Green Anglicans

Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network

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GREEN ANGLICANS ADVENT NEWSLETTER



Ecumenical Eco Bishops and Senior Church leaders Conference

46 bishops and senior church leaders together with the new Climate Commission of the South African Council of Churches and Youth Climate Activists gathered for a historic "Ecobishops" conference this week in Noordhoek, Cape Town The leaders were from 11 denominations and came from South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini and Botswana..

The Conference was organised by SAFCEI, Green Anglicans and the Centre for Public Witness



Day One

Cardinal Steven Brislin addressed us on the topic of "The importance of Laudato Si in South Africa " and was followed by Anglican Bishop of Lesotho Dr Vicentia Kgabe who spoke on the environmental Challenges in Lesotho. This was followed by a sobering talk by Prof Coleen Vogel on the five year forecast of climate change in Southern Africa. She was folllowed by Climate Yes! activist Tshepo Mohapi who challenged the leaders to listen to the voices of young people. We reflected on the groaning of creation in our context in Bible study. Rev Rachel Mash led a session on the Biblical basis for creation care.

Day Two

We had a presentation from the Presidential Climate Commission and learned about the



SAFCEI programmes . 18 month action plans were made by geographical region and a statement was prepared. This will be released shortly

We started and ended each day with God in Creation, enjoying the amazing beauty of the area.Our outdoor services were led by Rev Sikawu (MCSA) and Rev Dewald Hoffman (DRC). The youth led the final service.

We were blessed by the presence of SAFCEI founder Bishop Geoff Davies who led the final blessing.

Read the full article: https://www.greenanglicans.org/ecumenical-eco-bishops-and-senior-church-leaders-conference/

Mothers Union Eco-Champion Training



Mothers Union Eco-champs from 23 Dioceses across South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini were chosen to attend an Eco-champion Training run by the Green Anglicans

The event started with a message of encouragement from the Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union- Sheran Harper for this first of a kind group of MU Eco-champs!

Rev Rachel Mash led a session on the Bible and Creation Care, unpacking Scriptures on the theme. The Mothers then had a to prepare mini – sermons in groups.

This was followed by a Bible Study on Rom 8:22 "Where do you hear the groaning of Creation in your context?"

Very sad issues were identified which are impacting on food security and increasing poverty – such as soil erosion, flooding and drought. Our children are being poisoned through air pollution and water being filled with toxins, the burning of plastic and chemicals leaching into our water. Animals and pollinators are being wiped out. Illegal dumping is destroying our communities and the children have no safe place to play.



We ended the session with a word of hope – for Creation is groaning as in childbirth – the pains are coming now but new life is being born

The day ended with a beautiful outdoor service led by the Provincial Liaison Bishop for the Mothers Union – Bishop Charles May

Read the full article: https://www.greenanglicans.org/mothers-union-eco-champion-training/

MESSAGE FROM PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR



CREATION IS STANDING ON TIPTOE WAITING FOR US!

When we started the Green Anglicans movement, the stories of Climate change impacts were of things happening in other countries, drought and hurricanes and seas rising. But they were stories about other people.

Now Climate change is hitting home – we too are experiencing floods and even hurricanes. Heat waves are becoming more intense and the rains often fail. Creation is groaning we are told in Romans 8:22 and now we can see and feel the groans for ourselves.

Romans 8:19 also tells us that Creation is waiting on tip toe for the children of God to be revealed! What an amazing image – even in this suffering, God's creation is looking out for us to act! Why – because God placed the care for creation into our hands – the very first commandment we were ever given was (Gen 2:15) to work the land and look after it.

Even in the midst of despair at the mess we have made of this planet and the seeming inability of politicians globally to do what needs to be done - and the impact on the most vulnerable and the generations to come, this newsletter brings me hope – because we see new stories of the children of God arising.

Across our Province, bishops are joining hands with bishops from other denominations, the Mothers Union have appointed Eco- champs, the youth are rising for climate justice, Sunday school and servers are acting. Care for Creation is now part of the DNA of our youth and students movements. Our Diocesan Environmental Coordinators are doing amazing work with their teams.

"We have a choice, we must take our foot off the accelerator, reduce fossil fuels, stop deforestation and re-green the Earth. Climate change is not something that is simply won or lost. It is a curve that we can keep bending towards a better world"
(Tamsin Edwards)

Your actions matter - you matter.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

A Feast Day for Creation



The Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (South Africa, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia) passed a resolution in support of the adoption of an ecumenical feast day for Creation to be included in our liturgical calenders.

