



NAME OF SCHOOL: ST MARY AND ST JOHN CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

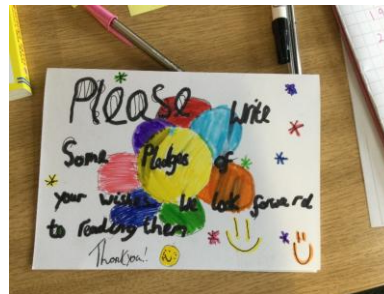
CONTACT NAME: VICTORIA HITCHEN (DEPUTY HEADTEACHER)
TOM ATHERTON (HEADTEACHER)

SCHOOL	<u>Live Simply</u>		
	1.Create Live Simply Pledge and Display board.		
	<u>Live in Solidarity</u> Pupil chaplains to lead assembly prayer and reflection Prayer and Reflection Garden Weekly news themes - shared by pupil chaplains		
	<u>Live Sustainably</u> We will organise a school and parish 'reuse/recycle' uniform shop for local families.		
GLOBAL	<u>Live Simply/Live in Solidarity</u> 2.We will take part in CAFOD's Brighten Up Harvest Fundraiser by taking part in a local walk to Haigh Hall.	<u>Live in Solidarity</u> 4. We will take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk to raise funds for CAFOD's work with our global family, supporting people in need and those living in poverty.	<u>Live Simply/Live Sustainably</u> 6. Money raised to be used to support World Gifts. Taking part in a summer fundraiser, pupils to participate in a Teddy Bears/Cuddly picnic for CAFOD.
LOCAL	<u>Live in Solidarity</u> 3.We wil create a link with a local care home. Pupils will send letters and cards. Pupils will visit in Advent to present a Christmas Choir afternoon for residents.		<u>Living Sustainably/Living Simply</u> 5.Inspired by Laudato Si' we will take part in a whole school 'Disconnect to Reconnect' Day. We will switch off as many electrical appliances as possible, no screens and no tech will be used.
	<u>Live in Solidarity/Live Simply</u> We will take action to support our local foodbank, The Brick. Pupils will be involved in organising the collection, promoting it and sorting the items (e.g. checking for expired dates).		

SCHOOL ACTION: Live Simply

Create a Live Simply Pledge and Display

This compliments our school mission statement and supports the on-going work of our pupil champion groups throughout school. All pupils and staff wrote pledges, and we created a display in the school hall. We reflect upon our journey and review our pledges regularly. We are enjoying focusing on prayer this year as we pray with Pope Leo XIV on his key monthly intentions. We share these prayers in school and make links to them on our school newsletter. Our school Parish share these prayers and intentions on the website. We are working together through prayer to live simply and pray with the word of God to support children and their families in times of suffering and we pray for world peace.



Faith Inspired Actions

Responding to the Church's call to live simply

As a school community we would like to respond to the church's call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity, with the world's poorest.

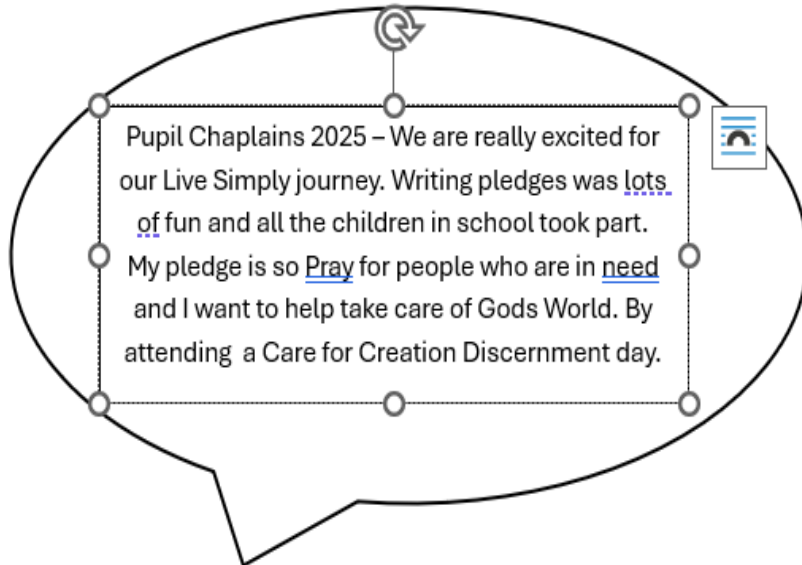
We would like to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who lived and preached a simple life. We would like to take meaningful action to the ecological crisis we face today.

