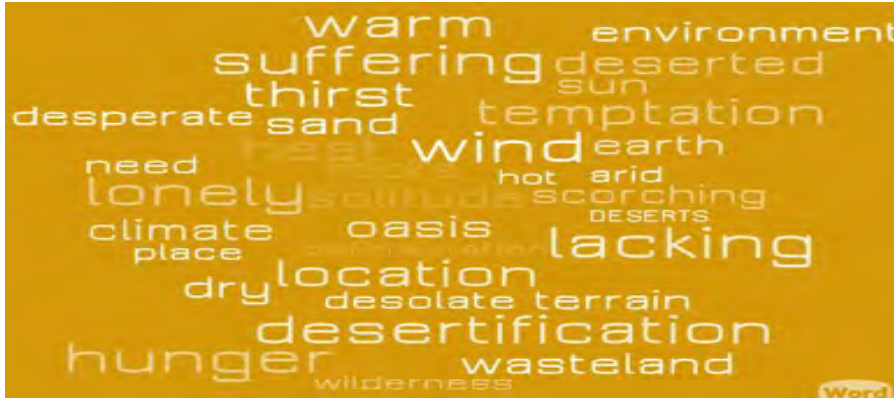


Deserts



What do you think of when you hear the word ‘desert’?



Isaiah 35

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God .

In the Gospels the desert is the place where . . .

- ✿ the Good News was first preached
- ✿ Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit
- ✿ evil was resisted
- ✿ people flocked to hear the Gospel
- ✿ people were baptised
- ✿ there was time for prayer
- ✿ people followed Jesus
- ✿ people were fed
- ✿ the lost sheep are found

Discussion All over the world human beings, without a second thought, create deserts through deforestation, destruction, and dumping. Including in your neighbourhood. Where are the places in your community that have become ‘urban deserts’? Talk together about places near you where people thirst for righteousness, hunger for justice. Are there areas of wasteland in your area? Who are those who suffer from lack of housing, food, work, faith?



Let us pray:

Read Psalm 107:1-9

God of life we pray for the places of desolation and death. May new life blossom. We pray for those who hunger and thirst for justice. May their hope grow. We pray for those who are in distress. May they find joy in Jesus, our Saviour. Amen

Get Active:

- ✿ Get involved in a local litter pick.
- ✿ Learn about ‘Seed Bombing’.
- ✿ Transform a ‘local desert space’.
- ✿ Check out greenchristian.org.uk Including the inspirational “Nine Ways of Living Gently on this Earth”



RAINDROP SPOTS



What you need:

blotting or sugar paper
pencils, crayons, felt tips

What you do:

When it is a rainy day, place blotting paper on the ground to catch a few raindrops.

Draw around and colour around the drops.

You then can make this into a picture, or wrapping paper.

Create your own rain by dripping water onto paper and then try and identify shapes e.g. cat, car, cloud etc.



Fascinating fact: "Raindrops aren't really shaped like drops; they are perfectly round"

DIY Seed Bombs

What you need:

compost
seeds
clay or clay soil or flour

What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix together one cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2 - 3 cups of clay powder (you could use clay soil instead if you have it, or plain flour works as well).
2. Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together like a dough.
3. Roll the mixture into firm balls or press it into a heart shape.
4. Leave the balls to dry in a sunny spot.



Now for the fun bit! Plant your seed bombs by throwing them at bare parts of the garden or on waste land and wait to see what pops up!

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

WaterAid



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



Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights. They should be a normal part of daily life for everyone, everywhere - but they aren't. Water Aid works with partners in some of the toughest parts of the world to install taps and toilets.

Why not share this video with your church and think about how we use water in the UK?

Let 85 year old Dadabe from Madagascar show you how to celebrate turning on the taps for the very first time!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CR5PmltpSI>



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)