The September 1, known as Creation Day or World Day of Prayer for Creation, has gained vast ecumenical popularity and has given rise to a month-long Season of Creation. Inspired by a rich tradition of the Orthodox Church (where September 1 is the first day of their liturgical year), it was later embraced by the Council of European Churches in 1997, the World Council of Churches in 2008, the Anglican Consultative Council in 2012, and the Roman Catholic Church in 2015.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/anglican-church-of-southern-africa-passes-resolution-in-support-of-the-adoption-of-an-ecumenical-feast-day-of-creation-in-our-ecumenical-calendar/

30th MU conference in Kimberley and Kuruman

Mothers Union members came in numbers from all five archdeaconries to celebrate the anniversary. There was a choral competition, traditional attire, traditional music, prayer and spirituality and Environmental activities led by Environmental-Champ Mrs. V D



Mosenthal. On Sunday morning before the service Bishop Brian of Kimberley and Kuruman blessed the trees to be planted at a local school.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/30th-mu-conference-in-the-diocese-of-kimberly-and-kuruman/

Diocese of George Environmental Ministry gains momentum



Under the leadership of Bishop Edwin Pockpass, the Environmental ministry in the Diocese of George is taking off! Pictured is the Environmental sustainable development committee with Bishop Edwin, chaplain Maria Jacobs at their quarterly meeting held at the Church of the resurrection Sedgefield



The parish of St Andrew's in Riversdale celebrated their centenary in July. They heeded the call from the Province for a Plastic free July and tried to make all their celebrations plastic free. They also used the opportunity to make the community aware of the 3Rs, reduce, reuse and recycle. Pictured is the rector, Rev Canon Darian Petersen.

Climate Change Resilience at COTT



Every year the College of the Transfiguration holds a SIM (Student Interest Ministries) week. This year one of the topics of discussion was Climate Change. Rev Rachel Mash opened the day with a bible study based on Psalm 104 which looked at our relationship with the web of life. Discussions were held on the impact of Climate change in our communities and how the church can prepare for flooding, drought and sea level rise.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/climate-change-resilience-at-cott/

Plastic Pollution and Climate change Workshop Port Elizabeth

On August 5, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin, Dr. Mash, Provincial Coordinator for the Green Anglican Movement, hosted by Mrs. P. Koltana, Port Elizabeth Diocesan Chaplain, facilitated a pivotal workshop on plastic pollution and climate change. This event proved to be



a transformative experience, illuminating the critical intersection between environmental stewardship and faith.

The workshop provided a comprehensive overview of plastic waste statistics in our oceans and the pervasive presence of microplastics in even the most remote regions.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/plastic-pollution-and-climate-change-workshop-port-elizabeth/

MU Johannesburg Celebrate 120 years of MU Global community service



As part of the Global Mothers Union 120 years celebration for its community work in various countries and communities, the Mothers Union of the Diocese of Johannesburg together with the Parish of Christ the King held a one day cleanup and awareness campaign. This took place in Coronationville, Johannesburg on the 27th of July 2024.

The aim was not only to observe the day but to show when organizations join forces with the local community members a lot can be achieved. The main message of the day was to highlight the importance of a

clean environment and its impacts on the health and well-being of human-beings.



Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/mu-johannesburg-celebrate-120-years-of-mu-global-community-service/

World Environment Sunday in Eswatini



Today the Diocese of Eswatini, Usuthu Parish.....commemorated the World Environment day.

The Theme for World Environment Day is Eco-system restoration and so trees were planted after Church. The Mothers Union are also embracing the Environmental Challenges!

#restorationgeneration

A special gift for Mother's Day



The parish of Bernard Mizeki, in Mbwekweni, Diocese of Saldanha Bay has a thriving Sunday School led by Ms Zodwa Fani who runs the Godly Play programme. They decided to prepare a special surprise Mothers Day gift for all the mothers. They collected tins from the local school feeding schemes and painted them up beautifully.

They partnered with Green Anglicans who sourced a donation of spekboom cuttings.

Read the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/a-special-gift-for-mothers-day/

Seeds of forgiveness



On Saturday 2 March 2024 Diocese of Highveld Parish of St Peter and Paul Sakhile Mothers Union (M.U) held its one day retreat on the theme of forgiveness. Mothers were grouped into 5 groups for the 5 Objectives of M.U.

