

## St Vincent's Parish, Sheffield. *LiveSimply Award* Action Plan Updated 30/04/2024

*Decision taken January 2024 to apply for LiveSimply Award; to notify Parish when we have a date for scrutiny; to gather from parishioners information about impact/life changes implemented over the year, as a result of working to be a LiveSimply Parish. Decision taken to continue LiveSimply initiative to further embed in the life of the Parish, with initial agreed Actions 2024 below. Webpage: <https://www.stvincentschurch.com/live-simply.html>*

Actions		Action Points /Details/ How	Led by	Timescale	Evidence	Outstanding Jobs to do (Jan-Feb 2024)	On-going/ Sustainable Activities 2024
<b>Actions to live simply</b>							
<b>Main Action</b>							
Collect pledges to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with God's creation from parishioners.		<p>1. Gather contact details for updating on database, and for Whatsapp Parish Group.</p> <p>2. Group agree <i>Pledges Details</i> to include details of <i>WWF Carbon Footprint Calculator</i> (<a href="https://footprint.wwf.org.uk">https://footprint.wwf.org.uk</a>) for parishioners to assess the environmental impact of various aspects of their lifestyle, and find ways they might reduce it. e.g., reducing meat consumption, cooking from scratch, supporting local food production and businesses, buying less stuff: <b>Done- on webpage +Bulletin</b></p> <p>3. Introductory notes in Bulletin month before Lent to prepare for launch. Note in Bulletin to advertise Pledges: <b>Done</b>. Place Pledges on Website: <b>Done</b>. Paper copies in church + tick sheet /box <b>Done</b> Link with Children's Liturgy <b>Done X2 sessions on Care for Others and recycling</b></p>	Fr Paddy, AB, TR, DR, MP          OB	Begin March 2023          On-going	List of Contact details          Pledges with 'Thumbs Up' on Whatsapp Paper sign up in church          Photos of work	On-going	Continue gathering contacts for Parish Whatsapp group          Review/ revise Monthly Pledges in Bulletin, on Webpage, Whatsapp, over 15 months. Links with Liturgy for Children, with photos on webpage
<b>Other activities:</b>							

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Organise a parish 'unplugged' day – a day without phone, TV or radio.		<p>1. Agree dates to coincide with national date <b>25.6.2023</b> or Global date 2.3.2023: <b>Done</b></p> <p>2. Advertise in Bulletin/ website/ Whatsapp with ideas how to reduce use and why, as positive points. Ideas what to do instead of being 'plugged in'. <a href="http://www.itstimetologoff.com/uk-unplugging-day/">www.itstimetologoff.com/uk-unplugging-day/</a> <b>Done</b></p>	CT	National date 23.06.23 Global Date 3.3.2023	Indicate intention via Whatsapp 'Thumbs Up' or Pledge Tick/ note in box		Mark Annual Global Unplugged Day, 23.6.2024. Make links with St Maries Primary and Notre Dame Secondary Schools
Provide regular items for the Parish Newsletter on 'Living Simply'		<p>Lively Simply Tip in weekly Bulletin: <b>Done</b></p> <p>Live Simply tip on website: <b>Done</b></p> <p>Live Simply page on website: <b>Done</b></p> <p>Logo Competition for <i>LiveSimply</i> logo <b>Done</b></p> <p>Provide ideas on cooking cheap and healthy, simple meals, energy use, reducing waste in Tips and Pledges: <b>Autumn Done</b></p> <p>Invite people to provide ideas and tips: <b>Done at Launch</b></p> <p>Recipe on website October 2023. <b>Done</b></p> <p>Include bank of <i>LiveSimply</i> tips from Dinnington Parish: <b>Done- on webpage</b></p>	FR  AB	On-going  May/ on-going	Sample Bulletins, webpages Logo in place		Seasonal Recipe links on webpage

