

Praise the name of the Lord

‘O praise the Lord from the earth: praise him, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, mist and snow, and storm-wind fulfilling his command; mountains and all hills, fruiting trees and all cedars; beasts of the wild and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all rulers of the world; let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted’. Psalm 148

The Minster is one of the UK’s 53 ‘Partners in Action’ of *A Rocha*, an organization committed to caring for God’s Creation. Our 2025 ‘Listening to the Leaves’ leaflets are exploring *A Rocha*’s seven-point biblical basis for its work – this quarter, points 3 and 4.

3. Humanity and Creation Human beings are creatures of the Earth, given responsibility to reflect God’s character in knowing, delighting in and caring for their fellow-creatures and the whole Earth. Yet human sin and rebellion against God incurs God’s judgement, and permeates and damages every area of life, including Creation itself, which groans under the weight of human selfishness and greed.

4. God’s covenant with Creation We believe God does not abandon Creation, but continues to sustain and renew the Earth. God reaches out to a wounded world, both in judgement and anticipation of renewal. God’s covenant with Noah includes a future and a hope, not only for people, but for all life on earth and for Earth itself.

Prayer Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth, yet we acknowledge that we often waste its gifts, wounding your world and impoverishing our brothers and sisters in its poorer parts. Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth, preserving its riches and beauty for generations yet to come. Amen.

April

Daily prayer for the month

Ever-constant God, we thank you and praise you that you are the bringer of change, of newness, of Spring. As the world around us changes, with unpredictable cold snaps punctuating warmer skies, may we embrace uncertainty in the certain knowledge that you unfailingly wish for our renewal. Just as wild garlic grows, bluebells bloom and wading birds step through waters, may we change and grow in You. May the spring call of the cuckoo beckon us to newness of life. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As the A Rocha group of conservation organisations - and St Paul - state, God’s purpose includes not only people, especially the poor and marginalised, but also non-human creatures and the land itself. This week let’s pray for all creation together, as one, under Almighty God.

Week 2 Still now in Lent let us come in confession of how our human sin, selfishness, greed, willful ignorance and lack of courage are combining to mar the image and love of God in us and destroy this world.

Week 3 As Easter approaches let us pray for the power of the resurrection, new life and healing in every place of war across the globe. Let’s pray that the wounding may be healed, and that destructive swords and distractions may be turned into ploughshares of struggle for the good of all in this planet.

Week 4 Surrounded still by Spring beauty let us pray for the LAND. This week pray for our farmers and food scientists that food for all may be produced without harm, and in abundance.

May

Daily prayer for the month

Unstoppable God, you bring freshness and vitality to Creation from your warmth and abundance. This May, may we each day notice something new bursting into reality. As leaves unfurl with lushing of the hedgerows, as bumblebees come out to play in the sunshine, and as ducklings take their first waddling steps, may we open ourselves up to embrace the fullness of the life you have given us. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 Praying still for the LAND: as the necessary change in technologies from a fossil fuel base to green electrical requires huge new volumes of copper and other metals. Pray for responsibility in mining and extraction, and effective recycling systems.

Week 2 Still with the land, as highways get driven through jungle for environmental conferences, pray for responsible allocation of use by governments, from urban areas to food, to forest, to energy production and infrastructure, to re-creation, to re-wilding and truly wild.

Week 3 Turning to the OCEANS. As always pray for the very many who depend on the oceans for food, many of whom are very poor, and pray for responsible fishing and use of both coastal waters and the deep seas.

Week 4 As true agreement on the use of much of the oceans, both for fishing, mineral extraction and energy production (and sadly war), is still far off pray for governments to enable fair and enforceable agreements and treaties. And that they will be respected.

June

Daily prayer for the month

Creator God, who placed the sun and moon in the heavens, thank you for the long days and short nights of June. As summer blooms and the woodland canopy closes, may we be aware of the shelter we find under your wings. As swallows chatter from chimney pots and sea cliffs become bustling seabird cities, may we seek and embrace community. May seeing fledglings learn to fly, prompt us to celebrate those among us who seek the courage to do something they have not done before. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 Rivers fill the oceans. Pray for the protection and healing of rivers worldwide, as they carry enormous quantities of pollutants: plastics, 'forever' chemicals, industrial waste and farming excess. All accumulate in the oceans.

Week 2 Climate change affects the polar regions more than anywhere else. As they warm they are opening up to shipping, industry, and military use. Pray for those who inhabit them both human beings and other. Pray for good agreements to prevent increasing harm.

Week 3 Let's turn to the ATMOSPHERE. The damage to this is what is causing climate change and the causes are so complex. Pray for good understanding of these, and a willingness among both ordinary people and governments to accept and play their part in change.

Week 4 Pray that ways to move away from fossil fuels that are economical and practical may be found and implemented. As in the United States all positive change is being rolled back, pray for the political will, and the understanding of ordinary people.

Week 5 As always pray for our educators, and children and grandchildren on whom so much responsibility and burden will fall.

Dates in April

4 National Walk to Work Day, 22 Earth Day

30 Stop Food Waste Day

Dates in May: 1-31 No Mow May, 4-10 National Compost Week, 11-17 Christian Aid Week, 20 World Bee Day, 20-26 Water Saving Week

Dates in June

5 World Environment Day, 7-15 Great Big Green Week

20 Clean Air Day, 22 World Rainforest Day

The Southwell Minster Creation Prayer

Gracious God, source of all life,
we praise you for the wonder and diversity
of the natural world, and we thank you
for the genius of the craftsmen who carved
the Chapter House leaves that speak to us still.
Open our hearts and minds to your guiding Spirit
that we may discern together
how best to cherish this good earth
and safeguard its resources.
As we listen to the leaves,
show us how to share in Creation's song
and rediscover our harmony in you,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Southwell Minster in partnership with A Rocha UK

Action Points

- *Support pollinators – plant bee friendly flowers*
- *Spend time in nature – hear a bird sing*
- *Sample some meat free recipes*



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation**
April - June 2025