Eco Bulletin

November 2026

🚜 Parish feeds its farmers: a thank-you supper with no agenda

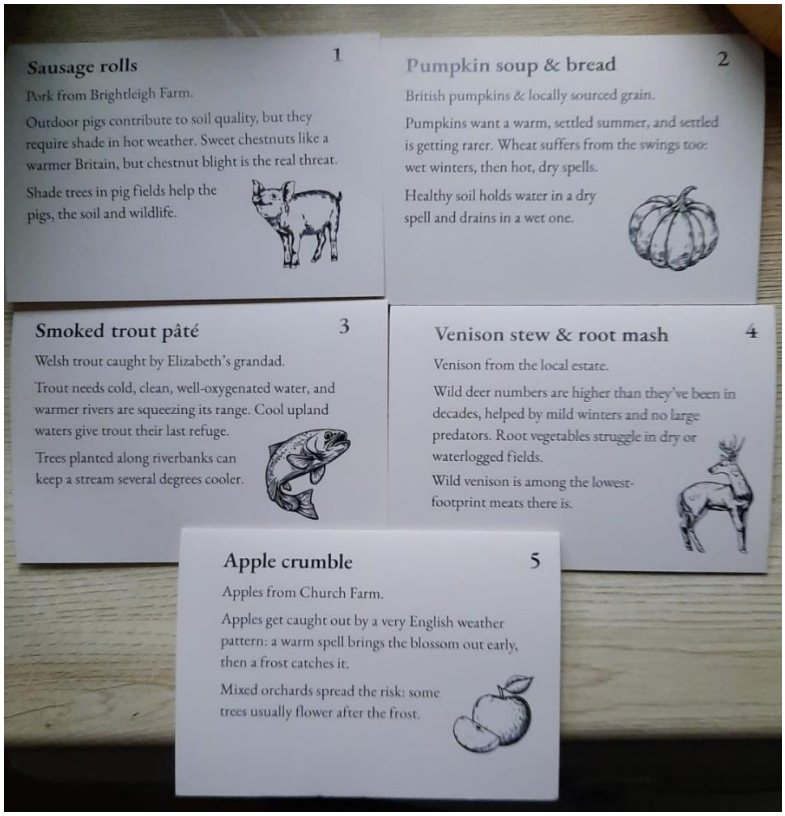
St Mary the Virgin, a parish church in the Windmill United Benefice in Horne, recently hosted a free dinner for local farmers. They welcomed 24 guests from local farming families to a 17th-century barn for a gathering named *The Last Supper*.

The aim was "to say thank you for the unseen work that feeds us". The supper was named after a book on the coming food crisis by Sam Kass, the former White House chef. Drawing on the Last Supper in the Bible, the evening focused on new relationships and transformation, emphasising hope and adaptability in the face of climate change rather than the doom and gloom that can often surround the conversation.

Each course came with a short card on what a changing climate means for the crop or animal on the plate, and each card ended with a line of hope.

One farmer noted, "We all know each other, but we don't necessarily have a chance to sit down and talk to each other as we did tonight." Another said the evening "truly encouraged them to 'speak to thy neighbour'", and a third described it as "pure genius".

The parish sees the evening as rural mission and Eco Church work, rather than fundraising, and says it is the first of its kind. All guests said they would happily come again next year.



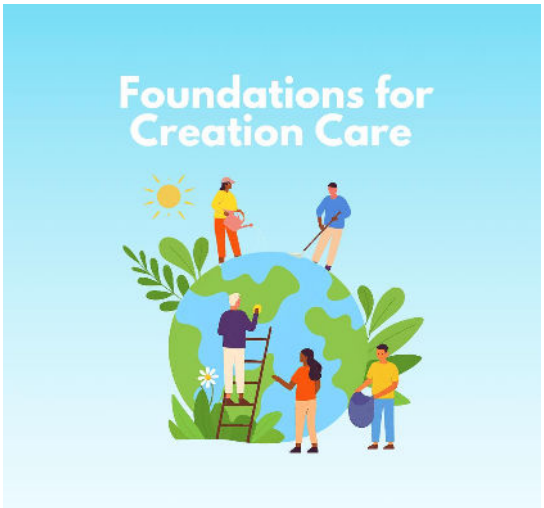
The cards from each course of the evening.

COP- How can you get involved?

This autumn, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Turkey, from 9 to 20 November. While this may seem far away from parish life, with climate change affecting our brothers and sisters both globally and locally, this is a significant event we can pray for.

Find out more about how you can engage with the process and download prayer materials in our blog: How to engage with COP in 2026 - The Diocese of Southwark.

November Foundations for Creation Care Session



We have our final *Foundations for Creation Care* session for the year coming up next week 12th November, **6:30-8pm** on Zoom.

These 90-minute sessions are ideal for anyone wanting to get involved in caring for God's world in their church. Together, we'll reflect on how caring for people and the planet is rooted in our faith and everyday discipleship, and consider practical, hopeful ways to take this forward in church life.

