

'Creationtide' or the 'Season of Creation' is the period in the annual church calendar (from 1st September to 4th October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. For Anglicans it is also a time when we celebrate Harvest, give thanks for the food we have and take action for those in need.

***'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' is the Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission.***

Our food is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions from UK households. At the same time it is an area of our lives where we can all make a difference. Globally, even without climate change, the world food system faces a challenge: experts estimate that global food production will need to increase by 70 percent by 2050 to feed a growing population and satisfy shifting diets.

For Creationtide or harvest liturgies, prayers, café reflections and discussion documents visit the Church of England Environment Programme site at [www.shrinkingthefootprint.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.org)

Celebrate with Christians around the world through the Season of Creation resources and global prayer events.

**1 World Day of Prayer for Creation:** Eternal God, You crown the year with goodness, And you give us the fruits of the earth in their season, Grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need, and for our own well-being, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lifestyle	<p><b>Sunday 2 September</b> <i>He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.</i> Deut. 26.9- Celebrate - could you hold a community bring &amp; share lunch or harvest supper, try the big lunch <a href="#">tool</a> to get everyone involved.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Use what you buy. Try using a meal planner to help avoid wasting food you don't eat.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Try to buy local and seasonal food - not only are you minimising transport miles but you're also supporting the local economy.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Avoid excess packaging wherever possible to reduce plastic waste and if you can't make sure you recycle it.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Drink water from your tap; use a jug; add a slice of lemon or use a water filter if necessary. Bottled water has a carbon footprint of 320g &amp; tap water 0.24g per litre.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Why not have a meat free Friday. Eating more plant based food saves land, water and reduces carbon emissions. Or could you eat less meat but from a higher welfare source? find out what welfare labels mean <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Urban harvest. Think that harvest is only relevant in the countryside, think again - Urban Food fortnight starts <a href="#">today</a></p>
	<p><b>Sunday 9 September</b> <i>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.</i> James 1. 17 How can you support others as a church? Can you use Heritage open day to share your work?</p>	<p><b>10</b> An estimated 8.4 million people struggling to afford to eat in the UK. Find out how you can help from <a href="#">End Hunger UK</a> and <a href="#">sign the petition</a> calling for Government to fix Universal Credit to prevent more people going hungry.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Does your church have any land? Could you grow food or develop a sensory garden – being outside and taking part in a community garden has been shown to be good for physical and mental health</p>	<p><b>12</b> Is there somewhere in your community you could sow wild flowers to help encourage wildlife and pollinators? You can get advice from <a href="#">Grow Wild</a>.</p>	<p><b>13</b> The perfect day for a random act of kindness. You could bake someone a cake, prepare some food for someone who is a full-time carer or even just share some biscuits.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Today is National Quiet Day &amp; <a href="#">Holy Cross Day</a> – Take a moment of reflection today to consider what action you can take within your community or lifestyle to be a witness to your faith.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Join the Great British Beach Clean –there are <a href="#">lots of events taking place</a> helping to keep plastic waste out of the food chain. If you're not near a beach organize a litter pick locally or just take a bag with you when you go out.</p>
Community	<p><b>Sunday 16 September</b> <i>Happy are they who delight in the law of the Lord... They are like trees planted by steams of water, bearing fruit in due season.</i> Psalm 1: 2-3 Could you hold a short prayer service somewhere associated with food production –at a farm or outside a supermarket?</p>	<p><b>17</b> Pressures on farmers are huge – from issues of isolation through to financial worries – the <a href="#">Farming Community Network</a> runs a national helpline offering pastoral and practical support all year round.</p>	<p><b>18</b> The Gleaning network coordinates volunteers, farmers &amp; food redistribution charities to salvage the thousands of tonnes of fresh fruit &amp; vegetables that are wasted every year. There are groups across the country– <a href="#">sign up today</a>.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Bees are a key pollinator of food crops. Keen to learn more or even become a bee keeper? Contact the <a href="#">British Beekeepers Association</a>, find other bee keepers locally through <a href="#">Hive Talking</a> or if you're in a city – contact <a href="#">Urban Bees</a>.</p>	<p><b>20</b> We depend on soil for survival. By choosing food, health, beauty and textile products that have the <a href="#">Soil Association</a> organic symbol wherever possible you can help save our soil and improve our food quality.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Today is International day of peace. There is a clear link between conflict and deterioration of food security. Can you donate some time or money to <a href="#">Christian Aid</a> or <a href="#">Tearfund</a> who work in conflict areas?</p>	<p><b>22</b> Seed Gathering Season starts tomorrow. organized by the <a href="#">Tree Council</a> this annual campaign of events aims to inspire everyone to gather &amp; grow seeds. Could you start your own community seed swap?</p>
	<p><b>Sunday 23 September</b> <i>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth</i> 1 Corinthians. Looking for liturgy to update your Harvest service? Take a look at the resources available from the <a href="#">Church of England Environment Programme</a>.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Choose <a href="#">Fairtrade</a> – with simple shopping choices you can get farmers across the world a better deal. Most supermarkets sell Fairtrade products at affordable prices. Don't just think coffee and chocolate look out for Fairtrade cotton and flowers as well.</p>	<p><b>25</b> How does your local supermarket score on human rights policies? Take a look at <a href="#">Oxfam's analysis of the leading supermarkets</a> &amp; use your consumer power to ask for improved conditions and wages across their global supply chains.</p>	<p><b>26</b> One third of all food produced in the world ends up as waste. You can do your bit by connecting with neighbours and local shops so surplus food doesn't go to waste by using apps like <a href="#">Olio</a> and <a href="#">Too Good to Go</a>.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Did you know that by 2050 we could have more plastic than fish in the sea. Reduce <a href="#">your own plastic use</a>, call for <a href="#">access to waste collection globally</a> and get involved in the <a href="#">Marine Conservation Society</a>.</p>	<p><b>28</b> 1.6 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods. Forests are home to nearly half of the world's species. Look out for the <a href="#">FSC label</a> on products to make sure you are buying recycled materials and/or those from well-managed forests.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Palm oil is widely consumed but expanding plantations threaten some of the world's most important habitats. See <a href="#">which products contain palm oil</a> and look out for the RSPO or Green Palm label that indicate more sustainable choices.</p>
Farming & biodiversity	<p><b>Sunday 30 September</b> <i>Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert</i> Isaiah 35: 6. Pray for our brothers and sisters across the Communion experiencing droughts, rising sea level and flooding.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Today is World Habitat Day - Join <a href="#">Habitat for Humanity</a> or the <a href="#">World Wildlife Fund</a> and help their vital work to protect some of the world's most vulnerable places, people and animals.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Do you have a community food co-op near you, if not could you form one? <a href="#">Food co-ops</a>, food buying groups &amp; food clubs are run on a not-for-profit basis and aim to give people access to good food at affordable prices.</p>	<p><b>3</b> It's World Animal Day tomorrow – could you hold a <a href="#">celebration service</a> this Sunday? Or even enter the <a href="#">ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award</a>?</p>	<p><b>4 October St Francis Day</b> Heavenly Father, You have taught us, through your servant St Francis, That all creation is your handiwork. Grant us your grace that we may Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth; Tread lightly upon it; And cherish its resources; That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations, And your name be glorified through all that you have made. Amen.</p>		
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