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Ensure prayers for God's creation, the people and the planet are part of parish prayers			<p>1. Identify liturgical links for each cycle of Readings/ time of year to themes and alert priest, who writes Bidding Prayers, music group leader for hymns (<b>already in place for hymns</b>). (<a href="https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Creationtide-intercessions">https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Creationtide-intercessions</a>) <b>Done</b></p> <p>2. Provide suitable prayers in the Bulletin. (Download Laudato Si Movement Prayer Book for parish use.) <a href="https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Care-of-creation-prayers">https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Care-of-creation-prayers</a> <a href="https://mail.laudatosimovement.org/landing/prayerbook">https://mail.laudatosimovement.org/landing/prayerbook</a> <b>Done</b></p> <p>3. Plan additional services- e.g., Rosary for Creation (<b>Done</b>), Stations outside, Riverside Walk and Reflection inviting other parishes <b>Done: 27 attended</b></p>	LF, CE, CT, KRM, TR  CT, LF	End of Lent 2023 for this Cycle  May/ September	Calendar of links Samples of Bidding Prayers read Sample list of Hymns sung Prayer Book on website		Liturgical links for each cycle of Readings/ time of year to themes and alert priest Liturgical Seasonal Prayers of the Faithful on Webpage. Make links with Year of Jubilee 2025 themes. Other prayer resources to KRM for webpage  Additional Services through year
Explain and recognise the need for times of silence.			<p>Highlight the meaning / purpose of silence before/during mass <b>Done Sept 2023</b> Collection of Parish ideas on Live Simply Launch Day: <b>Done</b> Article on website <i>LiveSimply</i> page about place of Silence: <b>Done February 2023</b> Daily Exposition before weekday masses: <b>Started January 2024</b></p>	Fr Paddy Everyone Fr Paddy Fr Paddy	March 2023 and on-going Article agreed by Fr P at Parish Council Meeting 31.05.23.	Sermon given highlightlighting Silence		
<b>Actions to live sustainably with creation</b>								
<b>Main Action</b>								

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<p>Conduct an energy audit of the parish.</p>		<p>LiveSimply Group Meetings on Parish Council Agenda, with updates: <b>Done</b>                  Identify suitable assessor to conduct audit and provide advice, for example, on the working of heating timers / controls: <b>Done</b>. Raise issue of installation of solar panels/ +EV points in Parish Council- <b>Done</b> ( Energy issues being considered at Diocese level). Fr Paddy in Parish Council stated solar panels would not be pursued in next 1-2 years )                  Timetable of services/activities/ groups in building for heating needs (<i>agreed July 2023 this cannot be done due to ad hoc nature of meetings/ events</i>)                  On-going heating issues raised With S Mulhall, Fr P: <b>Done 10.07.23</b>                  Timers adjusted in Church/ hall as appropriate (<i>operation of hot water tank/radiator valves checked as necessary and reported back by SM- issues not resolved. To be raised in a Meeting to be convened with Fr Paddy, SM and PT 05.11.2023</i>). <b>This is still ongoing.</b></p> <p>Collect monthly records of energy use to identify any savings: <b>Done</b>-Monthly gas usage available for December 22- Feb 23. <i>IFM email seen explaining diocesan billing issues for electric still being sorted.</i>                  Addition April 2024: planned addition of draught excluders: <b>Agreed</b></p>	<p>RB, SM, P PT, TA</p> <p>CT, CE, Fr Paddy</p>	<p>on-going</p>	<p>Completed Audit Energy Bills detailing usage reduction</p>	<p>Electric usage details pending. Energy saving measures to be identified after all figures available (external billing/IFM issue)</p>	<p>Explore ways, using a Synodal approach, to take initiative on EV/ Solar possibilities, via Environmental Leads.                  Begin to explore move to Ethical Banking- individual and Parish/ Diocese: Columba share links with Parish. Continue drive to investigate heating in Meeting Room                  Continue drive for transparency in energy bill records, once IFM billing issues resolved.                  Explore ways to ways to reduce overall parish energy usage.                  Investigate potential for supply of ethical goods/</p>
<p><b>Other activities:</b></p>							

