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# BE GREEN 2020

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Plan for Bishop Eton's environmental project to achieve the CAFOD LiveSimply Award in the calendar year of 2020



DECEMBER 2019

## Introduction

### Bishop Eton

The name of our Parish and Church is Our Lady of the Annunciation - though it is widely known as "Bishop Eton" – and we are located in the Childwall area of South Liverpool. "Bishop Eton" is actually the name of the adjoining Monastery which is the home of the Redemptorist Priests and Brothers who serve both this Parish and that of St Mary's in Woolton Village.

The Bishop Eton site comprises the Church, the Monastery, the Fisher-More Hall (our Parish hall), two car parks and surrounding gardens.

### Work undertaken so far

This Plan is the product of **wide consultation and engagement** which began in June 2019 when the liturgy for the Sunday children's Mass centred on God's Creation. Children were also involved in making a 'zero' offertory display. The readings, homily and pulpit address focused on Creation. This liturgical launch was followed by consultation with the Parish Core Team (PCT), conversations with over 200 Parishioners at the Summer Garden Party and notices in the Parish bulletin and website and ultimately two Parish meetings, all resulting in the creation of the BE Green 2020 Team.

The Team discussed and agreed the **key actions** in this plan. Importantly, the Justice & Peace Youth Group has been, and will be, at the centre of BE Green 2020; the Group will be leading on certain initiatives and will be supporting the others. However, it is our intention that BE Green 2020 involves Parishioners of every age.

The Team remains conscious that Bishop Eton is 'home' for the Redemptorist community, which includes many old and frail confreres. Hence, we have consulted with Fr Andrew Burns C.Ss.R, the Rector of the Monastery, as well as Fr Tim Buckley C.Ss.R, the Parish Priest. We have assured Frs Andrew and Tim that, though initially many of the actions and initiatives will be focussed on Bishop Eton, the aim is to create a ripple effect across the Parish, acting as a catalyst for Parishioners to make changes in their own households.

BE Green 2020 will commence in January 2020. As one of the ways of **measuring success**, we have devised a survey that we intend to conduct with all Mass attendees on a Sunday early in the New Year, and then again at the end of the year. This survey, which covers a number of the actions and initiatives, is attached as Appendix A.

## Introduction, continued

**Communication** will be key to ensure that the project remains alive in each Parish home. Therefore, we have set up a BE Green 2020 page on the Parish website upon which will be recorded all of the actions and outcomes as the year progresses. BE Green 2020 notices will be placed in the Parish bulletin on a regular basis and the project will be a fixed item on the PCT agenda throughout the year.

## Other key points

Fr Jim Casey C.Ss.R has kindly agreed to be the Patron of BE Green 2020. Fr Jim, a Redemptorist Priest who lives in the Monastery, maintains a particular interest in environmental issues, and will provide wise counsel to the Team.

Bishop Eton Primary School has been working towards the *LiveSimply Award* – with its own, separate, plan - for over a year. We hope that BE Green 2020 complements the good work by the School and results in the whole Parish living Simply, Sustainably with Creation and in Solidarity with the Poor.

## Actions to live simply

### Main action:

Pope Francis' message in Laudato Si inspires us to celebrate God's wonderful Creation and challenges each of us to make changes to the way we live day to day in order to "respond to the cry of the earth."

We will issue a **monthly challenge** to every Parishioner to make small changes in their homes or in their habits to live more simply (and more sustainably and in solidarity with the poor).

### Measurement:

We will issue a fresh challenge each month and we will measure success in a manner appropriate to that challenge; we will publicise the results widely.

We will undertake a BE Green 2020 LiveSimply survey of Sunday Mass attendees at the start, and at the end, of the year so Parishioners can reflect on their own change journey.

### Other activities:

1. We will prepare for, and celebrate, a **Creation Mass 2020** aimed at the families in the Parish. We will invite all attendees to stay on after Mass for a 'tea/coffee morning' to learn more about the successes of BE Green 2020 to that point, and to encourage their participation in the future initiatives.
2. We will hold a **Simple Evening**, inviting all Parishioners to join an evening of reflection, celebration and a simple meal: not using cars (unless essential) to attend, with no plastic, no wastage and by candle-light ie no electricity.

### Measurement:

For both events, success will be measured through numbers participating and feedback from Parishioners.

