

# An A to Z of the Communion Forest

*Renewing the life of the earth across the Anglican Communion*

ANGLICAN  
COMMUNION  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
NETWORK



**ANGLICAN ALLIANCE**  
Development · Relief · Advocacy

ANGLICAN  
COMMUNION  
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES



# What is the Communion Forest?

The Communion Forest is a bold, hope-filled initiative of the Anglican Communion - the world's third largest Christian community, spanning over 165 countries and 85 million people. In response to the accelerating environmental crisis, the Communion Forest brings together churches, communities and individuals across the globe to conserve, protect and restore forests and other ecosystems, grow trees and embed care for creation into the heart of church life.

Launched at the 2022 Lambeth Conference, the Communion Forest is a living embodiment of Anglican commitment to the Fifth Mark of Mission: *strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*. It is growing into one of the most geographically widespread and ecologically diverse environmental initiatives in the world.

The Communion Forest is a *global* initiative made up of *local* activities undertaken by individuals, parishes, dioceses and provinces across the Anglican Communion. It is not centrally driven: activities are chosen locally so they are geographically, culturally and ecologically appropriate. Activities can be practical, advocacy-based or spiritual - and ideally all three.

## **This brochure highlights some of these local activities - from Australia to Zimbabwe.**

The Communion Forest was inspired by - and builds on - the many environmental initiatives already happening across the Anglican Communion - and it provides a platform for celebrating and sharing these initiatives.

It is also not a funding body. The role of the small staff team (spread across the world and together less than one full time equivalent) is to connect, equip and inspire - the same as the Anglican Alliance, which manages the Communion Forest with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network.

**If you are an Anglican individual, parish, institution or diocese engaged in ecosystem conservation, protection or restoration, or growing trees, and would like your activity to be seen as part of the Communion Forest, please let us know! Contact us: [Communion.Forest@aco.org](mailto:Communion.Forest@aco.org)**

Launch of the Communion Forest with symbolic tree planting, Lambeth Palace 3 August 2022.  
Photo: Ian Walton for The Lambeth Conference.



*“The Communion Forest may be the most inclusive and accessible initiative within the Anglican Communion, as it embraces all scales and forms of environmental action - personal or institutional - allowing individuals and communities alike to discover their unique vocation in caring for God’s creation.”*

*Bishop Maurício Andrade, Bishop of Brasilia, Brazil*



Find out more



Donate

[communionforest.org](https://www.communionforest.org)





# The Communion Forest Comes to The Abbey



*The Abbey in Australia has joined the Communion Forest initiative, reflecting its long-standing commitment to caring for God's creation. Operated by the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, it is a Christian centre for hospitality, spirituality and the environment, welcoming people to reflect amid the beauty of creation.*

*Set in Victoria's Gippsland Lakes, The Abbey's 5 hectare site includes remnant vegetation, revegetation, protected neighbouring land and a foreshore reserve overlooking Lake King, an important habitat for migratory birds. Its community has planted and cared for hundreds of trees and shrubs over many years. The Gunaikurnai people, the traditional owners of Gragin, have cared for the island for thousands of years and continue to joint-manage parts of it.*





# Prayer Trees of Hope: Gippsland's Growing Communion Forest

*The Diocese of Gippsland in Australia marked the 2024 Season of Creation with the launch of The Abbey's Prayer Tree initiative at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. The project invites communities across Gippsland to plant prayer trees as signs of hope, faith and love, creating a dispersed forest that will become part of the worldwide Communion Forest.*

*The idea grew from The Abbey at Raymond Island's invitation to join the Communion Forest. As The Abbey did not need more trees on its own grounds, director Dr Cath Connelly imagined a forest spreading across the diocese instead. Inspired by visitors who come to The Abbey seeking quiet, reflection and prayer, the initiative offers trees as places where people can leave written prayers and connect with faith beyond the chapel walls.*

*At the heart of the vision is The Abbey's Grandmother Tree, whose dying branches and new growth speak powerfully of death, resurrection and renewal - a living symbol of prayer, hope and God's creation.*