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Continue to develop the spare parish green space for biodiversity.		<p>Hold Activity Days to make insect hotel (<b>Done May 2023</b>), bird houses and feeders.                  Plant fruit trees (<b>Done</b>), buckthorn for butterflies (<b>Done Feb2023</b>) and vegetables, wild flowers. Install planters, compost bins, water butts. <b>Done</b></p> <p>Garden Activity with children during mass: Liturgy for Children. <b>Done</b></p> <p>Advertise and hold harvest donations/ sharing and seed /plant exchanges. <b>Done</b>                  Annual St Marie's School Church/ Garden visit 07/02/2024</p>	CT, JG PT, TA, TD, School: HG, PD, AB, OB	Spring/ summer 2023 Autumn 2023  May/ June August/ September	Insect hotels, bat boxes and bird houses in garden. Trees, vegetables and wild flowers planted. Planters installed + compost bins and water butts  Harvest donations and seed /plant exchanges taken place, and in annual diary		Set further dates for Activity Days 2024, plan programmesbat boxes; gather materials. Liaison with St Maries School. Activities to support St Justins Society.  Initiate/ Support local Eco-Church events
Promote use of Fair Trade and environmentally friendly products.		<p>Informal conversations about tea/ coffee used                  Inclusion in Bulletin / posters displayed that Fairtrade tea and coffee are used for parish events, along with real, not disposable, crockery PLUS cleaning and washing up is done with environmentally friendly products, refilling containers rather than disposing of them: <b>Done</b>                  Promote message via Parish Whatsapp group. <b>Done</b>                  Fairtrade Goods on display after mass for Fairtrade Fortnight: <b>Done</b>                  Fairtrade Places of Worship Award achieved: <b>Done</b></p>	Group +Tea/Coffee servers  CT	End of January  March 2023  March 2023	Bulletins Poster Flyer from Launch 29.1.2023  Certificate displayed		Eye catching posters visible in hall re Fair Trade goods and environmentally friendly products: KRM / CT  Fairtrade Fortnight, September 2024
Audit paper use and reduce		<p>Establish number of Bulletins regularly printed <b>Done: 140</b>                  Agree reduction in number of Bulletins printed for mass (?aim for50%), Verbal announcement end of mass giving notice of reduction/ note in Bulletin/ requesting by welcomers that paper copies are reserved for those without easy access to the internet. ( <i>revised at Parish Council to continue to offer to all to avoid alienating</i> ). <b>Done: reduced to 80, agreed at Parish Council</b>                  Raise issue of use of colour in Bulletins ( cost + environmental impact) <b>Done</b>                  Flyers for events and meetings notices reduced /sent on line.                  Use Parish Whatsapp / website/ email/ bulletin to inform of online provision:<b>Done</b></p>	Priest Welcomers, Committee members/ Organisers	End of January May	Recorded drop in Bulletins printed Sample of Events+ meetings notices on Whatsapp/ website		Monitor Bulletin numbers and printing in B/W. Develop Resources Pledge/ Protocol re paper use and laminating. Gather information on specific printing expenditure
Display signs to encourage reduction in energy use		<p>Signs in all rooms to turn lights off when they're not needed <b>Done</b>                  Signs to turn off computer and photocopier when not in use. <b>Done</b>                  Notice in toilets about recycled toilet paper/ handwash refills <b>Done</b></p>	AB, LF	End of March 23	Signs made by St Wilfrid's Centre and displayed		

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Encourage people to walk to mass and meetings or to share lifts.			LiveSimply Tip and Pledge to "Challenge myself to use greener ways to travel- walking, cycling, bus, car sharing whenever possible. " <b>Done</b> Announcement (end of mass/ in Bulletin/ Whatsapp) of aim of reducing car usage Display link to 52 bus information on website and tell via Bulletin/ Whatsapp. <b>Done</b> (Decision taken not to collect names due to safeguarding/ queries over responsibility in event of issues )	FR	End of August 23	Bus timetable link on website		Include reference to climate change in Pledge related to travel. Explore opportunities to extend message reach
Lead on pen and battery recycling in 2 local schools+ another parish			AB to advertise pens/ markers etc, + battery collection to take to local Fairtrade shop with recycling/collection facility. On-going. Advertise in Bulletin. Notice on St Marie's School website. Contact Sacred Heart Parish to collect pens. <b>Done</b>	AB	Sep-23	Notices displayed. Regular collections established.		Continue, re-promote Pens Collection
Organise a Parish Skills Swap Promote Repair Shops			Parishioners with different skills could state their willingness to share that skill, e.g., using a sewing machine, IT skills. Via Bulletin, Whatsapp: to do Share local Repair Shop details via Parish Whatsapp Group + on webpage: <b>Done</b>	CT, CMc		Record of Skills swapped. Photos		Eco- Church event: <i>Day of Mending</i> , planned Saturday 9 March 2024. Explore on-going skills sharing at Parish level
Plan an 'All Age Clothes Swap'			St Justin's Society stall with 'high end' fashion rail at Christmas Fayre 2023: <b>Done</b>	St Justin's members	December	Monies raised for St Justin's Society		CL to explore organising a Fashion Show/ Clothes Swap with Parish young people
								Explore potential for links with another Parish,e.g., Sacred Heart Sustainability Group
<b>Actions to live in solidarity with the poor</b>								
<b>Main action:</b>								
Promote support for key charities: e.g.								