You are warmly welcome to join us for our final session of the year, either as an individual or as a team from your church - find out more and sign up here.

🏅 New Eco Churches & Awards

Congratulations to the Church of the Cross, Thamesmead, for both joining the Eco Church scheme and achieving their bronze last month!

A further congratulations to St Mary Magdalene with St Martin, Addiscombe, and St Paul's Church, Woldingham for signing up to become eco churches.

To find out more about Eco Church and how to get involved head to the website, or book a visit from our Diocesan Environment Officer to discuss ideas for your own church.

Winter Toolkit

Winter months can bring new challenges and pressures for those in our parish. This year, our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation team have created a Winter-Ready Toolkit to help churches prepare and respond to winter challenges. Climate resilience is covered as part of this- alongside loneliness, wellbeing, financial pressures, rough sleeping, and community support.

Check out the toolkit here, and please reach out to let us know what your church is doing and how you are responding this winter season by emailing jpicadmin@southwark.anglican.org.

People's Emergency Briefing Parliamentary Update

A recent showing of the People's Emergency Briefing at our Southwark Diocesan Office, Trinity House.

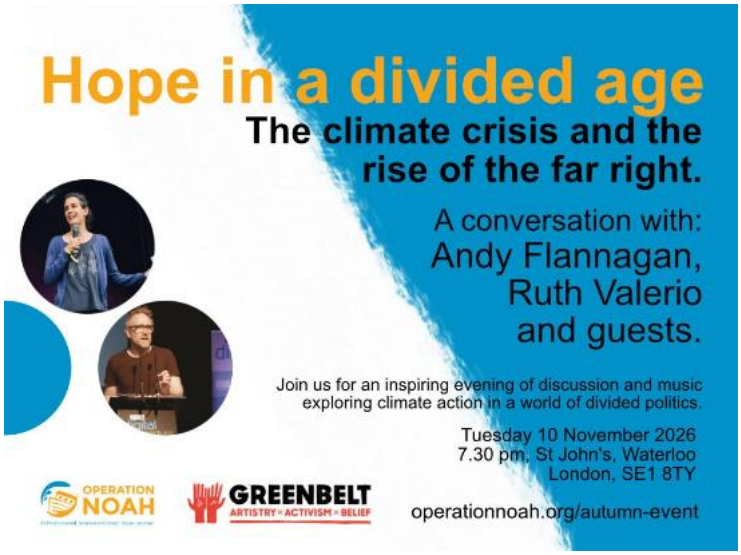
There has been an important development regarding the People's Emergency Briefing film showing.

Over 100,000 signatures have now been received on the petition for a nationwide briefing on climate and nature risks (https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687) – one of the main asks of the film. This means the topic must now be debated in Parliament on 16th November.

For those who have watched the film (and those who haven't) now is a good time to write to your MP to invite them to attend the debate and have their say – and to encourage others to do the same.

Find contact information for your MP here: Contact your MP - UK Parliament.

Faith. Politics. Planet: Hope in a Divided Age



Tue 10 Nov 2026, 7-9pm, St John's Waterloo, SE1 8TY

In an age of political division, rise of far-right politics, and backlash to net zero policies, how can faith inspire hopeful climate action?

Join Operation Noah and Greenbelt Festival at St John's Waterloo, London, on 10 November for an inspiring evening marking the opening of COP31. Hear from Dr Ruth Valerio and Andy Flannagan as they explore how faith communities and campaigners can respond to both the climate crisis and growing polarisation.

Join for a drinks reception, inspiring conversation and an opportunity to connect with others who are passionate about building a hopeful, sustainable future. Find out more and book your place here.

Important Energy News

Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement

The Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) is the largest change to the electricity industry since the market was privatised in the 1990s. Designed to modernise the energy system, it will use electricity consumption data collected every 30 minutes to help suppliers better forecast demand, support a greener and more flexible grid, and encourage new innovation which could lead to lower costs.

As part of this change, all churches will move to half-hourly metering, with bills based on actual usage rather than estimates. For many churches there may be little immediate impact, although costs could change for those that use most of their electricity during peak or off-peak periods.

The rollout will take place in phases until May 2027, so look out for information from your supplier.

Churches in the Parish Buying energy scheme will receive further updates in due course.

Are you paying the correct VAT on energy bills?

A reminder that churches should temporarily have 0% VAT on energy bills from 1st October 2026 until March 2027 - so please look out for this when you get them.

From April 2027, this should revert back to the 5% rate for charities.

There are a number of churches who have been over-paying at 20% VAT. Please check your bills to ensure you are getting the charity rebate for your church.

You can go back 4 years when claiming, so figures can be substantial, and these are claimed via your supplier rather than HMRC.

If your church isn't already a registered charity you can get a certificate showing proof of charity status from A Church Near You – found out how here - Downloading a certificate as proof of charity status – AChurchNearYou.