Communion Meditation *Leicester Group*

Letter from Chief Seattle to the President of the United States, 1855:

How can you buy or sell the sky – the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He kidnaps the earth from his children. He does not care. His father's graves and his children's birthright are forgotten. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.

Blessing

Session 4 – How to put it right

What can you remember about last Sunday in Scunthorpe?

- God making the world and being absolutely delighted with it
- human beings suddenly getting greedy and taking what they needed for themselves: chopping down the trees to make paper, using up fuels from the earth to provide heat and power
- causing gases to rise into the atmosphere that pushed back the heat we created and thus making the world warmer
- thus the ice melts and we get more water where we don't need it and not enough where we do
- the day might come when we have no water for our shower or our cup of tea
- and some places might have so much water that they flood and disappear – so the British seaside might be in Grantham after all!

But what might happen elsewhere in the world?

- the poorer countries will become poorer because they won't have enough water or too much water – floods and droughts
- A billion people might be forced to leave their homes to seek water and food – where can they go and who will look after them?
- This problem might create violence between people when they fight for whatever water or food is left
- remember it is the rich countries and their greedy 'consumption' of the world's resources – trees, fuels – that have played the biggest part in creating this situation. We don't care because it is not in our back yard – but soon it might be! Poor people in Latin America, and Africa and Asia, can't afford to travel by car or plane; they don't have central heating or air-conditioning in their homes, or running water and they don't eat fancy food. Many of them don't even have anything more to live in than an one-room shack with no toilet, no kitchen and no running water. These are not the ones who are causing the problem – we are!

This is not really happening, is it?

- Yes it is, but there are people who say it is not. Can you guess who they are? Those who use lots of fuel in their cars or fly too often in aeroplanes, those who get the fuel out of the earth – ie. heavy industry, car makers and the oil, gas and coal companies. These are people who depend on other people using lots of fuel to help them keep making money. They don't think it is happening and they don't want us to think it is happening
- Sometimes we don't want to think it is happening ourselves because we don't want to change the way we live : show flash cards
 - a) Climate change is going to give us better summers! I can't see what it has to do with increasing poverty and inequality!
 - b) I won't make lifestyle changes to go greener because I don't think what I do makes any difference!
 - c) How healthy is your lifestyle? Take a healthcheck with the climate doctor!
 - d) The doctor says: Our climate will become more extreme, with many areas suffering severe flooding and droughts or both! For the poorest people already living on the

edge, climate change could make life even harder. 150,000 people every day are dying from the effects of climate change

e) The doctor says: There have always been natural changes but the different now is that OUR emissions are causing the changes and their happening QUICKER! If everyone consumed like we do in the UK, we would need three whole planets, not one. How fair is that? and we need to sort it out?

f) Climate change affects the world's poorest the first and worst...taking action on climate change is a move for justice

g) Climate change is really important – the planet is our future and there's plenty we can do to reduce the image of climate change

What can we do?

So we need to make some big changes in our lives now so that we can help poor communities all around the world and eventually ourselves as well: When you boil the kettle to make a cup of tea, or use our computer, or watch TV, where do they get the power from? Electricity. And where does electricity come from? A power station. And how does the power station make the power for the electricity and the kettle? Through burning oil, gas or coal, which warms up the climate so....

Reduce, reuse and recycle

The amount of energy that each person uses is called their 'carbon footprint'. A typical lifestyle in the UK is built on high carbon emissions. At 22 weeks old an average UK citizen will be responsible for the equivalent emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide which someone in Tanzania will generate in a whole lifetime. The less we use, the less damage it causes to the atmosphere. So.....

- Use the kettle less often – only put in as much water as you need
- Turn off your TV and computer and don't leave them on stand-by when you're not using them
- Make sure you turn off the lights in all the house before you go to bed
- Try to use the car less and walk more
- Don't fly on aeroplanes unless you really have to
- Recycle all waste so that it can be used again and we don't have to use much energy to make it – particularly paper. Saving paper means saving trees!
- Don't throw plastic bags away; use them again
- Don't leave the tap on while cleaning your teeth and don't spend ages in the shower!
- If you are feeling a bit chilly, don't always turn up the heat in your house but put a jumper on instead.
- Use energy-saving light bulbs instead of normal ones
- Grow your own food – and compost your waste
- Turn your heat down at home and close the curtains to keep the cold out and the warmth in
- Don't half-fill your washing machine with clothes –make sure it is full every time so that you do not use twice as much water!
- Turn off all dripping taps

AND TRY TO GET OTHERS TO THINK THE SAME WAY!

Around the world

Resource: www.casfod.org.uk/climatephotopack

All this means that we owe a great debt to people living all round the world – cutting our ‘carbon emissions’ is not simply a matter of survival or even charity; it is a matter of justice. Changing our lifestyles now can improve life for everyone.

And now we will think about different parts of the world and how we can help agencies like CAFOD to make the lives of people better and maybe help them to stay in their homes. Let’s look on our map to find these different countries and try to learn something about them:

Bangladesh The Sundarbans Reserve Forest is the largest mangrove forest in the world and most of it is in Bangladesh. Mangroves are trees with roots that grow above ground and are found in marches, swamps or on seashores. Millions of people in the coastal areas depend on the forest for their livelihood and the trees protect the people from cyclones and floods. The forest is now very thin because people have come to steal its wood and poor local people have taken wood from it to use for cooking and heat. CAFOD’s partner Prodipan helps people to find other ways of making a living so that they no longer need to destroy the forest. Other partners – Caritas Bangladesh – have built more than 200 cyclone shelters so that people do not have to lose their homes or schools, thus saving thousands of lives (see photo). They still need more shelters so that everyone will be safe.

Cambodia Over the last three years some communities in Cambodia have been hit by drought, floods and typhoons – all because of climate change. They have set up rice banks with CAFOD’s help so that they can share it out when there is a drought and build it up when there is sufficient rainfall. People in the Cambodian forest have the same problem with trees as in Bangladesh – there are those who want to chop them down for their own profit. This is called deforestation. In some villages, with CAFOD’s help, people now make a living by ‘tapping’ trees (see photo), that is making cuts in the bark to collect resin, which they sell to those who use it to make boats waterproof. Illegal loggers were trying to persuade the people there to sell their trees but their CAFOD partnership organisation the DPA (Development Partnership in Action) has helped them resist the temptation and to guarantee good prices for the resin.