# A Tree for Every Confirmation



*Archbishop Jeremy Greaves of Brisbane, Australia, has been a passionate supporter of the Communion Forest since its launch and regularly shares about the initiatives he has encouraged on social media.*

*Archbishop Jeremy gifts a tree to every person he confirms.*





# A Sacred Calling to Safeguard Creation

*In Bangladesh, the Diocese of Barishal is nurturing a growing culture of creation care, where faith, survival & environmental action are deeply connected.*

*Through sermons, diocesan revival meetings and the regular planting of trees in church compounds, clergy, young people, and lay communities are being encouraged to see care for creation as part of their spiritual calling.*

*By inviting confirmation candidates to plant and tend trees, and by aspiring to become “green churches” through renewable energy, the diocese is helping the Communion Forest take root in daily discipleship and hope for future generations.*





# Growing Trees, Growing Friendships

*For many years, the Diocese of Bath and Wells and the Anglican Church of Zambia have shared a strong partnership, building friendships and learning opportunities between communities in both countries. As part of the Communion Forest initiative, schools connected through this partnership are taking practical action to care for creation by growing and planting trees in their local communities. Through shared learning, young people gain a deeper understanding of climate change and challenges facing communities in different parts of the world.*

*Schools in Bath and Wells support their partner schools through fundraising to help transport trees (which the Zambian government provides for free), while students, teachers and local communities in Zambia work together to plant and care for them. Alongside the environmental benefits, students build friendships across continents and develop a greater sense of responsibility for the world around them. By combining environmental action with global partnership, the project is helping to create greener spaces while strengthening bonds between schools and communities in Bath and Wells and Zambia.*





# From Concrete Plans to Sacred Garden



*In Palmas, central Brazil, a parish originally planned to clear a wooded area to build a new church. However, after reflecting on the Communion Forest's call to care for creation, the community made a radical choice: instead of cutting down the trees, they left them standing and transformed the site into a prayer garden. Today, this quiet oasis in the heart of the city offers a space where worshippers can connect with God through the natural world. It also stands as a visible symbol of environmental stewardship, inspiring the wider community to protect and cherish the land.*



# Where Church Roots Become a Forest

*Christ the Redeemer Parish in Araranguá, Brazil, has established an ecological sanctuary as part of the Communion Forest on the site where the church was founded, transforming it into a protected environmental reserve.*

*The sanctuary preserves the area's natural life, including fruit trees grown on the site, and offers a living expression of the parish's commitment to creation care.*





# The Communion Forest and the Call to Climate Justice



*During COP30 in Belém, Brazil, Rev. Dr Rodrigo Espiúca, Communion Forest facilitator for the Americas, helped connect the Communion Forest’s vision with the wider climate justice movement.*

*Through the Tapiri Ecumenical and Interreligious House, he worked alongside Indigenous leaders, quilombola communities, youth networks, ecumenical partners and Anglican companions, affirming that “Indigenous voices are not optional; they are essential for safeguarding creation, because they speak from ancient relationships with the land that the world urgently needs to honour.” Here, the Communion Forest linked faith, ecological action, grassroots testimony and global climate commitments.*