The ecological crisis is a complex crisis that includes both the social crisis (global poverty, injustice, social inequality) and the environmental crisis (climate change, species loss, pollution of land, sea and air).

In school we are:

- Learning to reflect on changes we can make to support living simply with Jesus as our role model.
- Learning about the connections between faith and the environmental and social crisis.
- Learning to be empowered as active citizens to bring about positive change.

To live simply is to set an intentional path towards slowing down, finding time to be with God, consuming less, connecting with the natural world, finding happiness and joy in the things that really matter, discovering a more meaningful life and opening our hearts to the needs of others.



Pledges

Live Simply Live Sustainably, Live in Solidarity

Faith Inspired Actions

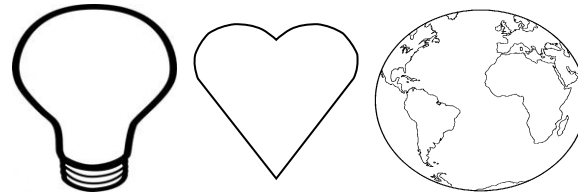
Responding to the Church's call to live simply

We understand how important it is to Live simply and the children have been creating their own live simply pledges in school. We used three different symbols to represent each area of understanding.

The heart represents Live Simply

The Lightbulb represents Live Sustainably

The World represents Live in Solidarity



Each half term we will be focusing on specific actions to respond to the church's call to live simply and we would like to invite you to become involved with the church's call to live simply.

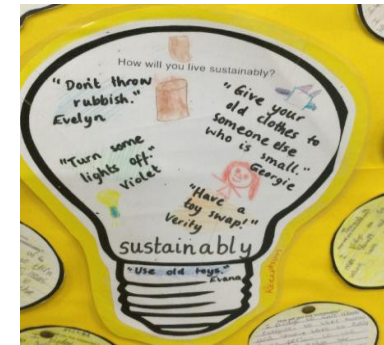
We have made a book available for you to share your own pledge to live simply, our pupil chaplains will be reading your pledges and we appreciate your support.

We thank you for support and we have displayed a copy of our Live Simply Action plan - this shows our 'Live Simply' journey.

Let's all 'Live Simply' together and impact our local community.

Pope Francis - Laudato Si

"It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack."



Mrs Kearsley felt proud of our Live Simply actions when she delivered the parish collection to The Brick.



We are very proud to be taking part in fundraising activities with our church parish. We all know how important it is to help other who are in need.

Pupil Chaplains 2025

Weekly news themes - shared by pupil chaplains during whole school assemblies.



'In the light of Jesus, we learn to shine'.

Compassionate and loving God,
you created the world for us all to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply,
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.
Creator God,
You gave us responsibility for the earth,
a world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,
so that those who follow after us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.
God of peace and justice,
You give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.

Linda Jones / CAFOD

Live life simply
so that others
may simply live.

Mahatma Gandhi



A group of seven children, four boys and three girls, are standing in a line on a paved area outside a brick building. They are all wearing light blue polo shirts and dark blue skirts or shorts. The boys are wearing dark shorts, while the girls are wearing dark blue skirts. They are all holding long, thin sticks or poles. The child on the far left is a boy with blonde hair, wearing black shoes. The next boy has brown hair and is also wearing black shoes. The girl next to him has blonde hair and is wearing black shoes. The girl next to her has blonde hair and is wearing white shoes. The girl next to her has blonde hair and is wearing black shoes. The girl on the far right has long brown hair and is wearing black shoes. In the background, there is a brick building with a large window and a sign that says 'MA' and a blue circular logo.

We enjoy praying together, in our prayer garden.