Mozambique A cycle of floods and droughts in recent years has brought misery to millions in Mozambique, particularly in the year 2000. The Franciscan Sisters, working in partnership with CAFOD began a project to move people living in crowded, unhealthy conditions to higher ground and build new homes. A task force was trained to plant and care for trees such as mango and avocado which can cope with dry conditions. Gradually, from empty dry bush-land a thriving neighbourhood was created with a safe water supply, health facilities, schools, a community room and an environmental power supply. This has transformed people’s lives (see photo)

Niger in West Africa is the world’s poorest country. four fifths of it is desert and the area is often subject to extreme dust storms and failed harvests. Climate change makes it even harder to survive in such a dry environment. During the 2005 drought which left 3.6 million people without food, CAFOD set up local communal food banks and feeding centres and now they are helping people to adapt and prepare for long-term changes in the climate – for example by digging half-moons into sloped land to help the soil retain more water (see photo) When it rains, the water is trapped and doesn’t waste away so quickly. This helps plants to grow strong enough for their roots to hold the soil together.

Kenya - is also a victim of drought and even after severe flooding in 2007, there is still not enough water for people in several parts of the country. Their animals die and so do their children from lack of water and nourishment. CAFOD helps villages to dig wells and find bore-holes so that they may be guaranteed access to clean water in the future. But even today more than one billion of the earth’s six billion people still do not have access to safe drinking water.

Brazil - In 2005 the Amazon Basin had its worst drought in more than a century. Rivers dried up, cutting off tens of thousands of people and killing huge numbers of fish. But Brazil has suffered more from people chopping down trees than anywhere else in the world. An area of trees roughly the size of a football pitch is being chopped down in Brazil every eight seconds. Hutukara, a local organisation supported by CAFOD, works with local communities in their struggle for land rights and against the 80% of illegal logging that takes place in their country. If they can be given their rights, the rainforest will remain and help slow down the effect of climate change.

Guatemala - Most of Guatemala's wealth is owned by a small number of people. The poor find it hard to deal with disasters like Hurricane Stan in 2005, which affected over 400,000 people and many were buried in mudslides. CAFOD helped set up local radio stations to warn people about the approach of hurricanes and thus give them time to escape to safer places. They also helped with replanting trees where they had been chopped down.

So we see how CAFOD needs our help to:

- prevent more damage being done by changing the way we live
- support their work by financial assistance.
- with our help they can help others for us to: plant more trees, build flood defences, dig wells and save water, learn new ways of earning a living and new methods of growing food

This is the purpose of the CAFOD LiveSimply challenge which we spent 2008 studying. It means that we will only take what we need from the earth and not demand more and more of it; that we realise how much our choices can affect the lives of other people all over the world; and that we will make a strong and lasting commitment to them so that they can survive and live splendidly as Jesus taught us all.

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD, THEN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

In Liturgy 3 on September 25 we will:

- summarize what we have done so far this year, concentrating on 'the tree' in particular
- briefly describe the situation in different parts of the world
- make a commitment to plant trees through CAFOD
- have a retiring collection to support CAFOD's work
- each group plant a tree in the church grounds to celebrate
- the opening of the Mary Forryan Centre

In Liturgy 4 on November 28 we will:

- commit to changing our lifestyle by adopting the AlterNativity project once again (if any group would like information on how to start it in their town, please contact Fr.Frank – this would be the best contribution of all)
- decorate our Christmas tree with relevant items
- summarize work conducted on water filters

So we need to make some big changes in our lives now so that we can help poor communities all around the world and eventually ourselves as well: When you boil the kettle to make a cup of tea, or use our computer, or watch TV, where do they get the power from? Electricity. And where does electricity come from? A power station. And how does the power station make the power for the electricity and the kettle? Through burning oil, gas or coal, which warms up the climate so....

What can we do?

- Use the kettle less often – only put in as much water as you need
- Turn off your TV and computer and don't leave them on stand-by when you're not using them
- Make sure you turn off the lights in all the house before you go to bed
- Try to use the car less and walk more
- Don't fly on aeroplanes unless you really have to
- Recycle all waste so that it can be used again and we don't have to use much energy to make it – particularly paper. Saving paper means saving trees!
- Don't throw plastic bags away; use them again
- Don't leave the tap on while cleaning your teeth and don't spend ages in the shower!
- If you are feeling a bit chilly, don't always turn up the heat in your house but put a jumper on instead.
- Use energy-saving light bulbs instead of normal ones

**SPANNED Annual Mass 2010 – St.Peter's Church, Leicester Rd., Hinckley
Saturday September 25 at 2.30pm**

St.Peter's Community and the Sunshine Club are very proud to welcome you all to Hinckley for this year's Annual Mass, which will also mark the formal opening of the new Mary Forryan Centre.

Before the Mass: Would each group make a 'leaf' for every member – A4 size, painted on both sides, with holes in either end, so that they can be threaded into a long piece of string. Please provide the string also and place the name of a different member on each leaf. During the gospel, these leaves will be stretched down the aisle from a 'tree' on top of the altar steps, to represent Jesus as the vine and us as the branches.

Rehearse your part in the Mass and please be sure to bring with you the items we have used for our mimes this year – cloths, insects, birds, animals, trees etc. – which we will raise during the introduction from our places – as well as the 'props' required for your section of the homily. Please bring your group banner also. The Mass will be divided into two distinct parts – the project on Climate Justice, which we have been undertaking, with our section on 'how to put things right', and the opening of the new centre.

We are expecting a crowd of between 400-500 people including parishioners, visiting priests and many guests, so please let Fr.Frank know definite numbers by September 12 at the latest.