# *Branches of Hope: Twinning Trees in Canada and Uganda*



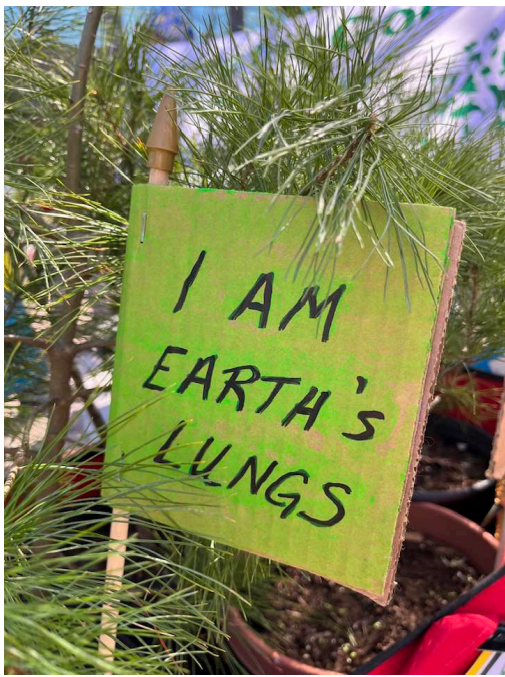
*Through its Branches of Hope initiative, the Diocese of Ottawa in Canada is restoring creation at home and abroad by planting native trees locally and supporting large-scale reforestation in Uganda. In partnership with Alongside Hope and St. Jude Family Projects, each tree planted in Ottawa is “twinning” with multiple trees in Uganda, strengthening ecosystems and communities in both regions.*



# A Forest of Faithful Action

*The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in **Canada** is engaging with the Communion Forest in a local, relational and justice-focused way.*

*Through its Diocesan Environmental Network (DEN), this has not simply meant planting trees, but standing alongside Indigenous communities in their call to protect forests from clear-cutting, bringing public witness into the Season of Creation, and celebrating creation care through an annual waterfront parade.*



*Alongside advocacy and public witness, parishes are nurturing practical signs of renewal: tree planting at St Luke's, Dartmouth; sharing and planting Eastern White Pine seedlings in churches and parks; adding native trees to church grounds; installing EV charging stations; distributing pollinator seeds; and supporting urban food forests.*



# Advocacy at the UN Convention on Biodiversity - Colombia



*“The Communion Forest gives credibility to the Anglican Communion’s advocacy in spaces like the UN Convention on Biodiversity. It shows we are not just telling others what to do - we are planting, restoring and protecting creation ourselves.”*

*Nicholas Pande, Communion Forest Global Facilitator.  
Nicholas attended the CBD with Bishop Graham Usher, the Anglican Communion lead bishop on biodiversity (below).*





# A Green Sanctuary



*Bishop William Bahemuka Mugeni of Boga Diocese is turning a 30-acre gift of land in the Democratic Republic of the Congo into a living laboratory for conservation. Rather than clearing the forest for cocoa, he has chosen restoration - planting thousands of trees, protecting a 15-acre natural forest, nurturing new seedlings and creating a haven for birds, insects and small animals.*

*His early use of eucalyptus has also become part of the learning journey: recognising its damaging ecological impacts, he is changing course and moving towards more suitable native species.*

*Rooted in childhood memories of the rainforest, his work shows that restoration is local, personal and shaped by the willingness to learn.*



# Blessing Creation in El Salvador

*On World Environment Day 2024, Archbishop Juan David Alvarado, joined by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, blessed the launch of the Communion Forest in Central America at a site in El Salvador. The site will protect nature, grow trees, and serve as a hub for workshops and leadership training in environmental justice - planting seeds of change across the region.*





# Restoring Bartonsham Meadows for Nature and People

*The Church Commissioners for England have made an agreement with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to create a new nature reserve at Bartonsham Meadows.*

*The partnership will help restore the 100-acre site on the banks of the river Wye to a more natural state and create a wildlife haven for nature and people alike.*



FRIENDS OF BARTONSHAM MEADOWS



# Planting trees of celebration in Eswatini

*In Eswatini, Revd Canon Nikki Arthy and Dr Giles Field planted four mango trees as part of the Communion Forest, marking Nikki's sabbatical, Giles' retirement, and their two sons, Joshua Sizwe and Dominic Sipho.*

*Returning to the country where they had lived 30 years earlier and where their commitment to the environment began, the couple joined the Diocese of Eswatini in a simple but meaningful act of creation care.*



*The trees are being nurtured by the diocese as living signs of gratitude, memory and hope for the future.*



# Oceans of Justice

The Communion Forest was inspired by, celebrates and builds on the extensive environmental work already taking place across the Anglican Communion. The work of Climate Commissioner Fe'iloakitau Tevi is one such inspiration.