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St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded:		Monthly Bulletin/ website notice <b>Done</b> /Poster: re Foodbank collection requesting specific items, to be placed in Narthex. <b>Done</b> : on box Bulletin/ website notice/poster re Furniture Store needing household goods, bedding, crockery etc. <b>Done</b> Talk on work of Furniture Store after mass: <b>Done</b> Bulletin/website notice/poster:Volunteering opportunities always available <b>Done</b> Arrange a speaker to talk about the work that is done at the Centre. <b>Done</b> Fundraising events advertised, e.g., September 2023 Auction <b>Done</b>	LF	12.11.2023	Posters, webpages + sample Bulletins. Report on donations New Volunteer(s) working  Talk taken place		Foodbank Collection specific household goods' appeals Promoting St Wilfrid's fundraising events, e.g., Quiz
Advertise the work of Ben's Centre.		Notice in Bulletin/ website/ poster/ small flyer for collection of men's coats, sleeping bags, survival bags, gloves, boxer shorts for donation. <b>Done: 22.01.2023</b> Mugs Appeal/Collection Autumn 2023: <b>DONE</b>	KRM	End of Jan 2023	Bulletin; webpage; flyer. Reported donations		Specific appeals on Whatsapp
Advertise Assist, Sheffield's asylum seeker support group		Working with local link persons for specific appeals <b>on-going</b> - accommodation, clothing, shoes for City of Sanctuary Advertise Assist fundraiser July 2023 on parish Whatsapp. <b>Done</b>		On-going	Feedback from link persons		Ongoing collections
Highlight and support St Justin's Charity		Notice in Bulletin ( <b>DONE: 22.01.2023</b> )/ on website about what St Justin's Group is (fundraising group for projects in the developing world) <b>Done</b> Parish Christmas Bazaar to raise funds for overseas projects <b>Done 2022, 2023</b> Announcements after mass/ in Bulletins re special collections + events: <b>on-going</b>	AB	On-going	Income Report from St Justin's Society Bazaar taken place Sample Bulletin announcements		Clothes Swap; Open Garden/ Plants and Cake Sale in Update Talk, Bulletin, Whatsapp, webpage
Highlight commitment and work of <i>Home from Home Hallam</i>		Link on LiveSimply webpage to cross-parish support for family in Sheffield: <b>Done</b>	AB/KRM		Webpage link		
<b>Other activities:</b>							
Join in with CAFOD campaigns to make sure the voices of all our sisters and brothers are heard.		CAFOD Campaign links in Bulletin/ on website <b>Done</b> / Whatsapp Promote CAFOD "Big Lent Walk": <b>Done 2023</b> Big Lent Walk 3 March 2024, Urban Walk visiting groups supported by parish; Route: St Vincent's Church- Ben's Centre-St Wilfrid's Centre-Assist (Refugees)- City of Sanctuary- St Marie's Cathedral (candles + prayers)- Mission Hub (site of first St Vincent's Church, Solly St)-St Vincent's Church: <b>Done 2024. Raised £949</b>	KRM, CT, CL, ML	Frequency to be discussed	Sample Bulletins, webpages Number of parishioners joining/ sponsoring "Big Lent Walk"		Cafod Campaign links in Bulletin/ on Webpage Request addition of Cafod Big Lent Walk on DONA machine in Narthex.
Advertise donating to CAFOD		Promote World Gifts for Christmas and to mark special events via appeal after mass; handing out booklets and highlighting World Gifts website <b>Done 2022, +2023 (booklets and webpage)</b>	CT, KRM	December	Number of booklets handed out		Promote World Gifts
Promote donating to a charity, rather than presents for a birthday		Include Live Simply ideas in Bulletin/ on website; Monthly Pledge Nov 2023: <b>Done</b>	FR	Annual	Sample Bulletins; webpage		Maintain as a Monthly Pledge