For Mass: Please arrive as soon after 1.30pm as you can, if not before, so that we can rehearse before the main congregation gets here. The centre will be available for toilets until 2.00pm when it will have to be prepared for the opening. If any group would like to arrive early and have a picnic on the field, you will be very welcome indeed. Take up your allotted space in the church and ask a group member to carry your banner and the diocesan flag. They will need to go to the church porch before Mass begins. Once they approach the sanctuary, someone will take the flags and banners from each person, which they will come forward to collect as Mass ends. Please ask a relative of those friends who are being commemorated at Mass to come to the back and take a candle forward for them. If you have a framed photo of our deceased friends, please place it on the table provided before Mass. The trustees need to come to the back of church for the offertory in order to bring a flower and candle for Catherine at the end of the act of remembrance.

After Mass:

At the end of Mass, as the banners bearers and servers process to the planting area, the trustees join the bishop to pray quietly for a moment at Catherine's grave, and then proceed to the planting area.

Two members of each group need to be chosen to plant the trees, which we will provide, and it would be good if you could bring a shovel with you. The trees will have been put in the ground beforehand so we will just need to finish off the process together.

The bishop will then move to the building, where we will gather with him as he blesses the outside. Mrs. Cynthia Flowers, Mary's sister, will unveil the plaque on the outside and the bishop will cut the tape with the Mayor of Hinckley and members of the Sunshine Club. Inside there is a commemorative plaque to be unveiled in the foyer and ribbons to be cut at the entry to the three major rooms. Refreshments will be provided for everyone and the trustees will have a brief meeting in the Carbery Room.

We hope it will be a very special day for everyone.

Liturgy 3 - The SPANNED Annual Mass - Hinckley - September 2010

Entry Music "I was glad" C.H. Parry

The procession enters the church as follows: Cross and servers, the Mayor of Hinckley, Churches Together Leaders, the architect, representatives of G.F. Tomlinson Ltd., St. Peter's Community Finance Committee, 1 flag bearer with each group banner bearer (flags in holder at either side of the sanctuary, banners to chief servers) visiting priests, Mary's picture, and the bishop

Entry Hymn All people that on earth do dwell (*organ*)

Greeting *The bishop*

Welcome *Christopher Sowman*

The SPANNED Climate Justice Project *Barbara Drummond*

Thank you very much to everyone at St. Peter's for making us feel so welcome today. This is the first time we have celebrated our annual diocesan Mass with you and we are so pleased to be here. We are particularly delighted that you have chosen to use this occasion to open your new parish centre, dedicated to the memory of dear Mary who was not only an essential member of this parish community but also a much loved trustee of the agency with us and of course, the leader of the Sunshine Club for 26 years.

Each year, SPANNED adopts a project which all the groups try to follow in their own way and which we bring together in the four liturgies we celebrate together during the year. We have already been to Mickleover and Scunthorpe and at the end of November we shall be in Leicester for our annual Advent Mass. This year, we have chosen to concentrate on God's beautiful world that he has made for us and how we can all save it from destruction. We begin our Mass with a summary of what we have done so far, so I hand you over to our Nottingham and Derby groups.

Introduction *Nottingham group*

Narrator Here is the story of our work together so far this year. We have been thinking about God's beautiful world that he made for us and how pleased he was at doing it

'God' is sitting on a stool at the edge of the sanctuary

God I'm very pleased

Narrator He made the sky and the seas – he loved them

God I love them

Derby group hold up their cloths from their place in church

Narrator The sun and the moon and the stars. He thought they were brilliant

God They're brilliant

Derby and Loughborough groups hold up the sun, moon and stars

Narrator The plants and the trees

God How good is that?

Leicester group hold up plants and trees and the Hinckley group bring their tree to the altar

Narrator This is the tree made by the Sunshine Club here. Isn't it beautiful? God then made the fish in the sea

God Aren't I clever?

Scunthorpe group hold up fish

Narrator The birds and the animals

God Beautiful!

Hinckley and Nottingham groups hold up their items

Narrator And last of all, of course, he made you and me, human beings to be his friends. He was absolutely delighted

God Friends at last. I'm absolutely delighted

Narrator Then things started to go wrong

Steve and Tim enter in lumberjack gear

Narrator Some people wanted to chop down the trees to make newspapers and the forests disappeared. God was angry and told them to stop

God intervenes and pulls them away from the tree

God Stop! I'm angry

They walk away sheepishly

Narrator So then we got to thinking about how people wreck this beautiful world that God has made by being too greedy and selfish and forgetting about the effect their behaviour will have on others. How many people are there

who have no food because they cannot grow it – too much water or too little. This is caused by changes in the climate and this is caused by us – you and me – using too much fuel and energy and releasing harmful gases into the air which cause the earth to warm up and create horrible weather in some countries. Only we don't think about them because they're not here.

Derby group take over to narrate and act out the next section

Narrator But what if.... we ran out of water ourselves....

Someone holds up and empty kettle

or we had too much and had to go on holiday to Grantham by the sea...

Tim and Donna come in dressed for the seaside

because that's where the sea had now come up to...or we couldn't breathe clean air because it was too dirty?

Three people come and act this out

What then? There are so many things we can do to damage this beautiful world by being selfish and thoughtless, so let's tell God we are sorry and ask him to help us put it right.

Bishop Dear Father, thank you for this beautiful world and everything you have made in it. For all the times we have not appreciated you, we are truly sorry

All We are truly sorry

Bishop For all the times we have damaged your creation by our greed and selfishness, we are truly sorry

All We are truly sorry

Bishop For all the times we have not thought about the effects of what we do here on people far away, we are truly sorry

All We are truly sorry

Bishop Father God, today we come before you to learn how to put things right. Please show us the way you want us to live and help us to do and be just what you want us to do and be for you and others. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The Word of God - John 15 – music “The Lark Ascending”

Deacon A reading from the holy gospel according to St.John

Each group has its vine chain ready to bring up and attach to the tree and does so in turn; then they stretch the chain down a particular aisle, with several group members to hold the chain above their heads

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.... (*Loughborough*)
 Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty (*Derby*)
 for cut off from me you can do nothing (*Nottingham*)
 Make your home in me as I make mine in you (*Scunthorpe*)
 As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine,
 neither can you unless you remain in me (*Hinckley*)
 It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then
 you will be my disciples (*Leicester*)
 This is the gospel of the Lord

The chain is laid on the ground

Homily *All groups*

Narrator 1 This story shows us that we all share in the same life with Jesus. His life is
 (*Leicester*) our life, like all the leaves on this vine which bear the name of every
 member of each of our groups. So we cannot say that other people,
 wherever they are, do not matter, because we share the same life with
 them in Jesus.