We will also invite members of the local CAFOD team to join the Mass and the Simple Evening and to play an active part in both celebrations; following which we will seek their feedback.

## Actions to live sustainably with creation

### Main action:

We will instigate various **green/wildlife initiatives** across the Parish involving the planting of a large number of selected\* new trees and various actions to encourage wildlife (eg placement of bug hotels). We will enhance the Bishop Eton site but strive for a ripple effect, such that for every new tree planted on site, ten Parishioners will agree to plant a new tree in their garden – hence South Liverpool will benefit from having not 1, but 11, new trees each time. (\* We will research and plant trees which are most effective at drawing carbon from the environment.)

The J&P Youth Group will lead on the production of bug/bird boxes and will teach Parishioners how to make them for their own gardens.

### Measurement:

It is not feasible to measure the carbon footprint across this area of South Liverpool, hence we will set appropriate targets, eg 50 new trees; 100 bug hotels (examples only) and measure against those. We will report our success on a month by month basis.

### Other activities:

1. We will strive to **reduce paper usage** at Bishop Eton, again as a catalyst to encourage Parishioners to do the same at home/work/school.
  - i) We will undertake a review of the number of copies of the weekly bulletin which are actually read/taken home, we will then adjust the number produced accordingly.
  - ii) We will challenge each of the Parish committees to convert to paperless meetings.
  - iii) The Parish office will lead by example by minimising paper usage/re-using paper.
2. We will instigate '**Walk to Church Sunday**' each month, again as a catalyst to encourage Parishioners to undertake fewer car journeys in favour of walking, cycling or taking public transport. We intend to install a bike rack on site to encourage cycling to Church.
3. We will research and instigate a programme of **recycling specialist items** eg mobile phones, computer cartridges etc.

### Measurement:

Each of 1 to 3 above are measurable. We will set appropriate targets, measure against those and regularly publicise the results.

## Actions to live in solidarity with the poor

### Main action:

For the first time, we will collate and publicise all of the many, but presently disparate, activities undertaken by Bishop Eton Parishioners that are inspired by a desire to live in solidarity with the poor. These include:

- i) Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme, known in Bishop Eton as 'Resettlement Programme' supporting a Syrian family
- ii) Project Zimbabwe: support for the Redemptorist community, its students and families in Zimbabwe
- iii) The One World Group supporting a variety of projects in Africa
- iv) The Street Child Africa with Chance for Childhood group supporting children in Ghana
- v) The work of our active SVP team
- vi) Our ongoing support for Mill Hill Missionaries
- vii) Youth Justice & Peace group
- viii) Asylum Link Merseyside (ALM): one Parishioner is Chair of, and several others volunteer every week at, ALM
- ix) We also have a number of Parishioners actively involved in the Knights of St Columbus, the Catenian Association, the Friends of the Holy Land and Nugent
- x) .... and, of course, CAFOD

Once collated, we will publicise all of this important activity with the specific aim of **getting more Parishioners involved** and, where appropriate, **increasing our support through prayer and money raised** for the specific cause.

We will recruit a Parishioner to the PCT to lead on this action, thereby increasing impact through improved co-ordination, communication and focus on active solidarity.

### Measurement:

We will measure success through increased participation in, and increased fundraising for, the existing activities.

We will successfully recruit an active charity co-ordinator to the PCT.

## Actions to live in solidarity with the poor, continued

### Other activities:

1. We will give extra support to each of the Parish groups named above, in particular the SVP in their work for the **local foodbank**, with the aim of further increasing the level of foodstuffs donated by the Parish. We will do this in various ways including making the work of the SVP/the foodbank collections the focus of one of the monthly Parish challenges.
2. To coincide with the CAFOD **Lent and Harvest Family Fast Days**, we will actively encourage Parishioners to actually fast as well as put money in the envelope; as opposed to just the latter.

### Measurement:

Activity 1 will be measured by feedback from the SVP on the amounts donated.

Activity 2 will be more difficult to measure, other than by informal feedback from Parishioners, though the total amounts donated in the envelopes will hopefully increase compared with earlier years.

Name and diocese of parish:

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Bishop Eton

Signature of Parish Priest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name:

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I am applying on behalf of a:

Parish

School

Other type of  
organisation:

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