

Water is a necessity for us to live. It can also be a cleansing flow, a destructive flood, a symbol of our spiritual needs or a sign of God's blessing. Our bulletin this Lent looks at water in a variety of ways.

God's love for the earth

One of the first Bible stories that we learn as children concerns Noah and the ark. Noah and his family are saved from the great flood, along with 2 animals of every kind. After the waters have gone down, Noah and all the animals come out of the ark. And God shows them a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise that he will never permit a great flood like this again.

We all know the story of this great covenant that God makes with Noah. But read the story carefully and you will see that the covenant is made not only with Noah but with every living creature, with the whole earth. The Bible tells us that the whole universe is God's creation, he made it and *saw that it was good*. His love for it is so profound that he makes an everlasting covenant to care for it.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, "See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you; everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again."

God said, "Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth ... When the bow is in the clouds I shall see it and call to mind the lasting Covenant between God and every living creature of every kind that is found on the earth." (Genesis 9)



We were told you were taking creatures that came to you in pears

Can you colour in this picture of Noah?



2021

An important year for the UK as we host the G7 in June and also COP26 (inter-governmental conference on climate change) in November. Our government can have real influence for good —let's make it count.

Watch this space!!

CAFOD Walk for Water

Abdella is 23 and he has big dreams. He dreams of starting a small business. He dreams of starting a family. He dreams of having his own home He dreams of the day he won't have to walk ten hours to get water.

Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive. And he could start on the dreams he has for the rest of his life.



£750 raised through Walk for Water could pay for a pump that brings water to out-of-reach communities.

Could we, as a parish, raise £750 this Lent?

The Daly family in our parish has decided to walk ten thousand steps every day during Lent in order to raise money for this project. Could you make a donation to sponsor them? Or perhaps you would like to join them in walking 10K steps a day—if so, do let us know.



Donations to this parish project can be made:

- Online at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/the-daly-daily-walk-for-water>
- By picking up one of the CAFOD envelopes at the back of church and returning it via the parish collection basket (any time during Lent)

You can also donate to CAFOD in these ways:

- By text — text LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message, and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460)
- By phone on 0303 303 3030

I was thirsty and you gave me to drink. (Matthew 26:35)

Three simple ways to be smart with water

- Clean your car with a bucket, not a hose.
- Don't buy bottled water—fill a reusable bottle instead. And plan ahead to make it happen!
- Take a shorter shower or smaller bath.



"OH, COME TO THE WATER ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY." Isaiah 55:1

Loving God,

we hear your call to all who thirst for a brighter future: Come to the water.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and lead us to walk alongside one another.

Let a desire for change well up within us. May we overflow with compassion and love.

And as a stream wears away stone, may we reshape our world together to reflect your kingdom of hope for all.

Amen.