Narrator 2 We are definitely their brothers and sisters and we cannot deny it. No
 (*Derby*) longer can we not care about what happens to them. If they don't have
 enough water or too much water because of what we're doing, we can't
 say it has nothing to do with us. If they have to leave their homes in search
 of food and water, we can't say that this is not our problem and our worry
 too. If we are using up too many fuels which cause their weather to be
 bad, then we are responsible and there's no use denying it any more.

Narrator 3 So we need to make some big changes in our lives now so that we can
 (*Scunthorpe*) help poor communities all around the world and eventually ourselves as
 well: When you boil the kettle to make a cup of tea, or use our computer,
 or watch TV, where do they get the power from? Electricity. And where
 does electricity come from? A power station. And how does the power
 station make the power for the electricity and the kettle? Through burning
 oil, gas or coal, which warms up the climate so....

Flash cards are brought up and displayed – Reduce, reuse, recycle. These banners are held up every time we want the congregation to join in

All **Reduce, reuse, recycle**

This is all acted out visually

Narrator 4 The amount of energy that each person uses is called their 'carbon (*Nottingham*)
 footprint'.

A huge black footprint is brought up

A typical lifestyle in the UK is built on high carbon emissions. At 22 weeks old an average UK citizen will be responsible for the equivalent emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide which someone in Tanzania will generate in a whole lifetime. The less we use, the less damage it causes to the atmosphere. So.....

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

Narrator 5 Use the kettle less often – only put in as much water as you need
(*Loughborough*)

Someone walks on with a kettle

Turn off your TV and computer and don't leave them on stand-by when you're not using them

Several people with remote controls

Turn them off and make sure you turn off all the lights in the house before you go to bed

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

Narrator 6 Try to use the car less and walk more
(*Hinckley*)

A man cycles up the aisle covered in bin liners

Hey, what are you doing?

Man I'm a recycler!

Narrator 6 Don't fly on aeroplanes unless you really have to

Three people stand huddled together with two cases. They turn the cases round to reveal the words, "Ryan Air"

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

Narrator 1 Recycle all waste so that it can be used again and we don't have to use (*Leicester*) much energy to make it – particularly paper. Saving paper means saving trees!

People come in throwing litter away

Narrator 1 Ahem!!

They look puzzled and the narrator points to the litter. They pick it up and put it in the bin the narrator is holding

Narrator 1 And don't throw plastic bags away; use them again

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

Narrator 2 Grow your own food – and compost your waste. Here is a lettuce grown
(Derby) by the Tuesday Club. They're really quite delicious

The lettuce is displayed

Narrator 3 Don't leave the tap on while cleaning your teeth, make sure you don't
(Scunthorpe) leave it dripping afterwards and don't spend ages in the shower!

Someone pretends to be having a shower and another person comes and makes gestures to their watch to show they've been in there too long

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

Narrator 4 If you are feeling a bit chilly, don't always turn up the heat in your house
(Nottingham) but put a jumper on instead.

Someone walks on in several jumpers

Narrator 4 Don't be silly

Person But I feel the cold

Narrator 4 Wimp! Turn your heat down at home and close the curtains to keep the
cold out and the warmth in

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

Narrator 5 Use energy-saving light bulbs instead of normal ones
(Loughborough)

People walk on with energy-saving bulbs

Narrator 6 Plant a tree – that's what we're going to do today after Mass here. But you
(Hinckley) can also plant a tree where it's really needed and after Mass we'll tell you
how.

All Reduce, reuse, recycle

All Narrators If you want to change the world, then change your life! and try to get
others to think the same way!

Song The LiveSimply song

Reader And now we remember our dear friends who have died since we last
gathered for our Annual Mass: Bridget and Paddy Doyle, Fr.Brendan
O'Sullivan, Teresa Dabrowska, Helen Swiderska, Katie Robinson,
Fr.David Everitt, Cecilia Windram and Anne Mostyn

Their relatives bring candles to the altar – music is played

Reader Finally, the trustees of the agency and the Hinckley Sunshine Club would like to pay a special tribute to their beloved group leader, Catherine McGlynn, who died during the holidays aged 55. May she rest in peace

A picture of Catherine is placed on the table and the trustees and Sunshine Club members bring up candles and flowers Music ("Winter" from the "Four Seasons") is played and the poem is read

Poem "Today", by Stuart Glasgow

- 0.05** Today, I see a cycle wheel,
Slowly turning within a rim,
Alone and in its garage
Where you could hear a dropping pin.
- 0.29** Today, no lady cycles by,
So briskly, on her way,
Refusing every offer of a lift
Smiling and making your day.
- 0.45** Today, I see a community,
Who kneel quietly in prayer,
Each one feeling in their heart
That what's happening isn't fair.
- 1.00** Today, St.Peter's Sunshine Club
Has lost a special friend;
It's members ponder in their hearts
With love they want to send.
- 1.18** Today, we gaze towards the altar,
At two banners flowing down,
Remembering who made them,
How she could erase the deepest frown.
- 1.35** Today, we think of a family,
Who need our love and care,
And remind them how she shared hers with us,
And still had some to spare.
- 2.00** Today our lovely Catherine
Will be received into a special place,
And all those waiting will be struck,
By her smile, her love and grace.
- 2.15** Today we come to celebrate,
Her faith, her joys, her light,
And her special little ways
to make the darkest day seem bright.
- 2.30** Today is sadness, today is hope,
What else can we say?
We loved and still love you, dear Catherine, especially today.