## Soko Ni Nuiui — "We Are the Ocean"

(Eastertide 2026)


**“ The ocean is not a barrier, but a bridge**

**📅 Dates**

April 10 - May 15, 2026 (50 days)

**📍 Locations**

Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Aotearoa New Zealand



*During Eastertide 2026, the Sail for Hope voyage carried a powerful Pacific witness for ocean protection, climate justice and intergenerational advocacy across Fiji, using the traditional voyaging canoe Uto ni Yalo as a living symbol of shared responsibility for the Moana.*

*The initiative brought together more than 1,400 people for Anglican-led training in oceanic stewardship, climate science, worship and community resilience. At its heart were young people and communities listening across generations to the wisdom of elders and the urgent signs of land and sea. By linking Indigenous navigation, Christian formation and practical climate action, the voyage transformed advocacy into lived experience: listening to frontline coastal communities, naming the impacts of rising seas, erosion and disrupted ecosystems, and calling the Church to speak and act for environmental justice, ocean health and the protection of the Pacific peoples whose culture, livelihoods and identity are inseparable from the sea.*



# More Than Trees: A Mission of Hope and Justice

*In March 2026, Anglican representatives from across Latin America met in Guatemala for Decolonial Hermeneutics for Socio-Environmental Justice. The gathering affirmed Communion Forest as an ecclesial practice linking ecological restoration, theology, community accompaniment, and advocacy.*

*Participants stressed that caring for creation in Latin America is inseparable from defending territories, rivers, and ecosystems connected to Indigenous, traditional, and rural communities. As Rev. Rodrigo Espiuca said, the Communion Forest is about “planting hope, restoring relationships, and walking alongside communities who protect life and territory.”*





# Greening the World, One Child at a Time

*The Communion Forest was inspired by, celebrates and builds on the extensive environmental work already taking place across the Anglican Communion. The Church of South India was one such inspiration.*

*The Church of South India is putting care for creation at the heart of its mission, with children at CMS Lower Primary School Ennooramvayal leading the way. Through its **Green Schools Programme**, every child plants and cares for at least one tree each year - helping the school community plant and nurture 50,000 trees over the past decade. The project has restored local habitats, attracted birds and animals, and inspired pupils to grow vegetables, reduce plastic use, and learn practical lessons in sustainability.*

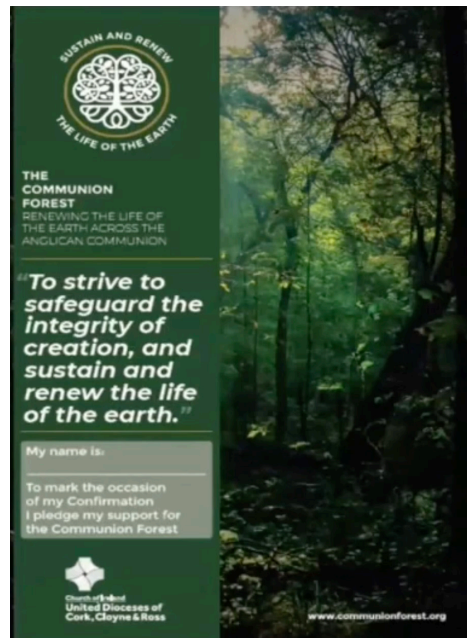




# Confirming Faith, Restoring Forests

*Recognising that Ireland is one of Europe's least wooded countries, the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has joined the Communion Forest by linking tree planting with confirmation.*

*Working with Reforest Nation, around five native Irish broadleaf trees are planted for each confirmation candidate. Each person confirmed also receives a packet of native wildflower seeds, a certificate and a badge as a sign of their commitment to creation care and the fifth Mark of Mission.*





# Kenya – A Forest of Celebration and Commitment



*The Archbishop of Kenya celebrates his birthday each year by planting trees - one for every year of life - and has established a Communion Forest at his official residence.*

*Across the province, confirmation candidates receive saplings, while diocesan lands are being used for reforestation.*

