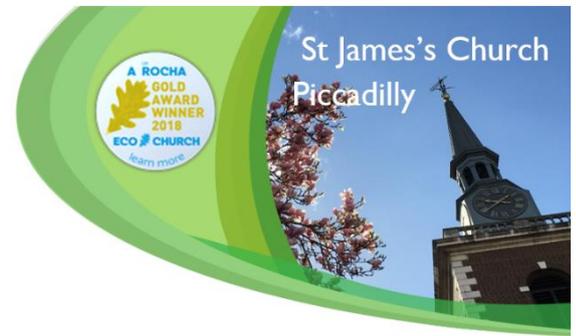


# Season of Creation

at St. James's Piccadilly  
28<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019



'Creationtide' or the 'Season of Creation' is the period in the annual church calendar (from 1st September to 4th October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. The theme for 2019 is 'The Web of Life'.

At St James's, we will celebrate the Season of Creation in our regular 11.00am Sunday service through the hymns we choose and the liturgy of the word. In addition, we have several special events planned.

*'...Creation is not something that happened a long time ago, it is happening today.... God is eternally uttering the word, the name, that is making me real, now. If God stopped uttering that word, that name, you and I and the whole universe, Betelgeuse and Alpha Centauri and everything at the end of millions of light years, would just stop being there.... We are seeking to connect with that moment of creation, the eternal reality of God speaking, God giving, God calling us into life' - Rowan Williams*

Creationtide is originally an Eastern Orthodox initiative, but has now spread widely among Anglican, Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations, bringing Christians together to pray and work for the protection of the earth, our common home, that sustains all of us. The C of E lectionary hasn't quite caught up with Creationtide but there are many resources available online <http://seasonofcreation.org/> and <https://creationtide.wordpress.com/>

**Weds 28<sup>th</sup> August 6.30 - 8.30pm**  
**In conversation with Michael Leunig**

Michael Leunig is an Australian cartoonist, writer, painter, philosopher and poet. His commentary on political, cultural and emotional life spans more than fifty years and has often explored the idea of an innocent and sacred personal world.

The fragile ecosystem of human nature and its relationship to the wider natural world is a related and recurrent theme. We are delighted to welcome Michael to St James's as we prepare for the Season of Creation.

Tickets: : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-michael-leunig-tickets-67982879623>



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1.00 – 3.00pm**  
**Lunch and discussion with Larry Rasmussen**

Lunch and discussion with Larry Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

We will be discussing 'A Love Letter from One Geological Epoch to the Next'. It is a letter to Larry's grandson, Eduardo, about our time and his and what he faces in the long, hard transition from industrial to ecological civilisation.



Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 3.00 – 4.00pm

Life on Earth:

A joint Creative Spirit / Eco Church liturgy

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and all its myriad interactions. Genes, species, communities of creatures and entire ecosystems in their physical environments have made Earth habitable for billions of years. The air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat all rely on biodiversity.

Seen like this, biodiversity represents the knowledge gained by life about how to survive in the vastly varying environmental conditions Earth has experienced, and the current catastrophic loss of biodiversity is in effect humanity 'burning the library of life' (from The Guardian).

Join us as we reflect on the past, present and future of life on earth in a participative liturgy.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 9.45am

Welcome to Autumn

Our regular eco-contemplative liturgy in the garden, followed by refreshments



*'God's creation is wider than the human race. What is true of persons is also true of things.... Each element in the material world carrying a 'word' from God, revealing an aspect of God's life and wisdom. If we believe this, we shall not be inclined to treat the world around us as if it were just a quarry from which we take what we want and exploit it.*

*In the sphere of ecology and the crisis of our environment, we are now more than ever conscious of the need for something like a religious perspective to be brought back into our attitude to a world that is not ours but is related to God before it is related to us. In the Bible, God calls the world good before human beings are in it.'*

- Rowan Williams

29th September 1.00 -3.00pm

Climate Justice:

A report from Nicaragua

Lunch and discussion with our friends from Amos Trust <https://www.amostrust.org/> and their partners at CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) <https://www.amostrust.org/climate-justice/cepad-nicaragua/>

*'Climate change is a justice issue. Those who have the least political and economic power, and the least responsibility for the changing climate, are affected the most. Nicaragua is particularly vulnerable — being the fourth most at-risk nation in the world due to changing climates. Amos Trust supports seven communities in Teustepe in Nicaragua in partnership with CEPAD who work in isolated rural communities, addressing the impact of climate change and causes of extreme poverty.'* - Amos Trust



We are delighted to welcome Damaris Albuquerque and Gilberto Aguirre, Directors of CEPAD, to speak to us.



6th October

Harvest Festival and ASWA Annual Service for Animal Welfare Sunday

Today we celebrate St James's ASWA accreditation as an animal friendly church, and are delighted to welcome our friends from the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals <https://www.aswa.org.uk/> and guest preacher Rev. Jeremy Fletcher

<http://hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk/data/staff.php> .

Dogs welcome (as always!) Plus:

- Vegan community lunch made from food that would otherwise have been thrown away, in partnership with City Harvest <http://www.cityharvest.org.uk/>.
- Exhibition of photographs on the theme of our relationship to domestic animals by a member of our community.
- An opportunity to contribute to a community artwork on the theme of extinction led by artists Phil Barton and Catherine Herbert.

TBC: Bioblitz in the Southwood Garden – a chance to get up close and personal with the invertebrates garden home.



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