Offertory Hymn I give my hands (*Music group*)

Prayer over the gifts Dear Father, we bring you this bread; we bring you this wine. We bring you ourselves and the world that you have made for us to live in and look after. Please help us to offer our whole lives and everything we think, say or do, to you, for your honour and praise in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever. Always and everywhere we want to thank you for your great goodness to us. You made this beautiful world for us to live in and asked us to look after it for you. You gave us light and water and food and family, so many thanks that we can never thank you enough. Above all else, you gave us Jesus your Son, to be our brother and friend, to show us how to live splendidly in your way. He gave up his whole life for us on the cross, so that we could be free from all those things that prevent us from loving you. And so we praise you in the company of all the angels and saints as we sing:

Holy, holy (*organ*)

Eucharistic Prayer No.3

Communion Hymns Down to you and me (*music group*)

Down to you and me (Music: Bob Dylan; Words adapted by Cathy Jackson)

1. How many roads must a man lay down, before he ruins the land?
Yes'n how many species will cease to exist if he cuts the rain forests down?
Yes'n now many seas will be filled with waste before it's forever banned?

Chorus: The answer my friend is down to you and me; the answer is down to you and me

2. How many years can a glacier exist before it melts in the sea?
Yes'n how many lands will be washed away because we can't all agree?
Yes'n how many times can a man turn his head, pretending he just doesn't see?
3. How man lands will be barren and dry because we poison the sky?
Yes'n how many people will be displaced before we can hear them cry?
Yes'n how many deaths will it take 'til we know that too many people have died?

Put peace into each other's hands (*organ*)
O Lord all the world belongs to you (*music group*)

Final prayer Dear Father, we thank you for all you have been to us, all that you are to us and all that you will be to us in Jesus Christ our Lord

After Communion Blessing of the Tuesday Club banner

Jim Dobbin, Vice Chair of SPANNED invites Bishop Malcolm to bless and present a special SPANNED Jubilee Banner to the Derby Tuesday Group in commemoration of their 25th anniversary next month. The banner is brought to the bishop

Bishop Almighty God, we give you thanks for the twenty five years of our Derby Tuesday Club and for all the good it has done for so many people. May this banner be a permanent sign of the service that has been given to you and your people, and of hope for the future that lies ahead. We bless this banner in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The banner is unfurled and presented to the group leader and founder members of the group

Liturgy of blessing of the Mary Forryan Centre

Poem “A piece of you” *read by Peter Barlow*

I wonder what you would say
If you could see us now –
Which of course you can,
If two thousand years and more
Of our believing tradition
is anything to go by.
So what do you think
of what we have done for you
in our attempts
to keep your memory alive
and thus console, comfort and convince ourselves
that you are not gone for ever?

“My life has been dismantled”
you might say,
“parcelled out in little pieces
to different people
in all sorts of places,
and my home,
now voided,
as legality requires,
not forgetting the money
I had hidden in the oven,
My filing system
concealed behind the kitchen cupboard door,
And years of albums, books and memories
Now distributed and so thinly spread
That maybe there is too little left of me
To be of real and lasting use.”

Think this, if you will,
but you would be so wrong,
for we do not wish you to misinterpret
our intentions at this time,
rather to understand
precisely what we are about.

We have collected our recollections
Of you

And all you did for us
And placed them reverently
In a special book
With pictures of you
Young and not so young,
Strong and not so strong,
In the hope that those many things
That we can now remember
Can be shared
With many who might not have had the fortune
To know you just as we did.
We have found the fifty people
Necessary to do your jobs
And some more as well,
And pray they will have
The heart and will
To fulfil their new responsibilities among us
With something of your
Devotion and enthusiasm.

Yes, what was once your own place
Has now been emptied
For some other lucky person
To enjoy the evening views of the park
And mark the passing of the seasons
From an armchair near the window,
Your home
And all of you that was within it,
is not however destroyed,
But has simply been removed
To that other place
In which you spent so many
Of your waking hours
With us
Or on your own,
And which, henceforth,
Will ever bear your name
So that no one could ever fail to be reminded
Of your selfless dedication.

If we could have a piece of you,
Not trinkets, books, tapes
Or even egg-cups
- why so many egg-cups? –
but instead,
what they might symbolise -
a piece of who you were
to us,
and still will always be –
a piece of your heart
and particle of your loving,
concerned for all and sundry;
a piece of your mind and

a trace of your vision,
 clear and never cluttered
 about what needed to be said and done;
 a piece of your soul,
 that which was and is so deep within you
 to love and honour
 him who made you and sustained you
 all your life;
 a hint of your determination
 and courage
 to persevere with hope and will,
 even when everything was stacked against you.
 If we could have a piece of you,
 then how fortunate we would be.

If, in our remembering,
 We could have no more
 than just a piece of you
 To treasure, cherish,
 Imitate, emulate,
 And share with all around us
 Then wouldn't that be nice?

Invitation to the Bishop and Presentation - *Liz Franklin*

Final Hymn Let us build a house (*organ*)

The procession leaves in the same sequence as it came in and moves to the garden for the tree planting and thence to the new building. The bishop and trustees move quietly to Catherine's grave, with the flower arrangement that was earlier placed on the table. They are joined by members of her family.

Bishop Father, we give you thanks for this woman, Catherine, who was so dear to us and for whom we grieve so much. We thank you for the goodness that came out of her, for her quietness and patience, her faithfulness to the gospel and for all the many gifts and talents that she gladly laid at your disposal during the time she was with us. We pray that nothing that was special to her will be lost but that it will be treasured and imitated by those who come after her. May she go on living in her family and friends and in all those whom she touched in whatever way, and may we never forget her for all she has meant to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Our Father.....

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
 May she rest in peace.

The bishop then moves to the front of the new building. Three members of each group plant the trees. Mrs. Cynthia Fowers unveils the plaque outside and then the bishop blesses the building.

Bishop Almighty God and Father, we ask you to bless + this centre which we have built for our community to gather in and do your work of service. May it be a place of welcome, happiness and encouragement for all who enter it, a place of formation in your way, a place in which the gospel message of your Son, can be put into practice every day. We dedicate it to the memory of our beloved Mary Forryan and seek her inspiration and example in the manner in which we use it. We thank you for all who have been involved in its planning and construction and for the many sacrifices of this community which have enabled us to build it. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

And now I invite the first citizen of this town and some of Mary's dearest friends, to join me as we cut the ribbon and officially declare open, the Mary Forryan Centre.

He cuts the ribbon at the doors with the Mayor and enters. Inside, he unveils the commemorative plaque and the ribbons to the Carbery Room, the Leo Kane Studio and the Norton rooms are cut by Hannah Jo Sowman, Marina Brooks and Greg Drozdz respectively. The bishop blesses all the rooms, Mary's picture is put up on the wall, and the party begins!

