

LIVING GENTLY ON THE EARTH

Introduction

In 2024, Worcester Cathedral's programme Living Gently on the Earth won the Church Times Green Church award in the education category. Now the diocese and cathedral have worked together to bring a version of this programme to parishes.

What's the course about?

Living Gently on the Earth

— looks at faith, lifestyle, and justice in God's creation.
— builds awareness of the environmental and social issue we face,
— roots itself in the biblical story of creation and redemption
— enables participants to respond in practical ways
— encourages churches and individuals to act with hope in our hearts.

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What sort of course is it?

The course is in five sessions based, first and foremost, in scripture. Each session is accompanied by a video designed to build on those foundations by setting out the practical implications. There are study notes and a leader's guide for each session.

When might we use it?

Parishes and groups could use this at any time of the year. However, it has been developed in five sessions to be the right length for a Lent course. It would also be appropriate to use in the new focus given to the ecumenical Season of Creation in September, adopted by Churches Together in 2008.

Course Outline

Session 1: Beyond Greed to Abundance,

Scripture: Luke 12: 15-21; **Video**: Consumerism

We think about how we live generously with one another, take collective responsibility, and respect the resources that others also depend on.

Session 2: Liberating Creation

Scripture: Romans 8:18-25; **Video**: Climate

Hope calls us to the healing and liberation of creation, tackling injustice and poverty, and making our own practical lifestyle changes.

Session 3: Empowered for Good,

Scripture: Genesis 1:24-2:15; **Video**: Food

This session takes three perspectives, dominion, stewardship, and kinship and applies them to our approaches to food. As humans, we are fellow creatures, formed from the same ground and sharing the same breath of life.

Session 4: The Community of Creation,

Scripture: Psalm 104; **Video**: Habitats

The psalm leads us to see creation as an interdependent community of life and gives us a reason to live gently on the earth rather than exploit it.

Session 5: Justice in Action,

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37; **Video**: Justice

The final session looks at environmental action through the lens of justice. What can we do, as individuals and as churches, through both personal and collective action, to be agents of justice for all God's creation?