“

*The Communion Forest is a powerful symbol of the Church’s commitment to restore what has been lost. It is more than a forest; it is a global project that represents renewal, healing, and the hope of restoration. Every tree planted is a sign of the Church’s recognition that we must act now to heal the wounds inflicted upon creation.*

*The Communion Forest is not just a physical forest; it is a spiritual act of worship, where every seedling planted symbolizes a step toward reconciliation with the earth. By planting trees, restoring ecosystems, and educating communities about the importance of sustainability, the Communion Forest exemplifies the Church’s commitment to honoring God’s creation.*

*The Anglican Communion, through this initiative, is sending a clear message to the world: we have a duty to undo the damage we have caused. It reminds us that caring for creation is not an optional act of charity, but a core part of our faith. It is our response to God’s love, a love that extends not only to humanity but to all of creation.*

*The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya.*



# A Carbon Partnership Takes Root in Kenya

*The first Partners in Carbon Sequestration pilot is underway in Makueni County, Kenya, led by Anglican Development Services Kenya.*

*Across two Anglican sites, 700 saplings have been planted, with the project expected to lock up 400 tonnes of carbon over its lifetime. Awarded the Climate Stewards' Seal of Approval, it brings together faith, community action and climate care, while offering valuable learning for future church-led carbon projects.*





# Walking in Prayer, Planting in Hope

*In Lesotho, Eco-culture - the Diocese of Lesotho's environmental care body - organised an ecumenical ecological walk and prayer service in a forest that needs protecting and also worked with members of Mother's Union in the Cathedral of St James and St Mary's Parish in Maseru to establish an orchard.*





# Restoring Mangroves, Renewing Creation

*The Diocese of Inhambane in Mozambique is restoring the mangrove forest near Inhambane Bay in Maxixe, where years of cutting for fuel, building materials and farming had damaged a once-thriving ecosystem.*

*Led by Bishop Emmanuel Capeta, the Venerable Aurélio Uqueio (below), Green Anglicans and 48 young people, church members have planted 530 mangrove seedlings with support from the municipal government and local communities.*

*Rooted in prayer and practical action, the project is helping protect the coast, support marine life and food security, purify water, store carbon and show how churches can care for creation in locally meaningful ways.*



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# Planting the Vision

*When the Diocese of Waiapu, New Zealand, launched the Communion Forest there, each archdeacon received a tree to plant in their archdeaconry - symbolizing connection to the global initiative and a call to spread the vision: nurturing trees as living symbols of faith and celebration.*





# *Rooted in Relationship: New Zealand, Vanuatu and the Communion Forest*

*The Parish of Te Puke, in Waiapu Diocese, New Zealand, regularly hosts seasonal workers from Vanuatu who work in the kiwifruit orchards nearby.*

*When they leave, the church holds a service of farewell. This now includes planting a tree to add to the Communion Forest in recognition*

*of the community of people who travel from Vanuatu each year to support the kiwifruit industry, but also to make links with the Anglican parishes in Vanuatu where they come from, and to highlight the challenges of climate crisis faced by the islands of Vanuatu.*





# Mangroves and Unity

*In February 2025, two churches - the Episcopal Church of the Philippines and the Iglesia Filipina Independiente - joined forces for a mass mangrove planting in the Visayas region. The initiative restored vital*



*coastal ecosystems while building unity across traditions and deepening engagement with environmental justice.*





# Planting Resilience in Papua New Guinea

*In the remote mountains of Lower Jimi in Papua New Guinea, coffee trees are becoming symbols of faith, resilience and hope. Responding to environmental challenges including flooding, drought, landslides and rising sea levels, the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea has planted 11 coffee trees in the Aipo Rongo Diocese.*

*The initiative, led through the Church's Parenting for Child Development programme in partnership with UNICEF PNG, brought together church leaders, families and children. Nine trees represent parishes participating in work to protect children and safeguard biodiversity, while two symbolise God's love for creation and the Church's commitment to caring for the earth.*

