

What is Biodiversity?

It is the variety of life on Earth in all its forms and all its interactions. It spans from genes to entire eco systems such as forests or coral reefs. Its myriad of interactions have made the Earth habitable for billions of years. The air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat all rely on biodiversity, e.g. with out plants there would be no oxygen.

When scientists explore ecosystems they find countless such interactions all honed by millions of years of evolution. If undamaged, this produces finely balanced healthy systems which contribute to a healthy sustainable planet.

The concern is that many species are being lost before we are even aware of them, or the role that they play in the circle of life, many lost through our actions.

The numbers of animals living on Earth has plunged by half since 1970. Some scientists are calling the massive loss of wildlife a "biological annihilation". The hardest hit of all habitats are rivers and lakes with freshwater animal populations collapsing by 81% since 1970 following water extraction for farms and people, pollution and dams.

The only answer is giving nature the space and protection it needs, e.g. wildlife reserves and we need political will and action to make it happen.

But we can also help by changing the way we live.

Most wildlife is destroyed through clearing land for cattle, soy, palm oil, timber and leather so choosing sustainable options e.g. palm oils in food and toiletries and eating less meat has an impact.



More Information on Events

Sunday 1st September 5.00pm
"World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation"
Prayer Service
at St Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY

Sunday 8th September 2.00pm
Reflective Ramble
Walk to reflect on and appreciate God's creation followed by tea and cakes.
Teggs Nose Country Park SK11 0AP

Monday 16th September 7.30pm
Macctastic meeting
at St Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY

Sunday 22nd September 11.30am
Family Cycle Ride
Cycle to Nelson Pit for a picnic.
Meet at Tesco Car Park SK10 2AB

Sunday 29th September 10.00am
Morning Service with an Eco Church theme
at St Peter's Church, Prestbury SK10 4DG

Friday 4th October 7.00pm
Celebrate the end of the Season of Creation and St Francis' Feast Day
Prayer Service
at St Albans Church, Chester Road SK11 8JD



Details about the events in the **Season of Creation** will appear on **St Alban's website**
<http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/>

or you can contact:
Bernadette Bailey at dwbailey@btopenworld.com
or 07831 647928 . Transport can be provided.

Art courtesy of Patty Callaghan

Celebrating
The Season of Creation
"The Web of Life"-
Biodiversity as God's blessing

1st September to 4th October 2019



In 2015, in the spirit of his encyclical *Laudato Si'*
Pope Francis instituted the annual
"World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation"
on 1st September

A number of Christian bodies including the Orthodox and the World Council of Churches have for some time promoted the period from 1st September until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October as a time of wonder, thanksgiving and praise



St. Alban's Justice and Peace Group warmly invite you to join in some or all of this period of daily reflection, enjoyment and action as stewards of creation.

