

The Church's Mission

As a partner of the *A Rocha* family, the Minster is linked to a network of Christian organizations committed to Creation care in more than 20 countries across six continents. Over the past months we have been exploring the seven-point basis of faith of *A Rocha*. This month we address the seventh point. The foundation text of Paul's Letter to the Colossians applies to this point as to previous points.

'Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together... For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.' *Colossians 1; 15-17 and 18-20*

7. Caring for Creation As the first Christians reflected on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, they recognized that the peace that the Lord achieved applies not only to the human race but to all of Creation. 'God chose to reconcile the world to Himself'. If God loves all that He has created, then we too are called to reflect His love in our relationship with the whole Creation. St Francis affirms this when he writes, 'Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness.'

Prayer God our Creator,
you love that all you have made
and all that has evolved.
Open the eyes of your people
that your love may be reflected
in our care for the planet.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

October

Daily prayer: **give us this day our daily bread**

Father, your Son is the bread of life, and we depend on you for our daily provision to sustain us, as do all the creatures you have made. So open our hearts to receive with gratitude all that is given, and enable us to be more aware of how we use these resources and not exploit them, in order that other people and all creatures are provided for and receive the 'bread' you provided for them.

Intercessions for the month

Week beginning 5/10 We ask God's blessing on the ecumenical Creation Service on Oct 4th at Holy Trinity Church to celebrate the life and teaching of Francis of Assisi.

Week beginning 12/10 Fairtrade Fortnight ends at the beginning of October. We pray for the commitment of this town, the churches and of ourselves to buy Fairtrade products where we can, to help farmers worldwide.

Week beginning 19/10 Climate Change is manifest. We do have the means to deal with it. But we refuse to pay the financial price. Pray for the will to ask: How can I change? Or can God change me?

Week beginning 26/10 Pray for preparations for COP 30 in Brazil next month. A Christian Brazilian friend asked us to pray "that God change hearts of stone here into hearts of flesh, and that You give people a new spirit, because one of the biggest problems here is corruption, leading to poverty and neglect."

November

Daily prayer: **your kingdom come**

May your kingdom come, Father, in this world, where our stewardship of the earth has been at fault. Guide us to become more aware of your kingdom values, and of our responsibility to live in harmony with the whole natural world. Just as your Son taught us that you care for a single sparrow that falls, may we consider how we too can be compassionate towards the whole of creation.

Intercessions for the month

Week beginning 2/11 We pray for the Minster's Environmental Action Group (SMEAG) meeting on Nov.5th, and for our efforts to model good practice in managing our buildings and grounds in a sustainable way.

Week beginning 9/11 COP 30 meets in Belem, Brazil, 10-21 Nov. Pray that in this COP there will be a truly productive outcome. Pray for actions rather than yet more words. Pray for unity. Pray for truth. Look out for the Minster' day of prayer for COP. (tba)

Week beginning 16/11 Pray for Brazil in its care of the Amazon forest, its problems with mining and logging, & for other tropical areas under threat from deforestation

Week beginning 23/11 Pray for the Minster's partnership with *A Rocha*, and for those who attended its retreat, Nov 19-21. Also for all Church conservation movements preaching Hope. But Hope needs a basis. The true basis for hope is the Resurrection of Jesus. Pray that God's church may shine with joyful hope.

December

Daily prayer:

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

Yours is the kingdom, Father, and every living insect, fish, bird and animal belongs to you. As you breathe over the whole of creation, reframe our thinking as we observe and are open to all that the natural world has to teach us. Remind us of your authority and power, your wisdom that is contained in the natural order, so that our ways may be as your ways. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week beginning 30/11 As more people everywhere find their minds snared by the internet, pray that we can learn how to control it. Also that we can still find the way to truly value every human on earth, and value all Creation.

Week beginning 7/12 Pray that as we buy Christmas presents, we may purchase with responsibility as well as with love. We reflect on the earth's resources which go towards the gifts we will give and receive.

Week beginning 14/12 God 'so loved the world that He GAVE...', gave His own Son to death. Pray that we can touch His hand - and become people who truly give of ourselves for the service of the world, as Christ did.

Week beginning 21/12 God's greatest gift was his Son - his 'Christmas present' to us. Help us to value Him, to value the presents we receive and the food we eat, and to value the fragile earth which gives us so much

The Southwell Minster Creation Prayer

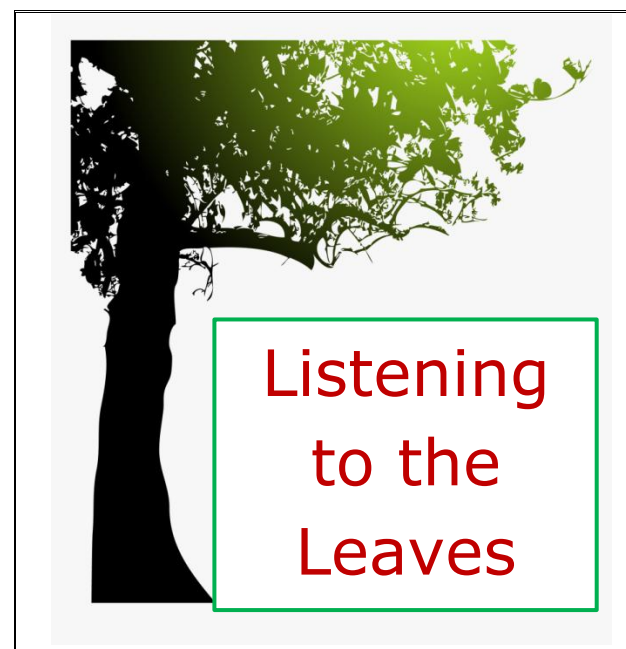
Gracious God, source of all life,
we praise you for the wonder and diversity
of the natural world, and we thank you
for the genius of the craftsmen who carved
the Chapter House leaves that speak to us still.
Open our hearts and minds to your guiding Spirit
that we may discern together
how best to cherish 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

Sep 22 – Oct 5: Fairtrade Fortnight – buy Fairtrade
Oct 4 4.30pm, Creation Service, Holy Trinity Church
Oct 18 Anti-Slavery Day – pray about human trafficking
Nov 10-21 COP30 in Brazil – pray for governments.
Look out for the Minster's Day of Prayer for COP
Nov 22-30 European Week for Waste Reduction
Dec 1 World Aids Day – pray for increase of world aid
Dec 5 World Soil Day – for sustainable farming



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation
October – December 2025**