

# LIVE SIMPLY

## MARCH 2021

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### LOCAL NEWS

**Tooting and Wandsworth Commons both have 'Friends' organisations** and are actively engaged in managing our shared space for the benefit of everyone who makes use of them, and of the wildlife and habitat. We are all aware how valuable nature and outdoor space have been to our mental and physical wellbeing over the last year.

The Wandsworth Common website gives examples of the projects they are now developing and share expertise in a delightful way. The **UN International Day of Forests** is on March 21<sup>st</sup> and Friends of Wandsworth Common have begun a tree planting plan to build a mini forest of native trees. This is based on the life work of a Japanese man, Akira Miyawaki, and the huge growth in biodiversity that these small forests can bring within a short space of time. Look out for Nick Rutter's talk on identifying birds locally – a real help to opening our eyes!

[www.wandsworthcommon.org](http://www.wandsworthcommon.org)

[www.friendsoftootingcommon.uk](http://www.friendsoftootingcommon.uk)

[www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests](http://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests)

[www.palforests.com/Akira](http://www.palforests.com/Akira)



Following the declaration of a climate emergency, **Wandsworth Council** have organised a series of '**Climate Conversations**' to engage the public in discussion about all the issues raised. This month's session, on the 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6 p.m., takes the theme of **Energy** and everyone is welcome to register to join the Zoom. There will be the opportunity to listen to speakers, ask questions and hear from those who have reduced their own usage. It will be recorded and available on the WBC website afterwards, if you aren't able to take part on the day.

[www.wandsworthcouncil.org.uk/climateconversations](http://www.wandsworthcouncil.org.uk/climateconversations)

## ST PATRICK'S DAY March 17<sup>th</sup>



This feast day reminds us of the gift of Celtic spirituality which celebrates the possibility of encountering the living God in all creation. Perhaps, during Lent, John O'Donoghue's blessing '**Grace Before Meals**' speaks to us deeply of this.

As we begin this meal with grace,  
Let us become aware of the memory  
Carried inside the food before us;  
The quiver of the seed  
Awakening in the earth,  
Unfolding in a trust of roots  
And slender stems of growth,  
On its voyage towards harvest,  
The kiss of rain and surge of sun;  
The innocence of animal soul  
That never spoke a word,  
Nourished by the earth  
To become today our food;  
The work of all the strangers  
Whose hands prepared it,  
The privilege of wealth and health  
That enables us the feast and celebrate.

## CAFOD'S LENT APPEAL



This year's appeal is for **Water** – a life essential for all, but nearly 1 in 8 people on the planet do not have access to clean, safe water. And by 2040, almost 1 in 4 children will live in areas of extremely high water stress. 'The lack of water is an almost

insurmountable obstacle to helping oneself. You can't grow food, you can't build housing, you can't stay healthy, you can't stay in school and you can't keep working'.

Today, a change in climate is felt primarily through a change in water. **Climate change is disrupting weather patterns, leading to extreme weather events, unpredictable water availability, exacerbating water scarcity and contaminating water supplies.**

[www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

[www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)

[www.thewaterproject.org](http://www.thewaterproject.org)

## Why is COP26 important?

COP26 is critical because it is the first COP since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Governments are now planning how to rebuild from the pandemic and it is vital that these plans are based around the need for a global green and just transition.

Pope Francis has warned that it would be "a scandal" if the money governments are spending to rebuild economies and save businesses "were to focus on rescuing those industries that do not contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, the promotion of the least, the common good or the care of creation".