

World Focus for October

World pollution

God's commission to mankind includes stewardship of His creation (Genesis 1&2).

One development during 2018 has been growing awareness of the harmful effects of plastic waste in the world's oceans. This varies in size from tiny micro-plastics to drinks bottles and larger items. We can welcome efforts to reduce waste entering the seas and various efforts at removing what is already present.

A continuing trend in the UK is a drastic reduction in the use of single use plastic items such as straws and lightweight bags.

One long-standing adage has been "reduce, reuse, recycle" which reminds us all to live responsibly. As Christ's followers, we do so motivated by our love of the Creator and in recognition of all that He has done for us.

Sustainable Development Goal number 12 is "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns." We might explicitly include waste disposal. In many development contexts, waste disposal was simple when all materials were locally sourced from natural sources; everything would simply biodegrade. This no longer applies when manufactured products are used, notably plastics. A key need becomes the establishment of recycling procedures and industries.

In terms of Mission Partners, whilst none are overtly involved in environmental actions, we can be praying that they include sustainable care for God's creation in all activities and engagement with others.

PS. The documentary ***Drowning in Plastic*** shown on BBC1 on 1st October gives details of the effects of plastic waste in the oceans. It will be available online throughout October.

Intercessions on Sundays:

Please use a selection of the following.

World pollution:

- Responsible stewardship of the earth's resources
- The widespread development of recycling facilities
- The replacement of plastics with biodegradable materials wherever possible

Knowing Jesus Christ and sharing His hope:

- Pray that many find peace with God because of how each of us lives our daily lives
- Likewise, pray that all involved with each of our mission partners will make Jesus accessible to many by how they live their lives and do what they do

You are welcome to pray for any of the church's Mission Partners you know well.