LiveSimply



School: Live Sustainably/ Live in Solidarity

We have a school and parish 'reuse/recycle' uniform shop for local families. It opens every half-term and we promote the shop during school events e.g. the Summer fayre. Any donations are used to support further sustainability projects. We have planted plants and trees on our Key Stage 2 playground to help combat climate change. Environmental focus and Eco warriors support this process and continue to consider how we can take better care of the world.

Our Y5 and Y6 Eco warriors and RSHE champions met with another school in our local community to discuss and provide potential solutions to issues of pollution with representatives from our local council. Their work was celebrated in our school assembly and shared with parents and parishioners through our monthly newsletter.

'Living simply means reusing what we already have. Sharing School uniforms helps our community, saves money and cares for our planet. What a wonderful opportunity to support this at the Summer Fayre.'
Mrs Torpey, parent.



CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

LiveSimply



GLOBAL ACTION: Live Simply/Live in Solidarity

We support CAFOD's Brighten Up Harvest Fundraiser by taking part in a local walk to Haigh Hall. Pupils will support our global family, supporting people in need and those living in poverty. Parents, parishioners and Governors are invited to attend. The walk will also engage pupils with nature time and embracing the senses as we appreciate God's creation of our wonderful world.



CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



'I have wonderful memories of our Haigh Hall walks twice a year, at Harvest time and during the Big Lent walk.' William, Y4



'I really enjoy supporting school with their live simply charity walks, annual events for all to enjoy.' School Governor



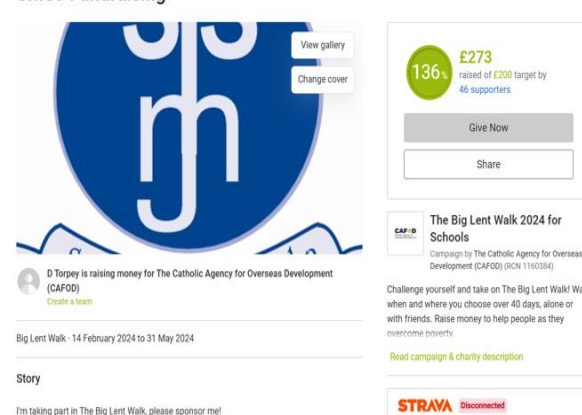
Doreen and Jim are regular visitors to school and support our CAFOD journey every year.

Global: Live in Solidarity

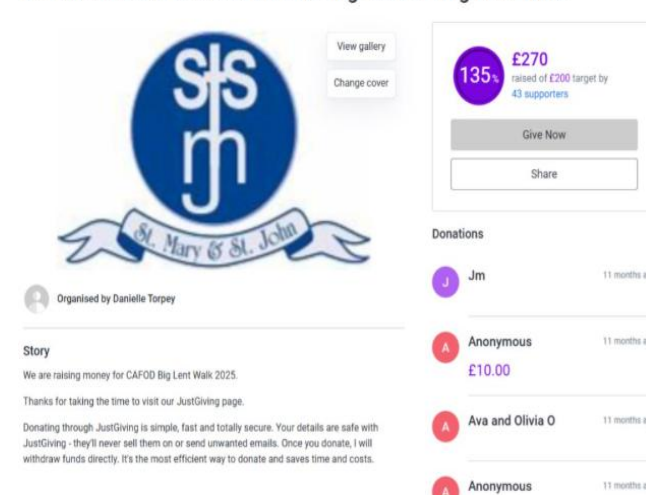
We take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk to raise funds for CAFOD's work with our global family supporting people in need and those living in poverty. We raised money on the Just giving online platform. We enjoyed sharing our fundraising news on our school newsletter.



SMSJ Fundraising



I've raised £200 to SMSJ Fundraising- CAFOD Big Lent Walk



Catholic Life and Mission

Please join us in prayer and reflection as we remember the life and ministry of Pope Francis.

O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

On Saturday 10th May, at St Johns Church at 10.30am, the Year 4 pupils will be celebrating their First Holy Communion. We send them our best wishes. Please keep them in your prayers.