Session 5 - Happy Christmas!

When we gathered in Hinckley we planted a tree. Why?

To plant a tree is to say 'yes' to life;
it is to affirm our faith in the future.

To plant a tree is to acknowledge our debt to the past;
seeds are not created out of nothing.

To plant a tree is to share in God's work,
of bringing new life to the earth

To plant a tree is a sign of sorrow for past mistakes,
when we took life's gifts for granted.

To plant a tree is to make a social statement
to make us aware of 'green' issues, to protect and save the planet

To plant a tree is to increase the quality of life;
it brings beauty to the eyes and lifts up the spirit.

To plant a tree is to remind ourselves of God;
we are all part of the tree of life; we stand or fall together

We have seen the damage we can do to the planet and all the trouble that it can cause people:

- some people do not have enough water; they cannot grow food, and diseases spreads quickly
- some people have too much water; they cannot grow food either, and disease spreads quickly
- some people waste food and energy so there's none left to share

- many beautiful trees are being chopped down to be used for paper and furniture

So what can we really do that will make a difference? We spoke about this at our last Mass, but let us think about Christmas as an example. This is the most selfish time of the year – look how many gifts you can buy from the Argos catalogue! – and yet it should be the most loving and giving time because we commemorate God giving us his Son, Jesus, the best present we could ever have, to show us how to live splendidly and happily for ever.

What about our tree? Look at these beautiful leaves. They've been taken from the trees in our garden. Look at the colours and the shape. However beautiful they are, they have fallen from our trees and will die. The tree will become bare and look as if it is dead too, during the winter, then when the spring comes, buds will appear and very soon they will be covered with foliage. This is the cycle of life – living and dying. It is the story of Jesus too – the new life that came to be in the stable at Bethlehem, will flower into the most beautiful person there ever could be, and then die on the cross, before coming to life again on Easter day. Listen again to the story we read for the gospel at our last Mass:

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches....
 Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty
 for cut off from me you can do nothing
 Make your home in me as I make mine in you
 As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine,
 neither can you unless you remain in me
 It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then
 you will be my disciples

Sometimes, we become beautiful in the life of Jesus, and then cut ourselves off from him. Like the leaves, we wither and fall off the tree and die.

The tree is also one of the central parts of our Christmas celebration – it is very green, evergreen and never dies, no matter what the weather. This tree represents another aspect of our life with God – it is like his love that will never die or fade away. The fir tree was used as a symbol for Christians for over a thousand years, but it is only fairly recently that it became used at Christmas. 600 years ago in Germany and present day Estonia, trees were set up in market places in the middle of winter and people came together to dance around them. Some times the trees were decorated with food, pretzels and paper flowers. The 'goodies' were collected by children on Christmas Day. 200 years later it was being used in Canada and in other parts of Europe, especially around Germany. It is said that Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert brought the custom to England, where ornaments were hung on them and presents put around the bottom of the trees. This custom was then later copied by people in America, where the use of a tree for Christmas was already in practice for some years after German settlers put them up at this time of the year. We believe that the Americans were the first to put sweets on a Christmas tree as long as 150 years ago. Now trees appear everywhere at Christmas and some of them are very big. In London, the tree in Trafalgar Square is a gift from the people of Oslo, in Norway and from Bergen in the same country, a tree is always given to the people of Newcastle. These are gifts of thanks for the help given during the time of the Second World War.

By tradition, a Christmas tree should be set up and decorated on Christmas Eve and taken down on January 7th but this does not always happen! Some trees have roots on and are bought in soil so that they may be planted outside after Christmas ready for the next year. The first artificial Christmas tree was invented in America by the Addis brush company using plastic brush bristles. Now trees are made from all sorts of things including recycled plastic. Decorations are made of light glass

covered in coloured metal, electric lights, symbols of toys and presents and also symbols of Jesus' birth story eg. angels.

This year at the Leicester Mass, we are going to decorate a tree with each of the other groups. We are going to do so with recycled materials so we will spend a little while finding and designing them beforehand. We will think about the celebration of Christmas and what it should really mean for us.

We will remember too all those many people we have been thinking about who have no homes, no jobs, no food and no water because of what we have done to them. How can we help them as well as changing our lives? Take part in the AlterNativity scheme once again and look carefully at this year's catalogue.

In another session, we can play the CAFOD Climate Change game – cf. www.cafod.org.uk/primary - as people often play games together at Christmas time.

Act of commitment

We recognise that the earth and all that is in it is a gift to us from God, and that we are called to look after the world he has given us, to enjoy it, not damage it, delight in it not use it only for our good, but to share its treasures with others – the food it yields, the water it holds, the gifts it gives us to help us live our lives each day.

We are all brothers and sisters all over the world

We promise to love and honour each other

We promise to protect and keep safe God's beautiful world

We promise to live simply, not to eat too much or waste too much

We promise to recycle all we can and never throw anything away that we can save

We promise to tell others about God's justice and love

We promise to be good to everyone in need and share what we have with them

We promise to change our lives so that the world can be saved

We promise to look after our trees!

Liturgy 4 The Christmas Tree – St. John Bosco Parish, Leicester on the First Sunday of Advent 2010

Entry Hymn *The Holly and the Ivy*

Introduction *Leicester Group*

Welcome to Leicester and our annual Advent Mass. This year, as you know, we have been thinking a lot about trees and how important they are for us – giving us air to breathe, fruit to eat, somewhere to shelter from rain and storms. You remember those trees we made and took to

Mickleover and then Scunthorpe and how people wanted to chop them down and made God angry. Then when we were at Hinckley we all made that beautiful tree, which represented Jesus, the vine, out of leaves with everybody's name on to show that we all share the same life as Jesus. You remember also that each group planted a tree in the garden there as a sign of hope for the future. We hope that when we next go to Hinckley they will have grown more. Today we come together to see another tree – the Christmas tree – and to think about what it means for us and the world we are trying to save.