Season of Creation 2019 – “Web of Life” - Biodiversity as God’s blessing

More information at <http://seasonofcreation.org/about/>

(PTO for more information on events)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Join in a Prayer Service at St. Michael’s Church at 5.00pm (SK10 1DY). Take time to pray for God’s creation and our neighbours around the world whose lives are affected by climate change.</p>	<p>Remember to say Grace before eating your meal today, and throughout the Season, thanking God for creating the food and for the people who have helped produce it.</p>	<p>Take a jar and collect a small piece of creation each day to put in it, e.g. a leaf, a twig, a pebble. As you do this thank God for his creation and ask for his help to be good stewards of all his gifts.</p>	<p>Create a new family prayer about God’s creation or use the one at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gMUFUw40n30WV51u1pve.google.com/file/view/c0H5B05Bq_XL/view?usp=sharing to say each day during the Season.</p>	<p>Consider how many bottles of water or soft drinks you buy. Could you replace these with tap water in a reusable bottle? You can find out more at http://refill.org.uk/about/ Download the Refill app to find the nearest place to refill your water bottle while on the go.</p>	<p>Have a meatless or vegan meal, if possible shared with others. Meat and cheese both have you done this week to take care of it?</p>	<p>Make time to sit and think about God’s creation. What have you done this week to take care of it?</p>
<p>8 Join in a Reflective Ramble at 2.00pm. A 3 mile walk to reflect on and appreciate God’s creation followed by a picnic of tea and cakes. Teggs Nose Country Park (SK11 0AP) http://www.teggsnose.co.uk/</p>	<p>Could you shop more locally, e.g. greengrocers, butchers, bakers to reduce the food miles and they often use less plastic packaging?</p>	<p>Think about how you travel each day during the Season. Could any of your journeys be walked, cycled or by bus to reduce the use of our cars?</p>	<p>Choose a special hymn or song to help you praise God for his creation today.</p>	<p>Do your savings or pension promote clean energy? Ask if your savings are being invested in risky fossil fuel projects or helping to build a more sustainable world.</p>	<p>Make some biscuits or cakes with Fairtrade and sustainable products and share them with a neighbour, friend or colleague.</p>	<p>Collect twigs in the garden or park and make them into simple crosses. Place them around your home to remind you of God’s gift of creation.</p>
<p>15 Plan how you can tell someone else about God’s creation this week and our responsibility to be good stewards.</p>	<p>Join the Maccastic Meeting at 7.30pm to find out what is happening to improve and support eco ide locally. St Michael’s Church, Market Place SK10 1DY. More information at http://www.maccastic.org/</p>	<p>Turn off the television, computer, mobile phone, etc. and spend half an hour going for a walk or other activity in God’s natural world. Invite your family or others to join you.</p>	<p>Pray for the people in the world who can’t afford to eat regularly.</p>	<p>Consider switching electricity suppliers to a green source. You can find out more at: https://www.moneysupermarket.com/gas-and-electricity/green-energy/ or look for Ecotricity or Green Energy-</p>	<p>Collect some non-perishable food items together and take them to a Church or supermarket collection point e.g. Sainsbury’s for local people who would otherwise go hungry.</p>	<p>Take stock of what you’ve done so far in the Season of Creation. How are you getting on? What more could you do to take better care of God’s creation.</p>
<p>22 Join in a Family Cycle Ride along the Middlewood Way. Meet at 11.30am at Tesco Car Park (SK10 2AB) to cycle to Nelson Pit for a picnic. Bring a packed lunch.</p>	<p>When doing your shopping think about selecting Fairtrade and sustainable products, e.g. palm oil, and those without plastic packaging.</p>	<p>Remember we are part of God’s creation and to take care of ourselves in the way God intended with compassion and care.</p>	<p>Pray for those who have been hurt in a natural disaster.</p>	<p>Review your use of electricity at home. Are all our light bulbs LED or energy saving? Could you turn off some of your electrical items more often or overnight?</p>	<p>Work out how much cash you save by not eating meat one day a week and give that money to a charity.</p>	<p>Think about what you might say to God if you wrote him a letter about how you were taking care of His creation.</p>
<p>29 Join the Morning Service with an Eco Church theme at St Peters, Prestbury (SK10 4DG) at 10.00am .</p>	<p>Take a break from consuming and buy nothing today.</p>	<p>Take responsibility for your neighbourhood and pick up litter on your own or get neighbours or friends to help.</p>	<p>Pray for the courage to challenge others who are abusing God’s creation.</p>	<p>Share some of your experiences from the Season of Creation by putting a post on social media or writing an item for a church, school or work newsletter.</p>	<p>Celebration and Feast of St Francis of Assisi Join us in an evening to Celebrate the end of the Season of Creation at St Alban’s Church at 7.00pm.</p>	<p>Theater..... Continue to live as good stewards of God’s creation taking care of the “Web of Life” - yourself, people, animals, environment and all the Earth’s biodiversity that He has blessed us with.</p>