On Sunday 11th May, at St Marys Church, at 6pm, the communicants will lead the May Procession and Crowning of Our Lady. All welcome.

LENT BIG WALK—Living in Solidarity

We raised a total of £273 for CAFOD. Thank you to everyone who supported our LENT Walk.

Please find the link to the TenTen Parent Newsletter for this month:
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

The Brick collection was excellent and the pupil chaplains and The Brick thank you for your contributions!



Our monthly newsletter

Global: Live Simply/Live Sustainably

Money raised to be used to support World Gifts.

These actions have involved taking part in a summer fundraiser. Pupils participated in a Teddy Bears/Cuddly picnic for CAFOD. Understanding what special objects mean to us and how we can support others by giving gifts which support family livelihoods. Being thankful for what we have. Live Simply to support others.

We took part in a reindeer ramble, this is going to be an annual event to raise funds to support our local hospice. We have kept the antlers safe and looking forward to raising funds again in this exciting way.

I loved being a reindeer – Finn Y1

Pupil Voice

'We really enjoyed running fast wearing our reindeer antlers and raising over £800 for Wigan and Leigh Hospice.'



Good evening everyone.

The antlers for our Reindeer Ramble have arrived.

Please remember to donate to Wigan and Leigh Hospice via our Just Giving page.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/danielle-torpey-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Many thanks.



St Mary and St John's fundraiser for Wigan and Leigh Hospice



107% £807 raised of £750 target by 71 supporters

Give Now

Share

D Torpey is raising money for Wigan and Leigh Hospice
[Create a team](#)

Reindeer Run · 1 December 2025

Story

Thank you for taking the time to visit our donation page. To support Wigan and Leigh Hospice, we will be taking part in 'Reindeer Run' where pupils will be completing a Christmas fun run. Everyone is invited to wear their favourite festive jumpers and get active to raise money for our local hospice. The hospice are kindly asking for donations from our 'Reindeer Runners'. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

We really appreciate your support!!

We provide specialist end-of-life care, and a wide range of support services, to over 1,200 people who are living with a life-limiting illness in the Wigan Borough. Many patients are cared for in their own homes, although we also care for people living in care homes and in our In-Patient Unit.

[Read charity description](#)

STRAVA Disconnected

[Manage Strava settings](#)





LOCAL ACTION: Live in Solidarity

We have excellent links with a local care home. Pupils make cards and send letters to share the love of God and show compassion for others. Pupils visit in Advent to present a Christmas Choir afternoon for residents. It is one of the highlights of our Christmas celebrations. Helping others in need is a key part of living out our faith.

Matthew 25:35 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'

*'In the Light of Jesus we
Learn to Shine'*



We just wanted to say we are really happy to come and sing Christmas carols with you today. Christmas makes us think about our families, like hugs, laughter, and being all cozy together. I hope our singing helps you remember your special Christmas times too, with people you love very much.

We are also singing because it's Jesus's birthday. He is God's special gift to the world, and he brings love, kindness, and hope to everyone. I think that's really amazing.

Even if your family is not here right now, I think they are in your heart all the time, and they love you very, very much. And today, we are here to share some of that love with you too. I hope our songs make you smile and feel warm inside.

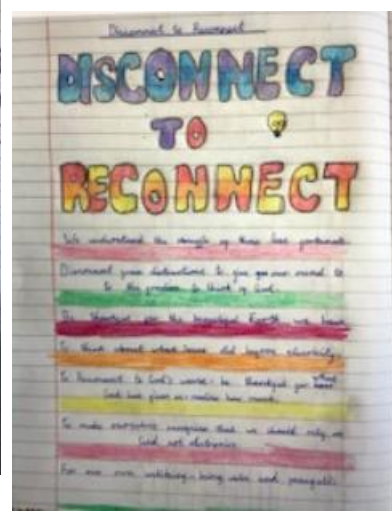
Merry Christmas!

Love from

All the staff and pupils at St Mary and St John Catholic Primary School.

