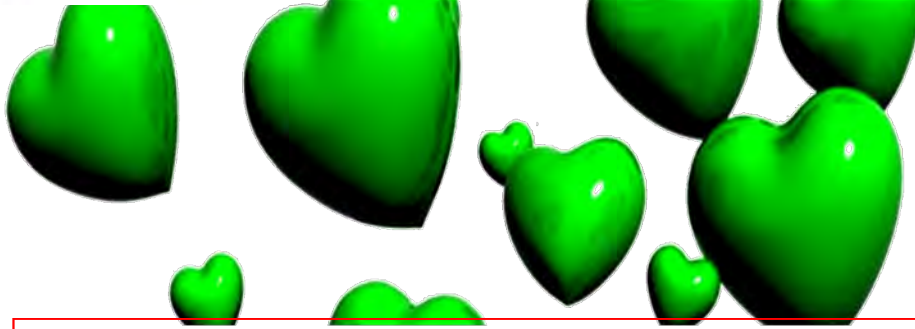


Show the Love



The Lord "loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD."

(Psalm 33:5)



Heart to Heart

Rejoice, Sing, Praise the Lord! So begins Psalm 33. Why? Well, because of God's *Hesed* that is God's steadfast love, mercy, kindness. Hosea speaks God's word against the people because of their corruption, the injustice and unfairness with which they treat the poor and the marginalised. But into this judgement, in ch 12: comes hope, in the echo of words spoken to Jacob at Bethel, "*The Lord God is Almighty and you must return to your God*" . . . How do you return to God? Hosea continues "*commit yourselves to love and justice and never give up on God!*"

The focus for February are two campaigns: Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" and Fairtrade's campaign to emphasise the need for justice with Fairtrade Fortnight. But we do not want to pick up these things for a couple of weeks, we want these things at the centre of our heart. Fairness, justice, mercy, steadfast love, this is God's love, this is Jesus' love shown on the cross—where love and justice meet and evil is defeated.

Jesus said "a new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all people know that you are my disciples." (Jn 13:34)



Let us pray:

Reflect on the words of Psalm 33.

Sing for joy; Praise the Lord; Sing to him.
Then sit in silence and wait for the Lord, the God of steadfast love and justice.

God is the awesome creator of all things. Pray for creation. Pray for the people. Pray for the nations. Pray for those suffering famine and disease.

Wait again on the Lord and pray the words of Psalm 33:20-22 together.



Get Active:

Two websites for ideas and actions:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

[https://](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/)

www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/

- ✿ Get crafting, make some green hearts and turn the page for lots more ideas on the Show the Love website.
- ✿ Let your MP get to know you and your passion to see love and justice prevail when it comes to climate matters in our nation and our world.
- ✿ If you are not already then commit to becoming a Fairtrade Church.

HAVE A CHURCH SERVICE THAT FOCUSES ON "FAIRTRADE". SEE THE WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES.



RECYCLED PAPER RECIPE



What you need:



old newspapers or scrap paper
bucket
wooden spoon
square frame with mesh stretched over it (you can buy a paper making kit with this frame in it)
flat piece of wood
plastic tray/container larger than the metal frame

What you do:

Tear up 2 or 3 single sheets of newspaper and add them to a bucket with about 5 cups of water. Leave to soak overnight. When the paper is soft, use a wooden spoon (or your hands if you prefer) to break the mixture down to a pulp. Place the metal frame in the plastic container and pour about 2 cm depth of water into the container so that the mesh is immersed in water. Pour a cupful of mushy paper from the bucket over the mesh and spread it evenly with your fingers. Lay out a piece of newspaper on the table. Carefully lift out the mesh and let the water drain. Then place the mesh with the pulp on it onto the opened newspaper. Close the newspaper onto the pulpy mesh and **carefully** turn the whole thing over so that the mesh is now on top of the pulp. Keep the newspaper closed. Place a piece of flat wood over the newspaper and push it down hard to squeeze out the water. Open the newspaper and take out the mesh, then leave the newspaper open for at least 24 hours so the pulp can dry. Once it is dry, peel off your new sheet of paper and use it!

Why not mix grass or flower seeds with your newspaper when you create the pulp.



Use this paper to create a card for someone you love and show them the love of Creation. If you have added seed then you can place it on the ground to show the love.

Use only flowers, leaves, and seeds that have fallen from trees, or pick a few from your garden. Do not take plants from private land, parks, or nature reserves.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Show the Love

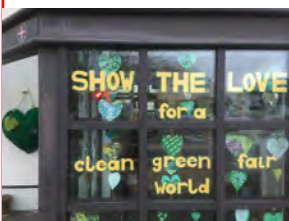


<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

Every February since 2015, people from across the UK have taken part in the Climate Coalition's Show the Love campaign. They've used the power of green hearts to ask politicians to keep up the momentum on the climate crisis. When you make and share a green heart, you're sending a clear message to decision makers that you care about climate, nature and people.

Why not get involved with your church? You could:

organise an event during February

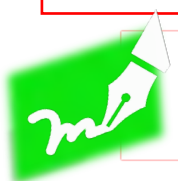


reach out to the local community

get together to do a green heart crafting session

hold a green heart cake sale

invite your congregation to write to their MP about why climate action is important.



This material was written, compiled and published by Eileen Newington (Synod Green Advocate), Judy Harris (Children and Youth Development Officer), Jason Askew (Training and Development Officer).