

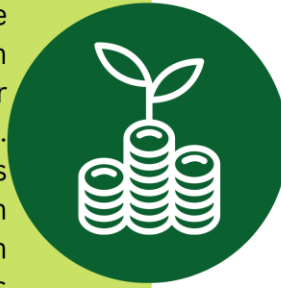


9. POSITIVE FINANCES

FIFTH SUNDAY OF CREATION, 1 OCTOBER 2023

Scripture to Ponder - 1 Timothy 6:17-19

How do we define "wealth" or what it means to be "rich?" In this first letter to Timothy, Paul calls on Timothy to direct the "rich" not to rely on their worldly wealth, but to share it and do good works. But if we don't consider ourselves to be "rich" does that absolve us of the need to participate in movements that seem beyond our means. How can we use the financial resources *we have* to build God's kingdom in the world today?



Plan ahead - when will you need a new boiler or heating system? Start saving now so that when the time comes you can invest in an ecological option.



Look into grant funding - this applies at home and church! The Scottish government and the Province have funds available to help with eco improvements.



Encourage your vestry to consider making a budget line for eco improvements on church and/or rectory grounds.

The Lord be with you...

We thank you, creator God,
for the goodly heritage you offer us,
from green downland, to the deep salt seas,
and for the abundant world
we share with your creation.
Keep us so mindful of its needs
and those of all with whom we share,
that open to your Spirit we may discern and practice
all that makes for its wellbeing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,



- Rev Peter Lippiett

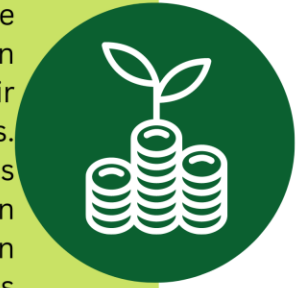


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10. BUILD A MOVEMENT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF CREATION, 1 OCTOBER 2023

Scripture to Ponder - Ephesians 3:16-20

What could we do if we truly believed that God was in charge and supporting our every movement? How would the invitation to "join us" change if we believed the seemingly small actions of our hands could move mountains? While the GHG emissions of our buildings are insubstantial in relation to the whole climate crisis, we have to consider the impact of our example and of each individual who joins our environmental justice action. Even in our small corner of the world, we have incredible potential if we bring others along with us.



Shout it from the rooftops! For many in our local communities, the invitation to church might be overwhelming, but the invitation to work together for the good of the environment is a universal draw. It could even become a stepping stone towards faith.



Look at what other organisations in your community are doing for environmental justice and come alongside.

The Lord be with you...

O God of unchangeable love, you see the beauty and worth of all you have created. Through Jesus you come down to us, to turn our hearts to you, to one another, and to all your creation. Heal us, that we may care for your world and see every family, tribe, language and people as an interconnected expression of your grace and glory; so we might work together as one human family to reverse the damage we have caused to this fragile Earth you created in love. We pray these things through Jesus Christ who lives and creates with you the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

- Adapted from *Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, IN*



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