Local: Live Sustainably/Live Simply

- Inspired by Laudato Si' we took part in a whole school 'Disconnect to Reconnect' Day.
- We switched off as many electrical appliances as possible, no screens and no tech were used. We invited families to pledge and support this process and to share how it made them feel. We reached out to encourage local parishioners and our wider community to also have a disconnect to reconnect day to have a bigger impact on our local community.



School newsletters were used to share our hard work with parents.



Dear parents and carers,

We have made it to the end of a long and rainy January, but there has been lots going on in school to brighten everyone's spirits! Last week, we held a 'Disconnect to Reconnect' day in school, involving no screens and no lights in lessons to show our care for the world as stewards. Pupils and staff highlighted how calm the day was and how much they enjoyed it! It may have provided an insight for pupils that they can survive without screens! It would be wonderful if our wider school families could support us to live more sustainably as a school family. Please send in any photos. January also highlighted our monthly value of 'empathy' with pupils working hard to understand the feelings of others—a huge congratulations to all of our empathy winners. February will see school focus on 'friendship', as we (alongside our parents) support pupils as they grow in to socially aware, kind and responsible citizens of the world.

Our school council and Eco-council members in Y5 and Y6 teamed up with members from Mabs Cross Primary School to hold a meeting with local councillors about improving the area around school, where they highlighted issues such as safety concerns around cars at peak times, environmental improvements such as litter and green spaces as well as heritage considerations. Our pupils were amazing and gave passionate speeches about changes they would like to see happen in our area. They represented our school brilliantly and will be meeting further members of the local authority in the coming weeks.

Last week also saw the beginning of our 'Stay and Pray' sessions with parents being invited to reflect and participate in our Worships in school. Pupils are growing as leaders of prayer and it is great to showcase their reverence and understanding of the Word with you all.

We have 2 very busy weeks left in school before half-term, filled with sporting competitions, visitors, trips and another 'Break the Rules' day! Lots of excitement to come to support the learning and well-being of all pupils in school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Mr Atherton

Local: Live in Solidarity/Live Simply

'We hope that there is enough food for everyone to enjoy, we are taking action to make a difference.'

Pupil Voice

We take action to support our local foodbank, The Brick. Pupils will be involved in organising the collection, promoting it and sorting the items (e.g. checking for expired dates).

The children created posters to display around school. All classes had a different focus of items to collect. We invited our church parish to collect food items too and deliver them to The Brick. This is one of the actions that our Parish community supported and Mrs Kearsley had the pleasure of delivering Parish goods to The Brick see slide 5.



CARE for CREATION DISCERNMENT DAY

What we discovered

At the Care for Creation discernment day, we learned lots of important things about how to look after our world. We learned how to grow our own food and why it is important so everyone, in every country, has enough to eat. We also spent time praying with another school, our parish priest, and people who help others live simply, which made us feel calm and thankful. It helped us understand that we should not waste food and that we need to share and care for others. Going forward, we will try to help the Earth by planting more, wasting less, and being kinder to people who don't have as much as we do. We will do this by continuing to Live Simply and follow the pledges we made.



We enjoyed learning about the benefits of caring for our environment.



Being able to grow food allows people to be self sufficient – the right to food is a fundamental human right.



Mr Atherton our Live Simply Parish representative and Fr. Hugh enjoyed looking at the plants grown to improve the air in the environment.



God sent the rain on our special day to help the plants to grow.

Celebrating our environment, the gifts of creation from God.



The Lord God then took man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. (Genesis 2:15)

The day encouraged us to embrace opportunities for prayer within school. And create our own sanctuaries for prayer.



We created prayer spaces inside school so that we could Live Simply with Prayer . We say our prayer for special intentions in our outdoor prayer garden and in school celebration assemblies.

Pupil Voice
I feel safe knowing that there are places in school where I can speak to God and write him a prayer.



We pledge to involve our Parish community and school family in all that we do.

We will take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk.

Regular visits to Haighfield Care Home.

We will take part in the Reindeer Ramble annually to raise funds for Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

What's next?

We will raise funds to complete more work in our Prayer Garden and pledge to use it all year round.

We will host a Big Clear up every term led by our Eco-council.

We will regularly remind parents about our pre- loved uniform sale.

We will raise money for charities important to our children and families.