The Christmas tree is brought up or unveiled

Loughborough Group

The tree is one of the central parts of our Christmas celebration – it is very green, evergreen and never dies, no matter what the weather. This tree represents another aspect of our life with God – it is like his love that will never die or fade away. The fir tree was used as a symbol for Christians for over a thousand years, but it is only fairly recently that it became used at Christmas. 600 years ago in Germany and present day Estonia, trees were set up in market places in the middle of winter and people came together to dance around them. Some times the trees were decorated with food, pretzels and paper flowers. The 'goodies' were collected by children on Christmas Day. 200 years later it was being used in Canada and in other parts of Europe, especially around Germany. It is said that Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert brought the custom to England, where ornaments were hung on them and presents put around the bottom of the trees. This custom was then later copied by people in America, where the use of a tree for Christmas was already in practice for some years after German settlers put them up at this time of the year. We believe that the Americans were the first to put sweets on a Christmas tree as long as 150 years ago. Now trees appear everywhere at Christmas and some of them are very big. In London, the tree in Trafalgar Square is a gift from the people of Oslo, in Norway and from Bergen in the same country, a tree is always given to the people of Newcastle. These are gifts of thanks for the help given during the time of the Second World War.

Today during Mass, we are going to decorate this tree with very special decorations we have made in our groups out of recycled material. The rest of our decorations we will put up on the trees in our own churches as a symbol of our effort to save the planet in which we live.

Act of Penance *Hinckley group*

This year we have seen the damage we can do to the planet and all the trouble that it can cause people:

- some people do not have enough water; they cannot grow food, and diseases spreads quickly
- some people have too much water; they cannot grow food either, and disease spreads quickly
- some people waste food and energy so there's none left to share
- many beautiful trees are being chopped down to be used for paper and furniture

We know that Christmas, the feast of the birth of Jesus in a stable, poor, and homeless, can be the time for the greatest indulgence of the whole year – eating and drinking too much, wasting food, spending too much money on things we do not need, creating rubbish and thereby spoiling our world. It is also the time when we try to think about others who do not have what we have, but not always about why they have to live like that. Listen to our song and see.

Song *“Does it have to be this way”? (from “Mother Mary”)*

A man and a woman enter with a supermarket trolley and long list

Woman 1: Once again it's Christmas time
 why do we feel depressed?
 People rushing everywhere, as if
 they are possessed.
 We've lost the plot and meaning now,
 so all that's left is us;
 for what we want and what we need,
 we're making such a fuss.
 the rows, and fights and fallings out,
 to change this is a must

Man 1: Supermarket trolleys crammed
 with food, we'll surely waste;
 people living far and near
 who'd dearly love a taste
 of what we daily throw away;
 neglected in their need,
 how much could we help them
 if we only curbed our greed?
 selfishness consumes us
 so we cannot hear them plead

Both: The treadmill of consumerism
 makes you want to shout;
 everything you have to buy
 so no one goes without.
 But what of those who've nothing
 do we think or even care?
 Can't we see that what we have
 we're really meant to share?
 Will we never change our lives
 it's really so unfair?

Does it have to be this way
 can nothing yet be done?
 Is anything still left before
 all happiness is gone?

Reader 1 Dear God, you have given us a beautiful world to live in and so often we have spoiled it. Lord have mercy

Reader 2 Dear Jesus, you invite us to share our lives with you but so often we turn away. Christ have mercy

Reader 3 Dear Father, sometimes we make this holy feast of humility and poverty, an excuse for spoiling ourselves too much. Lord have mercy

Prayer Dear Father, this Christmas, please help us to change our lives. How we see things, how we do things, so that we may protect the world you gave us and live beautifully together in it. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Word of God *Derby group – could be mimed*

This is quite a difficult story from St.Luke's gospel but Jesus was trying to show people what would happen if they ignored God's word and live completely for themselves.

Jesus told a story about a man who was very rich. He spent all his time enjoying himself and pampering himself. So much so that he didn't even see the poor man, Lazarus, who was outside his door begging because he had no food to live on. The rich man ate more and more and Lazarus would have been glad to have even some of the food that he wasted, but he just didn't see him. The rich man didn't even know that Lazarus was there. Eventually they both died, and Lazarus, the poor man, was taken up into heaven to be happy with God for ever but the rich man was punished for his greed and lived in the eternal fire. In his agony, he pleaded with God – "get me out of here, or at least send Lazarus down here with some water to cool me because I am burning up". God said: "when you were alive you had all the good things in life and Lazarus had nothing. you didn't care about him or even see him then. Why should he care about you now?" Then the rich man said, "at least send Lazarus to me family to warn them so that they do not come to this place of torment too". God said, "they have the Bible to warn them like you did. If they read what it says there and obey it, they will live, but if not, they will end up like you".

Homily *AlterNativity Nottingham group*

This is acted out

Reader 1 Today is the *(give date)* Very soon, too soon, we will begin our annual period of stress which is called Christmas shopping

Reader 2 I saw Christmas items in a shop at the beginning of July

Both Ugh!

Reader 1 And we will be thinking what can I get for so and so or so and so

Reader 2 And don't forget so and so – there's too many so and so's

Reader 1 And we will stretch our minds and go to great lengths to find that something just a little bit special that nobody else has bought them

Reader 2 Something that no one else would possibly have thought of

Reader 1 And so, today, just to show that we are really prepared and ready for the big feast

Reader 2 And that we have gone to a lot of trouble to find something very special for some very special people

Reader 1 That nobody else will have bought – we are certain

Reader 1 But what do you give to the man / woman who has everything?