*As the trees mature, they will provide income for local families facing economic hardship. Accompanied by prayer and community participation, the initiative demonstrates how care for creation can strengthen livelihoods and nurture hope for future generations.*





# Franciscans Stand with Solomon Islands Forests

*In the Solomon Islands, Anglican Franciscan Brothers are challenging destructive commercial logging that is damaging forests, rivers, reefs, livelihoods and communities.*

*Rooted in their Franciscan calling to care for all creation, they have taken local stories of environmental harm and human rights concerns to the United Nations’ Universal Periodic Review process, with support from Franciscans International and other partners.*

*With several recommendations accepted by the Solomon Islands Government, the Brothers are now building on this first step through advocacy, human rights training, community monitoring and future mission programmes that could include reforestation, education and practical support for forest protection.*





# 100 Trees for 100 Years

*When the Melanesian Brotherhood celebrated their centenary in October 2025, they planted 100 trees at Tabalia in the Solomon Islands, as a sign of faith, mission and care for creation and as part of the Communion Forest.*

*The act reflects the Anglican Church of Melanesia's call to witness to God's kingdom through healing and caring ministries.*



*As the trees take root, they stand as living symbols of the Brotherhood's enduring commitment to God's creation and to protecting the earth for future generations.*



# Restoring Sri Lanka's Mangroves, Renewing Hope

*The Diocese of Colombo is bringing new life to Sri Lanka's coastlines through a mangrove reforestation project that restores ecosystems damaged by civil war, development, and rising seas.*

*By mobilising local communities to plant and nurture young mangroves, the project is helping protect freshwater sources, create habitats for marine life, store carbon, and strengthen natural defences against storms, cyclones and tsunamis.*



*Through perseverance, this inspiring work has gained international recognition, showing how Anglican communities are helping to conserve, protect, and restore creation.*



# Growing Green Spaces for Healing and Hope

*The Anglican Church of Southern Africa's Provincial Standing Committee has pledged support for the Communion Forest, encouraging dioceses and parishes to grow and care for trees, restore biodiversity and remove invasive plants.*



*Inspired by the vision that “the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations,” the initiative invites churches to weave tree growing into baptisms, marriages, funerals, confirmations, festivals and other gatherings - creating shade, protecting land, reducing pollution and nurturing green spaces for rest, recreation and renewal.*

*Sapling distribution at a chrism mass*



# Church and Government Unite for Tanzania's Forests

*In response to climate change and pressure on natural resources, the Anglican Diocese of South West Tanganyika has worked with government partners to plant 310,000 tree seedlings across 69 villages in Tanzania's Njombe region.*

*Following parish training on tree care and forest conservation, the project restored barren land in 20 parishes with rainfall-attracting, timber and wood trees, supported by technical guidance from Njombe Natural Resources and Land Management and Tanzania Forestry Services. Community agreements ensure that part of future timber income will fund replanting, making this a practical partnership for protecting water sources, restoring forests and caring for creation.*





# Daily Bread

*The Mothers' Union in Trinidad and Tobago has launched a Communion Forest project planting breadfruit trees to support food production and help alleviate poverty.*

*Led by Mothers' Union President Valerie West (pictured below) and launched on International Justice Day, the project distributed seedlings to church members so the trees can be planted in different communities - growing food, strengthening local resilience and offering a practical sign of care for creation.*





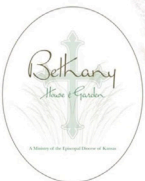
# Restoring Sacred Roots in the Kansas Prairie

*The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas in the USA is reconnecting with its sacred roots in the land by restoring prairies and woodlands across the diocese.*

*As Kansas's native prairie has diminished, so too have vital habitats, biodiversity, soil health, clean water and carbon-storing native grasses. In response, the diocese is establishing prairie restoration sites in each of its four convocations, helping communities see creation care as a spiritual practice as well as an ecological one.*

*The diocesan centre, Bethany House and Garden, has become a resource centre for water management, carbon sequestration and native planting on church lands, inspiring parishes to create pocket (and larger) prairies and pollinator habitats.*

