

A summary Green Anglicans Newsletter (April 2020)

COVID-19 news

Green Anglicans have been very proactive during this lockdown, from multilingual fliers explaining what COVID-19 is¹, and sourcing easy-to-make face masks², to online services for both adults^{3,4,5,6} and children⁷, they are doing their best to keep you up-to-date with the current pandemic and more importantly God.

If you find yourself with a bit of time on your hands, Green Anglicans is offering a whole bunch of free activities and courses (which can be found on the Green Anglicans website). The activities and courses offered are centred around building an understanding of what it means to be an environmental steward and how to be more sustainable in your day-to-day living.



Green Anglicans Outreach and Recreation

In November 2019, St Peter's Anglican Church Ga-Rankuwa, Pretoria successfully held a Green Anglicans workshop, in which Sunday school teachers were trained how to use the book "Ryan the Rhino". The workshop covered many topics surrounding sustainability and commercialism, but the main focus of this workshop was the prevention of environmental harm.

The Diocese of Swaziland in October 2019 held a joint training course for both Youth and Sunday school guilds. During this time the Diocesan Synod said that both the Youth and Sunday schools must be taught about environmental issues and that "Ryan the Rhino Sunday School Manual" should be used as the official documents. The Diocese of Khahlamba, Eastern Cape also held a training

course for the youth leaders and committed to using "Care for Creation" and "Ryan the Rhino" to teach the youth in the province to be environmental stewards.

The dioceses of Lebombos, Mozambique encouraged beach clean-ups through a sport gathering. Two churches in the dioceses teamed up to clean the beach of Chambone Mission, after which they held a volleyball tournament, and entrance was one bag of recycling material.

Bishop E. Pike and his wife on the 4th of November, 2019 began a 200km Prayer Pilgrimage through Nelson Mandela Bay which launched the city's Nehemiah Prayer walk. The objectives of this walk are for the healing and reconciliation of our people and to connect people in all 60 wards, to see the state of the city and to work towards solutions to improve on the city.

The Diocese of Matlosane held its annual Family day, the event focused on 'Pula' (Setswana for rain) and was led by Kgowe Moleme (a Green Anglican 'movers and shakers'). Kgowe spoke about climate change and global warming and how these phenomena can lead to drought and flooding. He expanded on ways to prevent further environmental damage.

The Diocese of Lesotho held its annual altar server conference, in which Green Anglicans were given a slot. The altar servers were briefed on how to be an earth keeper as an altar server. Green Anglicans then asked each region to act out how humans are harming God' creation and how we can prevent further degradation by becoming more eco-friendly.

During the December holidays, Green Anglicans teamed with two churches in the Diocese of Cape Town, to lead sessions in 'Caring for Creation'. The children were taught songs



about being green and environmentally friendly, new games to promote their retention of what they had just been taught and encouraged to give green presents to their family members, such as potted plants and packets of seeds.

Rev Rachel Mash was invited to talk at The Provincial Mothers Union to determine links between Gender, Environment and Violence. For example she highlighted the idea that prolonged droughts lead to decreased accessibility to potable water, which increases the risk of sexual harassment and violence against women and children because they are forced to travel further to collect water.



International Green Anglicans

Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit of Kenya has really taken to the Green Anglicans movement, and was seen blessing the trees of Confirmation candidates in Nairobi.

The Green Anglicans in the DRC celebrated International Day of the Soil by planting 200 trees over a vulnerable water table with the intention of protecting it from any further degradation. Keeping in mind that healthy soil and roots can protect the land from erosion and unnecessary water seepage.

In Malawi both Green Anglicans and Malawi Creation Care Network (MCCN), initiated an Environmental Movement Building conference. The idea of the conference was to promote and build environmental conservation movements in universities and colleges to Care for Creation.

“Angolan problems, need Angolan solutions” the title of a workshop at a conference held by the Angolan Diocese, looked at environmental issues and debated solutions surrounding

them. Youths felt that this would help them implement ways to be “Green in my habitat” At a theology conference held at the university of Pretoria, Green Anglicans were represented by people from four different countries, they spoke on deforestation and the effects it can have on a country, clean-projects and tree planting initiatives, bottom-up approaches of how the church can influence Grassroot communities, civil society and policy makers. Furthermore, SAFCEI introduced and made reference to projects and materials created by



Green Anglicans on ecological justice and creation care.

Michelle Hall

Useful links:

1. Corona Pamphlet
<http://www.greenanglicans.org/resources/>
2. Face Mask
<http://www.greenanglicans.org/make-your-own-facemask/>
3. Online Sunday services
<https://youtu.be/XqGj5Q3B4WM>
4. Youtube Channel for Weekly Services
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKviG_PHpbZXUeTculYAelw
5. Facebook Page for Weekly Services
<https://www.facebook.com/GreenAnglicans>
6. Interactive Whatsapp Group
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKXVcbx8sZA5r9DtDgN7rA>
7. Children Services
<https://youtu.be/2eOz-8NvxcA>