



This newsletter gives details of forthcoming events in the Wimborne area and elsewhere. Please show it to anyone who might be interested and email me with details of any others who would like to receive a copy.

Christian Aid at the Greenbelt Festival 2019

Greenbelt is a rich diverse festival of music, visual and performing arts, spirituality, comedy, talks and discussion and is held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, currently in the grounds of Boughton House near Kettering. It is described as a space where art, faith and justice collide, a place where artistry and activism, spirituality and politics, faith and justice come together, and has been held every year since 1974. Rosemary and I have been going since the early 2000's and Christian Aid has always had its own tent with a cafe and space for talks and music. There is a different emphasis each year - in 2018 we wrote to those banks still investing in fossil fuels and this year we made pledges to act against climate change and to promote climate justice.

If you wish to find out more, there is a Christian Aid video at

<https://www.facebook.com/christianaid/videos/greenbelt-2019-thank-you/1410762525728106>

and the Greenbelt website at <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk> .

But you don't need to wait until the next Greenbelt to act against climate change. In the last newsletter I mentioned **Extinction Rebellion Wimborne (XRW)**, a local group concerned about climate change and species loss. XRW has already organised a small peaceful demonstration in Wimborne and has lobbied the Wimborne Town Council and the Colehill and Corfe Mullen Parish Councils to declare a Biodiversity and Climate Emergency.

There will be a good opportunity to find out more at Queen Elizabeth's School, Blandford Rd, Wimborne BH21 4DT on Thursday 12th September (see notice). They are also planning to be in the centre of Wimborne on Saturday mornings so you can meet and chat with them then.

CLIMATE 
EMERGENCY
TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Climate and Ecological Breakdown has already begun. Leading scientists and public figures (including the UN Secretary-General) have estimated we have less than 18 months to turn-it-around.

Join us 5.30pm for Talks at 7pm
Thursday 12th September
Queen Elizabeths School, Wimborne

- Special Guests Extinction Rebellion Speakers
- Learn about Octobers International Rebellion
- Peoples Assembly

Eco Stalls
Vegan Food by Little Fox Bakers
Great Sounds by DJ Dapper Dan

 Extinction Rebellion Wimborne jojam@talktalk.net

On Saturday 21st September, **Interfaith Dorset Education and Action** are holding a climate change event in Boscombe

entitled **Climate Change, Faith and Me** at the Quaker Meeting House, 16 Wharnccliffe Road, Boscombe BH5 1AH

starting at 10.00am. This is described as a day of encouragement in becoming good neighbours and changing our lives to meet the challenges of climate change. Speakers and break-out groups on topics such as dealing with plastics, reducing our carbon footprint, sustainable gardening and adapting our energy use.

Lunch and refreshments are free but you are asked to register. More details on

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/christian-aid-climate-faith-and-me>

or through the local Christian Aid office on 02380 706969 .



Christian Aid Harvest Appeal 2019 - the EcoVeg project

The Harvest Appeal this year features Kamala, a widow in India who belongs to a social group known as the Dalits. People in the Dalit community are born into poverty and discrimination: India's caste system makes it difficult for them to improve their lives and women in particular don't have the rights or voice to secure a sustainable, independent future.



Kamala has worked as a farmer and farm labourer for almost 25 years but since she was widowed it has been much harder to meet basic needs or to get her younger children through school. 'They dream of having a career and studying engineering or medicine,' says Kamala. 'I don't read or write. They should not have to suffer the way I have had to.' She starts her working day at dawn. For every hour of hard, physical work, she earns less than 20p. At the end of her long day, Kamala hurries out to harvest her own small field that she has set up with the help of the EcoVeg project.

How does the EcoVeg project help?

In India, the demand for natural, nutritious food is growing and the EcoVeg project has seen this as an opportunity to help people like Kamala. By teaching them natural farming techniques, the project seeks to equip them to take advantage of the growing demand for naturally grown food. EcoVeg provides business training and education in organic farming methods, supplies marketing know-how, and sets up the infrastructure to get food packed, transported and sold at a good price.

Kasthuri is another woman who has benefitted from the EcoVeg project and you can read her story on the Christian Aid website

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/harvest-appeal/kasthuris-story>



So far, EcoVeg has reached nearly 5,000 farmers. Over one-third are from excluded communities; 47% are women. EcoVeg improves their working and living conditions and strengthens their social status. It provides the means for collective savings schemes and improves children's chances of better nutrition and education. The project is a lifeline, helping people like Kamala and Kasthuri to break free from poverty.

You can donate to the Appeal on line by visiting the Christian Aid website (address above). If you would prefer to send a cheque, the address of the local Southampton office is Christian Aid Southampton, Isaac Watts Church, Winchester Road, Southampton SO16 6TS . Cheques should be made out to Christian Aid.

I have also arranged for cash or cheque donations to be made at the Minster. Please use one of the Minster gift envelopes which are in the pews, write "Christian Aid Harvest" clearly on the outside and put it in one of the church donation boxes in the Minster.

Thank you once again for all your support for Christian Aid, and please get in touch if you would like more details of any of these events and activities.

Mike Lunt, telephone: 889487.