Each group received seeds to share amongst members. They didn't know what kind of seed they were receiving. The seeds were put into individually cut egg cartons and they added fertilised soil. Each person has to nurture seed individually till 24 March and they have to bring it back for renewal of vows on Palm Sunday.

Rev Lindiwe Mdluli.

A Food Garden in every parish!

The Anglican Diocese of Zululand held its Environmental Indaba on the 24th of February and aims to set up a Diocesan nursery to supply seeds so that there can be a food garden at every parish.



The Archdeaconry Environmental Chaplains and reps per Archdeaconry came together at KwaNzimela Diocesan Centre in Melmoth.

The Diocesan Environmental team, aims to establish a vegetable garden at each of their parishes across the diocese.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/a-food-garden-in-every-parish/

Provincial AWF conference



Mr. B. White, the Co-ordinator of Green Anglicans in the Diocese of Mthatha was invited to speak during the Provincial AWF conference on the 26th of October in Krugerdorp. He spoke about Care and Protection for the Environment.



Members of the AWF were impressed by the presentation and even made a pledge of commitment to take care of the environment as individuals (in their households, and work places), at Parish and archdeaconry level. They even promised to start projects like recycling and re-using objects, tree planting and gardening. They said they would reduce the length of showers to save water.

Namibian Women faith leaders join international Conference



SAFCEI hosted a three-day in-person Regional Women's Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 16 to 18 July 2024, with women faith leaders from the first and second cohorts. This workshop series brought together 33 women faith leaders representing Christian, Muslim and African Traditional faiths, from 11 countries (South Africa, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia, Eswatini), underscoring the critical role women play in addressing environmental injustices and promoting eco-justice.

Read full article: https://safcei.org/regional-women%E2%80%99s-fleat-in-johannesburg-empowering-women-faith-leaders-in-environmental-advocacy

YOUTH

AYSA-PYC Consultation



The Provincial Youth Council consultation took place from 10-12 October 2024. During day one delegates share their diocesan reports and it was notable how much work young people across the province are doing in Caring for Creation.



The Green Anglicans were invited to share on the topic "Climate Change as a Human Rights Issue, during which Bino Makhalanyane by making use of the different constitutions of the countries which make up AYSA, shared why Climate Change is a matter of Human Rights.

Mr Solly Nyezi from the African Climate Alliance (ACA) shared more practical activism where young people from ACA are taking the minister of Minerals and Resources to court under the #CancelCoal campaign, while Revd Geke van Vliet gave insight to theologians in the form of youth reps and Chaplains present on The Theology of Climate Justice.



Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/aysa-pyc-consultation/

Free State Diocesan Sunday School Celebration 2024



There was an annual Diocesan Sunday School Celebration, from Friday 27th until Sunday 29th September 2024, hosted by St. Bernard, the Martyr Anglican Church, Far East Archdeaconry – Diocese of the Free State. The event was a huge success thanks to the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ!



On Friday, a multitude of Anglican children, Sunday School teachers and parents gathered at Charles Mopeli Stadium where they were all warmly accommodated amidst the water shortage and electricity shortages in the area.



Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/free-state-diocesan-sunday-school-celebration-2024/

AYSA Diocese of Mthatha Hike and Prayer Picnic



The AYSA Diocese of Mthatha team gathered for a day of adventure at the Port St. John's Military Airstrip on Saturday 14th September. The day was broken down into different phases meant to cultivated encounters that celebrate our creation and encouraging spiritual conversations and encounters. The day kicked off with the hike where three (3) teams were formed. These teams were colour coded with relevant natural earth elements. Red team symbolized rocks, yellow being water and green represented trees. The assignment whilst on the trail was to find how these elements linked to our Anglicanism and a Bible passage that spoke of these elements.



Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/aysa-diocese-of-mthatha-hike-and-prayer-picnic/

St Paul's Youth in George go Green

On Friday the 13th of September the youth and confirmation candidates from St Paul, in the Diocese of George were visited by some of the Diocesan Eco-Champs.



Some of the activities of the day included teachings about recycling and our responsibility to take care of God's creation. The young people also planted the vegetable seeds, which they must look after and bring the project back to the church once the seed germinates. After all green-fingers and hard work, they each ate a nice sausage roll and played games.



