**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH—SALTDEAN**

**The Season of Creation**

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1st September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration which starts on 1st September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

This time is a celebration of prayer and action for our common home. Together, the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray for God’s creation.

This year the theme is, “**A HOME FOR ALL? RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD.”**

Oikos is the Greek word for “home,” or “household.” Rooting the theme in the concept of oikos, celebrates the integral web of relationships that sustain the well-being of the Earth.

**Abraham’s Tent**

This year’s symbol is Abraham’s tent,and signifies our commitment to safeguard a place for all who share our common home, just as Abraham did in the Book of Genesis. Abraham’s tent is a sign of hospitality for the excluded. We are invited to pray with and for the most vulnerable in their community. We are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects, or advocacy.

**Prayer:** Use our prayer time to bring before God our concern and care for our common home.

**Sustainability:** Look at what we can do better to preserve the world for future generations.Lead a clean-up project that helps all of creation thrive.

**Advocacy:** Raise your voice for climate justice. Perhaps add your words to the Church of England Write a Letter for Creation campaign <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/creationtide/get-your-voice-heard-write-letter-creation>

18th September is the Feast of Hildegard of Bingen, an 11th Century Abbes who wrote spiritual works, this prayer is associated with her.

A Call to Prayer

*The earth is at the same time mother,
She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human.
She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all.
The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power.
It is in so many ways fruitful.
All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind, but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son. Amen.*

Love and prayers Fr Jim

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK**: -

SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER (16th Sunday after Trinity)

8am Said Eucharist in Church

10.30am Eucharist in Church

Morning Prayer Monday—Thursday 9am on Facebook Live

Evening Prayer Monday—Thursday 5pm on Facebook Live

(facebook.com/StNicholasChur3/)

TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

10am Eucharist in Church

THURSDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

12.30pm Eucharist (BCP) in Church

Please consider making a donation to St. Nicholas. You can do this by clicking on the following link:-

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/862821d0-c09b-48e4-95e3-871cb542bc1d>

Or you can contact Diana about other ways to give. Tel. 07809-385622 or email di@nabarton.co.uk.

**Table Sale– this Sunday 19th September**

We will be offering homemade cakes and gifts. If anyone has any surplus produce, plants or vegetables to add they would be gratefully received.

**Saturday 25th September**—**CURRY NIGHT**

7pm for 7.30pm—tickets are available from Ellen or Cathy priced at £12.50. There will be a pay bar and you can dress for the occasion if you wish!

The Parish Office is now open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon. Tel. no. 01273-390544

**Fr Jim Horton**

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**Church Wardens**

Neil Fox (07947-244172)

Lis Telcs (07866-469402)

**Keeping in touch.** In these difficult times please be assured we are praying for you and if you need any support; spiritual, emotional or practical please let us know.

God bless Fr Jim (Vicar) and Reverend Kate (Associate Vicar)