

September heralds the Season of Creation in the church calendar and having just experienced what is likely to be the hottest summer the UK has ever had, this year's theme of "Living Water," seems very appropriate and timely. This issue focusses on the importance of water, and the many ways we can help protect our rivers, lakes, ponds and seas with the lifestyle choices we make.



A prayer for Creation tide 2026

May God the Father, who brought us
water from the rock;
sustain us.

May Christ, the Living Water; refresh us
for the work of restoration.

May the Holy Spirit carry us on currents
of grace until justice flows
throughout the earth.

AMEN

*(Ref: adapted from the 'Season of Creation
website 'Ecumenical Prayer' 2026.)*

Water is a powerful global issue. For most of the time we can be forgiven for viewing it as an invisible, but essential commodity. We wash our hands with it, flush the toilet, drink it, wash our clothes, our cars, ourselves with it! It is quite literally 'on tap'.

Currently, 60% of the world's population live in areas where there is water –stress; where the water cannot sustainably meet demand. The UK drought situation this summer has offered us an insight into the difficulties facing 'water-scarcity'; whether this is shortages for agriculture (food production), industry and municipal infrastructure. Climate change (changes in rainfall) and the effects of water pollution will inevitably lead to increasing pressures on those places already under water stress.

We need to recognise that water is not a limitless resource. The average person in the UK uses around 980 litres per average week; the Environment Agency predicts that by 2050 there may be significant shortages in the water supplies, especially in the south-east. By reducing our wastage of water, we can help make a difference: simple steps might include taking shorter showers, avoid running the water when brushing your teeth, avoiding the use of a hosepipe and collecting rainwater in butts to water garden plants.

Access to clean water is a fundamental right of all life; the Book of Revelations suggests "the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flows from the throne of God" - heavenly water and real earthly water are the essence of survival. (Ref: "L is for Lifestyle" Ruth Valerio 2019)

Help build a Tower of Teabags!



We are collecting boxes of Fairtrade teabags throughout September, culminating in a tower building challenge at our Harvest celebrations (St Nicholas 27th September, St Mary's 4th October). Tea production is affected by climate change which threatens global yields, endangering the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers. Fairtrade as an organisation helps provide financial safety nets and the technical training farmers need to invest in infrastructure like drip irrigation. Buying Fairtrade products helps to support these communities. The boxes of teabags will then be distributed to community projects across Haxby, Wigginton and the wider York area. If you are able, please put donations in the boxes in church.