

The Hope of the Gospel

'Jesus is the image of the invisible God; his is the primacy over all created things. In him everything in heaven and earth is created ... the whole universe has been created through him and for him ... For in him the complete being of God, by God's own choice, came to dwell. Through him God chose to reconcile the whole universe to himself, making peace through the shedding of his blood on the cross – to reconcile all things, whether in earth or heaven, through him alone.' *Colossians 1. 15-17, 19-20*

We continue our exploration of *A Rocha's* seven-point biblical basis for its work.

5. Jesus' Life and Death In Jesus, God took on flesh, entering into creation, engaging in the very matter of the world. He immersed Himself in its brokenness and revealed a new way of living, embracing justice, peace and joy. On the cross He defeated the power of sin and death, opening the way for the free flow of God's loving energy to heal and bring hope to all things. In Jesus' service we offer ourselves to become channels of healing to each other and all creation.

6. Future Hope As Jesus' body hung lifeless on the Calvary cross, it looked as though all was lost. The love and healing of His years of his ministry seemed in vain. Easter changed all that! It spoke of freedom and hope for humankind and all Creation. Now we seek to live in the power of Christ's risen life through delighting in, learning from and participating in God's renewal and re-creation of the world.

Prayer Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the spirit of your Son in our hearts, whereby we call you Father. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all Creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God. Amen.

July

Daily prayer for the month

Thank you, Lord, for July and for the fullness of life that Jesus promised. For the flourishing, buzzing and blooming of nature's special places, alive with noise and colour; for wildflower meadows swaying with bees and butterflies, purple knapweed and towering spikes of orchid; for riverbanks dancing with damsel and green-blue dragon flies; for young falcons learning to swoop and bats on the wing. Surrounded by the aliveness of creation, may we be reminded that Jesus came among us and lived life to the full.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As we are surrounded by the beauty of nature, praise God for all that he has made, and that he is truly Lord of all. Pray for a willingness to turn to Him in the climate crisis and in all our needs.

Week 2 July 9 is the day of a mass lobby of MPs in Westminster to support the Climate and Nature Bill, to regenerate nature in the UK. Pray for its success.

Week 3 As we hear of more young people turning to Christ, pray that this is no passing fad, but the start of something much greater, truly led by the Lord; & that they may embrace Creation care as part of their faith.

Week 4 As it is so easy to criticise others and say others should do something, pray God to help us to act ourselves: taking our responsibility, thinking globally - and acting locally. Pray for God's blessing on Churches Together in Southwell's plans for the Season of Creation, 1 September to 4 October.

August

Daily prayer for the month

Thank you, Father, that you sent your Son to immerse himself in this messy world. As August transitions from the height of summer, and wildflowers begin to fade and dry, may we notice the untidiness of the countryside vegetation, and be aware of the energy and determination that was required to grow and produce. May we recognise that the approaching harvest, with its haybales and bucolic scenes, shares the path through life and death that Jesus himself walked.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 We pray for Claire Connely, the Minster's head gardener, and her team of volunteers who plant and care for the Archbishop's Palace garden and the Minster grounds.

Week 2 As ever, pray for our leaders: international, like Xi, Trump and Putin; national - like Keir Starmer; and local – MP, councillors. Spiritual leaders too. Pray too for the St Clare's Day Eucharist on 11 Aug at 12.15pm in the Archbishop's Palace garden.

Week 3 Always the poor suffer the most, but their voice is not heard. Pray for shelter from heat, for food, for a fair share of water. For hope and courage.

Week 4 As China becomes ever more powerful, most especially in renewable technologies, pray for its role in the world; also for the role of the numerous Chinese churches in achieving a greener world.

September

Daily prayer for the month

God of future hope, whilst daylight hours shorten, temperatures cool, and landscapes change, may we embrace the autumn colours and dewy mornings, as signs that we too must prepare for the coming winter. Just as the disciples scattered when their shepherd was “struck”, so we notice the scattering of insects and the migration of birds to warmer climes. Yet, make US mindful that summer’s flourishing was not in vain; rather, Jesus’ death, echoed in the impending autumn, opens the way for God’s loving energy to bring healing and hope to all. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As the church’s Season of Creation begins, pray for the worldwide Church. That we may be a light. Pray for the new Pope, and the Anglican Church - for the right leaders going forward.

Week 2 We pray for the Minster’s services on Climate Sunday, 15 Sept, especially for the intercessions at 10.00am. Also, as the world stands back from the agony of ongoing conflicts, pray for the human courage and wisdom to end these conflicts.

Week 3 As Fairtrade Fortnight (Sept 22 – Oct 5) begins, we pray for an increase of Fairtrade purchasing in Southwell.

Week 4 We pray for the deepening of the Minster’s partnership with *A Rocha*; also for the Season of Creation’s ecumenical service on Saturday October 4th at 4.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church..

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

Signposts for Action

‘Plastic-free July’ – re-think use of plastic bags
July 14-20: ‘Bees’ Needs Week’ – encourage bees
Jul 25 – Aug 3: ‘Love Parks Weeks’ – keep Britain tidy
Aug 11-17: ‘National Allotments Week’ – grow more veg
Sept 1 – Oct 4: World Churches ‘Season of Creation’
Sept 1 – 30: ‘Second Hand September’ – charity shops
Sept 22-28: ‘Recycle Week’ – use the right bin
Sep 22 – Oct 5: Fairtrade Fortnight – buy Fairtrade



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation
July - September 2025**