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Continue to Promote CAFOD Family Fast Day, and support through prayer		CAFOD Family Fast Days announcements at masses, including making time for prayer <b>DONE Feb 2023</b> . Talk and Pledge for Oct 2023 <b>DONE</b> LiveSimply idea re eating more simply: provide a soup recipe in Bulletin/ website: <b>Done/ on-going</b> CAFOD online Advent Calendar shared daily on parish Whatsapp group: <b>DONE Dec 2022</b>	ML FR, MM	On-going	Sample Bulletin/ webpage Recipe in Bulletin/ on webpage Family Fast Day collection amounts reported. <b>Feb 2023 £245. Oct 2023 £457</b> Advent Calendar on Whatsapp group		Family Fast Day collections, prayers Simple Recipes for Family Fast Days Co-ordinate Jubilee 2025 preparations with CAFOD resources
Hold a screening of <i>The Letter</i> -the 2022 film inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical <i>Laudato Si</i> .		Organise Parish 'Film Night' with shared Christmas treats- mince pies, mulled wine, tea, coffee.Consider inviting e.g., St Francis Church, Sacred Heart, Crookes Churches Together: <b>Done</b> . Explore joint event with other local eco church groups:Joint Eco Church event on Bolehills Sunday 1st October- <b>DONE</b>  Promote the 7 Laudato Si goals using the Journey to 2030 toolkit for 'Building a Caring Community' in discussions after showing film: Post- it notes for Pledges, commitments to display afterwards. After film: <i>Discussed reasons for showing film, lessons, difficulties of facing fact climate is changing</i>	CT, AB, PD, CE, CL	7pm 15/12/2023	Film Night advert in Bulletin/ webpage comments/discussion points recorded  Photos from Eco Church event  Photos of Film Night event		
Support local 'Warm Hub' initiative		Operate 'Warm Hub' space in Parish Hall, three days a week in January-February 2023: <b>Done, average 6 -7 per week</b> .	NJ	Jan-23	Poster Parish Hall open three days a week 12-2pm for two months, providing hot drinks and snacks Numbers recorded		
Advertise parish St Vincent de Paul Society. Expand reach of Society's work		Reminders in Bulletin for assistance and support available via Presbytery: <b>Done</b> Members of LiveSimply Group enrolled as Auxiliary SVP Members to enable additional support to people who are vulnerable: <b>Done</b> SVP join with another city SVP group to support asylum seekers/ refugees, including supporting weekly City of Sanctuary gatherings: <b>Done/ on-going</b>	Fr Paddy and Society members	On-going	Sample Bulletins Sample records of number of people helped, + nature of support: See Report		Continue work with City of Sanctuary, + SVP outreach
Support parish panto as a fundraiser for St Wilfrid's and St Justin's Society		Parish Panto continues long tradition of fun, and fundraising, with 3 shows in February 2023: <b>Done. Raised £2,132</b> Panto February 2024: <b>Done. Raised £2,184</b>	PD, PD	Feb-23	Bulletin advert Money raised reported		Panto February 2025



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Organise times of reflection in support of our parish effort.		<p>Bishops' Conference 2022 document, <i>The Call of Creation</i>; their 2022 Autumn Plenary Meeting Statements on Fasting and Abstinence, carbon emissions and the <i>LiveSimply Award, Environment Update</i> on webpage: <b>Done</b></p> <p>Use new LiveSimply Parish Prayer (C Evans) as focus for Reflection <b>Done</b></p> <p>Weekly Lectio Divina. Sharing the Word online sessions each have Creation dimension: <b>Done/ ongoing</b></p> <p>Weekly Bidding Prayers on Caring for Creation theme: <b>Done</b></p> <p>Lent 2024: Weekly Live Simply Reflections after mass. Advertised in Bulletin, Whatsapp, LiveSimply Webpage</p>	CE		Programme of sessions; feedback		CE to plan Lenten series of LiveSimply Reflections 2024 (Tuesdays or Wednesdays)
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