We want to thank teachers Bonita Potgieter and Simone Jansen for their distribution to our parish's young people and for making them aware that we are responsible for taking care of God's creation.

By : Corne Robertson

Altar Servers Thanksgiving Cleanup



The altar servers in the Anglican Church diocese of Lesotho have shown their dedication to both their faith and the

environment by taking action to clean up the streets of Hlotse in Leribe. On the 4th of October, as part of their annual Thanksgiving celebrations, the servers spent one hour in the afternoon picking up rubbish and debris in the area.

This act of service is not only a reflection of their gratitude for their blessings, but also a meaningful contribution to the Anglican Communion forest initiative. By cleaning up the streets, the servers are helping to protect and preserve the environment, making a positive impact on their community and the world around them.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/altar-servers-thanksgiving-cleanup/

LCOY



In the lead up to the UNFCC Climate change conferences, different nations hold 'Local Conference of Youth" which seeks to enhance localized youth-driven climate action and provide valuable in-sights for international conferences).

On the 2nd and 3rd of August 2024, Green Anglicans attended the South Africa LCOY hosted by the South Africa Climate Action Network, the Global Shapers Community: Tshwane Hub and the African Climate Reality.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/green-anglicans-at-lcoy-south-africa/

Green Anglicans at ASF conference



The Anglican Student Federation (ASF) held its annual 61st Conference from the 30th of June till 5 July 2024 at the Anglican Training Centre in Maseru Lesotho. On the 2nd of July 2024, members of Green Anglican Lesotho, accompanied by Mr Bino Makhalanyane (Provincial Youth Coordinator) , participated in the ASF Provincial Conference, where they had an enriching and inspiring experience.

The day began with a vibrant morning prayer led by Ms Maipato Kotelo and Mr Rapelang sharing a short homily on "Responsibility came before sin , therefore taking care of creation is not punishment but a responsibility given to us all by our Creator ",these setting a positive tone for the events to follow.
One of the highlights of the conference was a presentation by Ms. Mpona Mohapi, a passionate advocate for climate action and a cloud security engineer by profession.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/green-anglicans-at-asf-conference-taking-care-of-creation-is-not-punishment-but-a-responsibility-given-to-us-by-our-creator/



Never Stop Dreaming: #GenerationalRestoration



On Saturday 15 June 2024 over 80 young people from across the Diocese of Matlosane gathered together at the Diocesan Centre to celebrate nation youth day under the theme of Care for Creation .



The day started of with an outside eucharist service lead by the Diocesan Bishop , where he encouraged the youth to never stop dream and chasing their dreams to become reality, but equally so they should learn to let go of things that keep hold one back from achieving the ultimate goal.

He also encouraged the youth to take care of the environment by getting involved and embracing the Green Anglicans movement, as we only have one common home with all creation and need to therefore, they is a need to live in harmony with all creation.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/never-stop-dreaming-generational-restoration/

Diocese of Johannesburg Servers Guild: Protect, Preserve and Improve

As part of their service to the Lord the Diocesan Servers from Diocese of Johannesburg met at St. James Anglican Church in Diepkloof Soweto for an environmental workshop.



The day started off with Ms. Palesa Phayane (Servers Environmental Affairs Coordinator) sharing the mission of having an environmental desk within the server's guild. The dream is to not only grow trees or pray for the environment but to use this as on opportunity of restoring biodiversity while also putting up climate smart vegetable gardens at parishes. The produce could be donate to local shelters, orphanage or used for parish soup kitchens. She also added that servers are known to be united, supportive and strong willed which is why starting this initiative within the server's guild gives a better chance of success. The environmental initiative within the Diocesan servers guild has got both short term and long term activities which have been outlined.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/diocese-of-johannesburg-servers-guild-protect-preserve-and-improve/

Earth Day at St Michael's School



Bishop Stafford Moses – Diocese of False Bay visited the Grade 6s at St Michael's School in Khayelitsha to celebrate Earth

Day and bless the planting of the trees. The school is situated in a very sandy and windy area and the trees will serve as a windbreak and shade for the play area.

