

Welcome

Living Hope is all about loving our local and global neighbour. I'm realising more and more that loving does not always (most of the time?) come easily. It requires us to be on the look out for ways to love people, to perhaps overcome our own preferences for what we do with our time, things or money. It requires submission to the ways of Jesus rather than our own ways. But it is worth it, and it does bring joy. Recently a few times I have chosen the way of love and gotten out of my comfort zone. I had to 'overcome myself' to do it. But, funnily enough, these were the moments where I felt I was adventuring with God, where I felt His Kingdom come just a little bit more, and where I felt more alive with Him. While Living Hope does have projects which help us love people in various ways, it is also about us all as believers choosing to love, looking for ways to love, and often overcoming our own wishes to do so, to see his Kingdom come!

"Do everything in love" 1 Cor 16v14

"It is inbred in us that we have to do exceptional things for God: but we have not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, and this is not learned in five minutes" - Oswald Chambers

Living Hope Local

Our partnership with COOK in Loughton High Road is going well. We have given away over 300 meals already and have enjoyed connecting with lots of different people. If you know someone that might appreciate some lovely ready meals to help them through a difficult period, or for whom cooking themselves is difficult, please let me know and we'll see if we can help. If you would like to help deliver meals then please do get in touch.

Sadly, as was announced at the APCM, due to the circumstances caused by the pandemic Job Club has had to close. We thank Arthur, Pauline, Tony, Daphne and Duncan for all the love and hope that they have given to people over the years as they have helped them look for work.

As always, please remember to support Epping Forest Foodbank with donations of food, which can be brought into Church on Sunday or throughout the week and put into Phil the Trolley. Foodbank are currently particularly in need of instant mash, tinned vegetables/fish/tomatoes/fruit, sponge puddings, sm/med bags of rice, male/female deodorants, soap and dental items.

Eco Church

Last year General Synod voted in favour of bringing forward the Church of England's target of achieving net zero carbon emissions to 2030, encouraging all areas of the church to take urgent action to meet this goal. At St Mary's we are putting together a plan that will help us achieve this goal for our energy emissions and travel associated with ministry, by 2030. There are lots of things we can do to reduce our emissions, some easy, some more challenging. Every choice we make that helps reduce our carbon emissions is an act of love towards our neighbour, both current and future neighbours, local and global. I think we're beginning to see some of the challenges of climate change locally, but the impacts are felt most significantly by those who produce the least carbon emissions around the globe.

I'd love to recommend a newly published book 'Changing the Climate - applying the Bible in a climate emergency' by Debbie, David and Jamie Hawker. Written by a family and great for families, individuals and small groups. It is full of great theology, thoughtful questions, much needed hope and ideas for living as disciples in an age of climate crisis.

At St Mary's we have our own mini recycling centre, currently in the Smith room! Terracycle recycles all sorts of things that generally aren't accepted by local councils. We're a collecting point for crisp packets, biscuit packets, toothpaste tubes and brushes, old pens (biros, felt tips etc), inkjet cartridges and medicine blister packs. Please spread the word amongst your friends and neighbours, and recycle what you can! Recycling can be brought in during the week during Café open hours, or on Sundays by the congregation. While recycling doesn't solve everything it does help reuse resources and lower carbon emissions, and is far better than landfill, so it is well worth doing.



If you're on Facebook and want to connect with local people and gain local tips and info about all things eco then join Eco Epping Forest.

Please also pray for Patrick, one of Eco team members, who is struggling to recover after having a stroke.

Living Hope Global

*Recently I spoke at church on Decluttering our Souls, part of which is about decluttering our material things. But what to do with them? 'Tools with a Mission' is a wonderful Christian charity that receives donated tools of all sorts, refurbishes them, makes them up into tool kits which are then sent to developing nations for livelihood creation. They receive all sorts of tools, diy, gardening, carpentry, sewing and knitting machines, building etc. Please click this link to see what they can and cannot accept <https://www.twam.uk/findcollector> and to find out more about TWAM. **We are going to be doing a collection of tools from Sunday 11th - Sunday 18th July**, please bring them to church, or drop them into the Vicarage during the week. Call Caroline if you'd like to someone to collect them for you. I'm excited to think about my sewing machine heading to someone who can really benefit from it, perhaps starting a new livelihood which might help support a whole family.*

Prayer

Please join me in praying in these days for God's leading for Living Hope, that we would follow His leading in what we do, and be full of his love in how we do it. New opportunities are arising and we are looking for signs from God that say 'Come, follow me'. May our hearts be full of love and compassion for our neighbours near and far.

Contact me, Caroline Macdonald, if you want to discuss anything Living Hope including ideas or wanting to get involved.

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ST MARY'S
LOUGHTON

Dear God,
I pray for my heart. I pray that I would have the compassion of Christ within me. I desire to love people the way that Christ did. I want to love passionately and genuinely in Jesus name
AMEN!

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