



New beginnings again!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the re-launched ReActs2 group. Since Phil's sermon on 19th March on Matthew 8 (the cost of following Jesus) and Matthew 25 ("I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"), when each of us (25 people) ticked the box on the sheet in church to express our interest in reviving this group, Ann and I have met together to talk about what ReActs2 previously did, talked about some ideas for 2017 and done a bit of research into future possibilities.

One group, two goals

It seems to us that ReActs2 has two distinct but connected aims; the first is about us being more **environmentally-friendly and socially responsible** in our daily lives ("living simply"), and the second is about us raising money to **help tackle poverty in the developing world** ("that others may simply live").

Ann and I briefly discussed whether there should be two separate groups to tackle these two aims (with most of us probably wishing to participate in both groups) or whether to have one dual-purpose group. We have opted for the latter. It is a little daunting because almost every issue and campaign in the whole wide world becomes relevant when you start to consider how to live simply and in such a way that others may simply live. For this reason, we're planning to break it down and focus on one or two things at a time. This month we're highlighting recycled paper and introducing the idea of raising money for a water tap in Africa, which will be an on-going project.

Meetings and newsletter

ReActs2 used to meet every Tuesday. Meetings are helpful but perhaps weekly is too frequent? What do you think? Where would we hold them?

Having a monthly newsletter helps everyone to be aware of what's going on and have their say. Fundraising events, special interest nights and social activities will provide plenty of opportunities to get together and inspire one another.

Please get in touch

Your comments on, letters to and articles for the ReActs2 newsletter are actively encouraged. Please email them in. Thank you!

Acts, Chapter 2

Finally, as this is the first newsletter of the re-launched group, here's a reminder about the group's name, which refers to verses 42 to 47 in the second chapter of the book of Acts:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

Being devoted to God

Sharing their belongings

Being generous to the poor

Meeting together and eating together

Marion Taylor
ReActs2 Coordinator

ॐ LIVING SIMPLY... ॐ

This month's "living simply" section is all about recycled paper.



Do you use a printer at home? What sort of paper does it use? Do you have any say about the type of paper that is purchased for your workplace, school or college?

Making paper out of recycled paper uses 70% less energy and 73% less air pollution compared with making it from raw materials. Plus, it takes twenty-four trees to





make a ton of newspaper, so, recycling paper reduces the number of trees which have to be felled. This is good news for the environment because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, they release oxygen, their leaves nourish the soil and their roots help to prevent soil erosion (source: www.recycling-guide.org.uk).



On a global scale, carbon dioxide is one of the main "greenhouse gases" causing global warming and sea level rise, so reducing our carbon dioxide emissions is a good thing all round.

Where can it be bought?

White A4 paper made from 100% recycled paper isn't widely available but you can find it with a little effort.

The Post Office Shop (online) sells a ream (500 sheets) of 80gsm recycled white A4 paper for £4.19. Delivery is £2.99, but free for orders over £30, so if enough of us wanted a ream we could get them delivered for free. Just let me know.

I have searched online at Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrison's and none of these supermarkets sell A4 recycled paper, although they do sell recycled toilet paper (not made from toilet paper) and recycled kitchen roll, which is great.

Please let me know if you find recycled A4 paper on sale anywhere in Sheffield and I will put a note in the next newsletter!



Next month's "living simply" will look at ways to save our energy bills. Write in and share your top tips!

...THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE

A Water Pump for an African Village

In this month's "that others may simply live" section, I want to introduce the idea of raising funds for a water pump in Africa.



I still have some research to do about the details but, in principle, I think it would be great if we committed ourselves to raising money for a water pump in Africa. How much would it cost? £500? £1,000? I don't know yet, but I'm sure if we held a couple of coffee mornings, wine and cheese evenings or cake sales each year for the next one, two or even three years, we'd raise it eventually. And then a community in Africa would have water available, in their village, for ever.

Having water available nearby makes a big difference, especially to women and children who generally do the fetching and carrying-type household tasks. It frees up time to be able to do other activities like farming and studying. Having more water available in the house means that people are more likely to wash their hands at all sorts of appropriate moments in the day. People tend to bathe more frequently when water is readily available, which helps to prevent the spread of illnesses and disease.

When we've raised enough money for a pump, we could think about other things. How about solar panels for a school? A wind turbine for a clinic? Or another pump for another village? It's incredible to think that our spare change could have such a massive impact on another community's quality of life.

ASHA

The water pump project is a one-off and not intended to replace the good causes we already support. St Tim's



has long been committed to two worthwhile charities, ASHA and Christian Aid.



ASHA works in the squatter settlements (slums) in Delhi where the city's lowest-paid workers live. ASHA provides staffed health clinics and trains community health volunteers (CHVs), including children, to help teach health education and take care of the local population's health and well-being. In 2015-16, all of the babies born in ASHA project areas received their childhood immunisations, which is a better rate than the average for India as a whole. ASHA also seeks to raise the aspirations of slum children by organising homework clubs where older students tutor younger ones, students have the chance to use computers and there is fun and games too. ASHA pays for school exam fees, books and uniforms so that young people from the slums can attend college and even university, which is a huge achievement and gives a lot of hope and inspiration to the younger kids. Since 2008, 1,500 students have gone to university thanks to ASHA. The charity has also helped slum communities to lobby their local councils to them with provide piped water, sanitation, paved roads and electricity.

We already have a couple of fundraising events for ASHA each year, like the curry night and other collections. Lifting whole communities out of poverty is a slow, incremental transformation that needs long-term financial support.

Christian Aid

As well as ASHA, St Tim's Church has long been a supporter of Christian Aid. This charity is the official relief and development agency of 41 British and Irish churches, including the Church of England. It works with 570 partner organisations in 45 countries around the world to tackle poverty and challenge the rules and systems that keep people poor.



We currently support Christian Aid Week in May by holding a collection. I propose that we also have a few fundraising events through the year (how about a Hunger Lunch every quarter?) and send the money raised to Christian Aid.

🌿 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 🌿

Monday 1 May 2017 – May Day Trek in aid of Christian Aid. Starts at 09:30am.

See www.sheffieldmaydaytrek.org.uk for more details.

14-20 May 2017 – Christian Aid Week

🌿 LETTERS FROM READERS 🌿

Looking forward to receiving your letters (by email)

🌿 FRUIT AND VEG IN SEASON THIS MONTH 🌿

Best right now Cauliflower
Also good Cabbage, spring greens, cucumber and kale



(Source: www.eatseasonably.co.uk)

🌿 CHILDREN'S CORNER 🌿

Make an Easter garden!

Take one tray or baking tray. Cover it in tin foil. Sprinkle soil over the foil to make the garden. Make a mound in one corner and use twigs and string to make three crosses. Stick them in the mound. In the front of the mound, make a hole to represent Jesus' tomb. Or use some stones to make a tomb separate from the mound. Use some little stones to make a path to the mound. Put an old make-up mirror in one corner to be a pond. Take one stone and place it by the tomb, to be the open door. Cover the soil with moss, grass or sand.

🌿 CONTACTS 🌿

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