Rev Deon McDillon challenged the children to fight the 'Cape Flats flower" which is plastic lying everywhere. Planet v Plastic is the theme for this Earth Day. #EarthDay



Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/earth-day-at-st-michaels-school/

Mvoti Servers Guild Diocese of Natal



The servers met at All Saints Stanger to recommit to the ministry and receive training for the work of serving God's Church. A key theme of the training was the implementation of what we do sacramentally, as acts of service in the world. "If we carry a Candle on Sunday we are to carry the light of Christ in practical ways everyday." Being a server means serving God in the world he created and redeemed and serving creation by caring for it is fundamental to Christian service. "He who Plants a Tree, Plants Hope" – Thomas Fuller.

Read the the full: https://www.greenanglicans.org/mvoti-servers-guild-diocese-of-natal/

Green Anglicans Africa

The Green Anglicans Movement of Africa celebrates the Season of Creation at the Safe Church Conference



The Anglican Communion held its global conference of the Safe Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

The Safe Church Conference delegates were from 80 Countries across the globe. A total of 250 Delegates participated in the conference. The Conference major outcome was a road map to ensure that the Anglican communion facilitates a Safe Church. Guidelines to safeguarding policies were deliberated on.

Since this took place during the Season of Creation , it was also an opportunity for some members of the Green Anglicans Movement of Africa to meet up and organise a tree planting.

Read the full article: https://www.greenanglicans.org/the-green-anglicans-movement-africa-commemorates-season-of-creation-at-the-global-safe-church-training-in-zimbabwe/

40 Eco-Champs commissioned for the Diocese of Kampala!



Rev Dennis Nthenge was invited by the Archbishop of Uganda to conduct a two day Eco-theology course in the Diocese of Kampala. The goal was to equip and commission lay and clergy to promote and practice stewardship of the environment. Rev. Dennis Nthenge Kiilu is the Chaplain to the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya and Coordinator of the Green Anglican Movement of All Saints Cathedral Diocese

50 members of the Diocese of Kampala attended the two day event which was opened by the Diocesan Secretary and took place on the 18th and 19th of July . The venue was the beautiful setting of Lweza Retreat Centre

Read full article here: https://www.greenanglicans.org/40-eco-champs-commissioned-for-the-diocese-of-kampala/

Launch of Eco-Theology Resource



On Tue 24th of April we were proud to have the Eco-theology resource of Green Anglicans Movement, Africa and CAPA launched by the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Poggo.

The launch video can be found here: **https://youtu.be/sM2hbDqFvk4**

and the resource in three languages here: English: **https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GAMA-Booklet-Eng.pdf**

French: **https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GAMA-Booklet-Fre.pdf**

Portuguese: **https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GAMA-Booklet-Por.pdf**

St Bernard Mizeki in action on World Earth Day



The AMADODANA (Fraternal Saint Bernardo Mizeki) of the Anglican Diocese of Inhambane in Mozambique , fed the Earth by planting Fruit trees (16 orange trees, 5 tangerine trees and 6 coconut trees) totaling 27 on Diocesan land .

Thank you and congratulations to this group that does so much for the well-being of the environment. The Earth needs our care.

Ven Aurelio Uquieo
#communionforest

Read full article: https://www.greenanglicans.org/st-bernard-mizeki-in-action-on-world-earth-day/

Planting Trees to Celebrate Partnership Anniversary



This summer, St. John's, Lafayette Square, was delighted to plant trees in South Africa to celebrate 20 years of its partnership with the Kwasa College. St. John's visited Kwasa during a pilgrimage trip in August led by its Rector, the Rev. Robert W. Fisher.

Kwasa is an Anglican school located near Johannesburg, South Africa. It now serves 450 children through grade 7. Most of the children live in a nearby informal settlement comprised of corrugated metal shacks.

Read the full article: https://www.greenanglicans.org/planting-trees-to-celebrate-partnership-anniversary/

Season of Creation 2024

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION



The theme for 2024 was "To hope and act with Creation" and the symbol is "The first fruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

Creation is groaning in the pains of childbirth (Romans 8:22)

This biblical image pictures the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth. Along with our Sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of the consequences of our destructive actions causing climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering as well as Creation's suffering.

Read full article: https://www.greenanglicans.org/season-of-creation-2024/

Plastic Free July



During the month of July the world globally celebrates Plastic Free July. Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

During the month we created a poster campaign to bring awareness to the challenge of going plastic free for the month of July we shared one poster per week for the month, accompanied with a blog post.



The topics of the posters were:

- Burning plastic is poisonous
- Plastic waste leads to flooding
- Plastic is made from oil
- Plastic pollution impacts