*Kansas's initiative has now expanded to 11 dioceses in the prairie belt.*



## Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Restoring Sacred Roots



# Where Faith and Forests Grow

*The Episcopal Diocese of Washington has embraced the Communion Forest initiative, inviting parishes to plant and care for trees to mark special occasions such as baptisms, weddings, birthdays and confirmations.*

*Across its urban, suburban and rural communities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, churches are encouraged to shape creation care around local needs - from planting native trees and fruit bushes to restoring habitats, feeding wildlife and supporting food banks - as practical, prayerful signs of care for God's creation.*





# Young Anglicans Plant Prayers for Creation Care

Young people from across the USA's Episcopal Church gathered for the 2023 Episcopal Youth Event, where nearly 1,500 delegates came together to learn, worship and share ideas. The Creation Care Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington hosted an interactive Communion Forest booth, inviting participants to add prayer leaves to a tree and mark creation care projects on a U.S. map.



The booth sparked lively conversations about creation care, climate justice and practical action in churches and communities. More than 100 prayer leaves were added and over 60 projects identified, reflecting the energy and hope of young Anglicans committed to protecting and restoring the earth.





# Planting Hope on Pentecost

*On North Pentecost Island, Vanuatu, Ethel George, the Women's Desk Officer for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, delivered tree seedlings to local leaders as part of the Communion Forest initiative - fittingly, during Pentecost. A beautiful blend of faith, community, and creation care.*





# *Tumsisiro: A Sacred Forest for Prayer and Creation Care*

*The Melanesian Brotherhood in Vanuatu is creating the Tumsisiro Communion Forest Conservation Area on Ambae, a sacred space that brings together environmental protection, prayer and reflection. Rooted in the Brotherhood's constitution and the fifth mark of mission, the project expresses their commitment to care for plants, animals, birds, fish and all God's creation.*

*The forest offers Brothers and visitors a peaceful place to encounter God through nature, hear God's voice in creation and see the environment as a holy altar. The Brotherhood hopes to work with others to protect and nurture this sacred place for generations to come.*

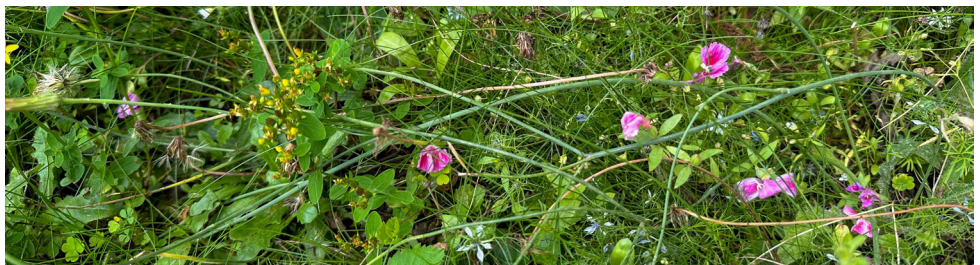




# Wildflowers at Westminster Abbey

*An exhibition on the Communion Forest at Westminster Abbey concluded with the planting of the visitors' wildflower-embedded prayer slips. Months later, a once-mown lawn bloomed with colour - and even a native orchid emerged after years of dormancy.*

*In the heart of London, a visible sign of ecological renewal took root in one of the most sacred and public spaces in the country.*





# **Faith in Action: Greening a Community, Growing a Forest**

*The Diocese of Central Zimbabwe is restoring 105 hectares of forest on its AdPatrick Farm, in partnership with the Zimbabwean Forest Commission and Environmental Management Agency.*

*The church is helping children and the wider community learn about conservation, tree planting, and caring for the environment.*

*The project includes replanting trees, sharing seedlings, and introducing clean energy options such as solar power and biogas. These efforts aim to reduce reliance on firewood while protecting and restoring the local landscape.*





And the leaves of the tree  
are for the healing of the nations.  
Revelation 22:2