Reader 2 How could you possibly find something suitable for him / her....well we have

Someone gives them a box wrapped in Christmas paper but easy to open which is in fact empty

- Both Happy Christmas,
- Reader 1 It is such a problem isn't it?
- Reader 2 Such a problem
- Someone is gradually loaded up with all sorts of presents until they can't hold any more*
- Reader 1 So what do you do when you've got all the clothes you need?
- Reader 2 Shirts, jumpers, trousers
- Reader 1 Ties, socks, handkerchiefs
- Reader 2 And all the gadgets you want for your room
- Reader 1 And chocolates and biscuits....
- Reader 2 And smellies...don't forget them
- Reader 1 When you've no room for any more
- Reader 2 And you don't want any more
- Both What do you do?
- Reader 1 AlterNativity
- Reader 2 Alter what?
- Reader 1 Alternativedifferent.....Nativity.....Christmas.....AlterNativity, get it?
- Reader 2 So what's that?
- Reader 1 You want to give me a present for Christmas...you do want to give me a Christmas present, don't you?
- Reader 2 Oh yes....of course
- Reader 1 But I've got all I need or want....so you give my present to someone else
- Reader 2 What?
- Reader 1 You give my present to someone else who really needs it
- Reader 2 But it's not your present then, is it?
- Reader 1 Yes, it is, because you give me a card like this telling me what you've bought for me and given to someone else
- Reader 2 But what have you bought them?
- Reader 1 Ah, well, it could be any number of things

These are acted out...presents given to people who then thank the donors

Bedding for a young homeless person moving into a flat
 A hamper of food for a local family in need
 Tablets or medicines for people in Africa
 Braille kits to help blind people in Belize
 A duck for a family in Bangladesh
 A baby pack for special care babies in Leicester
 Fish to feed a family in Cambodia

Reader 2 You're not bothering with the chocolates and smellies then?

Reader 1 No

Reader 2 No booze?

Reader 1 No

Reader 2 That's a pity

Reader 1 Look here, there are people who do not have enough food to live on or clothes to keep them warm...giving them those things is better than giving us things we don't need and luxuries that will only make us fat

Reader 2 Well, if you say so

Reader 1 I do say so, and that's what AlterNativity is all about – if you want to change the world then change your life...change yourself...how you think...what you eat....what you waste. We've got to change ourselves first and realise that we are all brothers and sisters and our brothers and sisters are in need not just at Christmas but every day all the time

Reader 2 You're right...so how do we do it?

Reader 1 Well, you can collect an order form after Mass. Then you pick what you want, order it and buy cards to go with each present, and you also get an explanation of what each present does and where. Fill it in today after Mass or send it in to the address in Hinckley before next weekend and we will return your cards and gift leaflets. Couldn't be easier could it?

Reader 2 No it couldn't...after Mass then?

Reader 1 After Mass, and don't go home without one...Christmas is a time for giving but it's what you give and to whom that really matters

Both If you want to change the world, then change your life

Song If you want to change the world, then change your life

Offertory

Reader We will now decorate our tree, bringing up the decorations we have made for it, while we sing a Christmas song about a tree: O Christmas Tree

O Christmas tree, your leaves are green, with beauty fading never;
 a symbol of dear Jesus' love which cares and lasts for ever.
 The seasons of the year pass by but you will never change or die.
 O Christmas tree, your leaves are green, with beauty fading never

O Christmas tree adorned in love with lights and decoration;
 O Christmas tree, the reason for our joy and celebration...
 on Christmas day when Jesus came to take away our sin and shame.
 O Christmas tree adorned in love with lights and decoration

O Christmas tree, you're always there to help us share in Christmas;
 we look to you this time of year to comfort and to cheer us.
 Outside the place where Jesus lay, in church or home again today,
 O Christmas tree, you're always there to help us share in Christmas

Act of commitment *Scunthorpe Group*

Reader We recognise that the earth and all that is in it is a gift to us from God, and that we
 are called to look after the world he has given us, to enjoy it, not damage it, delight
 in it not use it only for our good, but to share its treasures with others – the food it
 yields, the water it holds, the gifts it gives us to help us live our lives each day.

All We are all brothers and sisters all over the world

 We promise to love and honour each other

 We promise to protect and keep safe God's beautiful world

 We promise to live simply, not to eat too much or waste too much

 We promise to recycle all we can and never throw anything away that we can save

 We promise to tell others about God's justice and love

 We promise to be good to everyone in need and share what we have with them

 We promise to change our lives so that the world can be saved

 We promise to look after our trees!

Prayer over the gifts Dear Father, we bring you this bread; we bring you this wine. We
 bring you ourselves and the world that you have made for us to
 live in and look after. Please help us to offer our whole lives and
 everything we think, say or do, to you, for your honour and praise
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever. Always and
 everywhere we want to thank you for your great goodness to us. You
 made this beautiful world for us to live in and asked us to look after it for
 you. You gave us light and water and food and family, so many thanks
 that we can never thank you enough. Above all else, you gave us Jesus
 your Son, to be our brother and friend, to show us how to live splendidly
 in your way. He gave up his whole life for us on the cross, so that we

could be free from all those things that prevent us from loving you. And so we praise you in the company of all the angels and saints as we say:

Eucharistic Prayer No.2

Our Father

Communion hymn *Lord make me a means of your peace*

Prayer after Communion *The Live Simply prayer*

All Lord Jesus Christ, help me to live simply
 To follow your steps,
 To share what I have,
 to think about those who have nothing.
 Help me to be kind and helpful to people;
 Help me not to waste food or water;
 Help me to eat smaller meals;
 Help me not to destroy your world,
 But to think before I do things.
 Lord Jesus Christ, help me to live simply,
 So that others may simply live. Amen

Blessing

Final Hymn Happy Christmas to you and all your families *(from "Mother Mary")*

The music is "Super Trouper" by Abba. Hinckley group sing the verses, everyone sings the chorus

Verse 1 Christmas used to fill me full of dread
 Just the thought of the expectation
 Spending money that I didn't have
 to ensure a good celebration
 Now I know it doesn't have to be,
 'Cos I've found another way
 the best present we could ever have
 is freely giv'n to us today.

Chorus: Happy Christmas to you and all your families
 Now we know what's true
 No need to be blue,
 'Cos Jesus came for me and you.
 Have a great time being with each other
 eat and drink much less
 hurt you've caused confess
 this Christmas then will be the best

Verse 2 Jesus shows us how to live and love
 putting others' needs before ours
 forgetting everything we want or crave
 then finding our joy in giving

When you love like this you come to life
learning how to hope and pray
all your self-interest left behind
celebrate in joy today

Chorus: Happy Christmas to you and all your families etc.

Verse 3 It's different now, that we have heard
and accepted for ourselves the message of the truth
that comes from him alone,
if you believe,
you'll live for him, and in him and be one

Chorus: Happy Christmas to you and all your families

End