**LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM**

**LINDA MORRIS**

**ANNUAL REFLECTION**

**SECOND YEAR: 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024**

**Introduction**

Actions, which I carried out between 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024, were directed to the Laudato Si goals:

* Respond to the Cry of the Earth
* Respond to the Cry of the Poor
* Ecological Economics
* Adoption of a Simple Sustainable Lifestyle
* Ecological Education
* Ecological Spirituality
* Community Involvement (resilience) and Participatory Action (empowerment) to Care for Creation

Details of these proposed actions were given in my second Action Plan for 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024.

I attempted to carry out these actions, together with additional actions which arose from opportunities, throughout the year. Details and an evaluation of these actions is given in my Annual Self-Assessment 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024 as a separate document.

Looking back over the past 12 months, I feel that, with the Grace of God, I have achieved more than I believed possible. At the end of January 2023, I felt daunted by what I was proposing in my Action Plan – would the opportunities arise, would people be interested, could I complete the training, would I have time? etc. etc.

By responding positively to invitations to be involved with projects (some of which, initially, I was not looking forward to), and with the support of my husband, I have been overwhelmed by peoples’ support and enthusiasm – in many cases they have kept me going. In September 2023 I was humbled to receive the Papal Award, ‘Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice’ which I received from the Bishop of Liverpool, during a parish Mass celebrated by the Bishop and my Parish Priest who had nominated me for this award.

In addition to my continued involvement with existing groups e.g. schools, parishes, Secular Franciscans, fellow allotmenteers etc., I continue to meet more people both within and out with my parish – local government officers, leaders of charities, leaders from churches of various denominations, the archdiocese’ ‘Care for Creation’ group, deanery groups etc., all of whom support my Laudato Si activities. My proposed actions for my third year, 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025, and beyond, include involvement with these groups.

Although I have carried out most of my proposed actions, sometimes circumstances have not permitted them. A reflection on the impact of my actions and decisions, associated with each Laudato Si goal, follows.

**Reflection**

1. **Respond to the Cry of the Earth**

Overall, I am happy with the personal and routine actions taken and I propose to continue with these actions.

On a personal level my carbon footprint appears to be higher than in the previous year. As I have taken steps to reduce my footprint, I think I may have miscalculated it at some time. In March 2024, I intend taking part in a workshop at a Climate Conference when I will recalculate my footprint.

Actions associated with the ‘Care for Creation’ group e.g. tree planting, recycling, the construction of raised beds at church for growing vegetables, wildflowers and flowers for church arrangements have been successful. Delays due to weather etc. mean that the planned harvest for the foodbank didn’t happen – however this will happen in 2024 and in succeeding years.

The use of the Easter flower arrangements to make people aware of the impact of natural disasters and climate change was very successful. I propose continuing with a similar themed event each year.

1. **Respond to the Cry of the Poor**

In general, I think that I have made progress with my planned actions.

Throughout the year, I have continued to support humanitarian and wildlife charities.

Due to events beyond my control, the planned visit of Palestinians to my church did not happen. However, I used the opportunity of the Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation to highlight the situation in Israel.

The Advisory event ‘Guide2Help’ held at my doctor’s surgery for people struggling on a low income was successful. A similar event, involving more doctor’s surgeries and advisory bodies is proposed for Spring 2024.

As mentioned above, the parish vegetable plot and foodbank support are ongoing – though delayed by the weather.

I have extended my support of refugees and trafficked people as planned by supporting the local Asylum Seekers project for which I intend continuing sewing up knitted blankets.

I have not been involved with the school’s CAFOD ‘Live Simply’ Award, however, I have assisted in registering 2 parishes for this award and am currently designing proposals for activities.

The use of the Easter flower arrangements was very successful in highlighting the plight of vulnerable people.

1. **Ecological Economics**

Throughout the year, I have continued to support farmers via petitioning for their needs.

I have taken more consideration of sustainability before buying food, clothes etc. I continue to cut down on my energy and water use, make my own compost, grow my own vegetables, fruit etc.

Due to seasonal timing and weather conditions, I have not been able to supply the foodbank with fruit and vegetables, however, I plan to progress this during 2024 and beyond.

The sale of grave pots, using mainly recycled and donated materials, was very successful, we made 200, 50 more than last year, and all were sold, raising money for charity.

1. **Adoption of a Simple, Sustainable Lifestyle**

With the ongoing cost of living crisis there is an added incentive to reduce energy consumption, recycle, reuse, repair, grow more, buy local and eat less meat. I have made limited progress with a particular recycling scheme – I need to progress this further.

The use of recycled materials in the construction of flower arrangements and grave pots was very successful and will be repeated.

In addition to trying to live a personal simple sustainable lifestyle, I have proposed similar activities for parishioners in the CAFOD ‘Live Simply’ Award. As these have not yet been approved by the Parish Priest, they have not been initiated; however, I propose to purse this during 2024.

Having been elected as the Greener Governance Governor for a local primary school, I can ensure that they are on track to meet their sustainability targets. However, as there are many facets to their sustainability requirements, progress, although on course, is not as quick as I had hoped. I need to ensure that I visit and monitor when necessary.

1. **Ecological Education**

I have made good, though slow, progress in my role as Greener Governance Governor.

I have been successful in expanding ‘ecological education’ activities by my role as Minister of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity by joining with the National Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Minister. I am able to disseminate information to the fraternity.

Education of parishioners and the community by the formation of the ‘Care for Creation’ group and its associated activities have been more successful than anticipated. This group has now become a Laudato Si Circle.

The Season of Creation’s Ecumenical Prayer service was a great success with more people attending than I anticipated – we had to print off additional service booklets!! This is certainly something I will carry out again. Last year, I considered promoting this Service to non-Catholic denominations, however seeing the support these churches already give us, I intend to remain at my church and continue inviting them to join us.

1. **Ecological Spirituality**

I have progressed my personal eco-spirituality, mainly through LS training and webinars. Unfortunately, the development of part of the school nature garden as a prayer garden still did not happen.

Through discussion and prayer, I have progressed some aspects of spirituality in the Franciscan Fraternity meetings.

As stated above, the ‘Care for Creation’ group is now a Laudato Si Circle. Meetings follow the format of prayer, reflection, action etc. as advised in the Circle Handbook and Prayer Guides. This is proving to be successful.

1. **Community Resilience and Empowerment**

Various communities have worked together on various activities, for example parishioners from my parish, the local Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, primary schools, high school, parishioners from 8 local churches and a school Governing Board. These are long-term actions which I intend to continue and expand on.

**Proposed Actions**

Based on this Refection, I have evaluated the impact of the actions I carried out during 2023/24 and have identified those which I should progress and/or develop. During 2022/23, apart from petitions, I worked at personal and local levels; during 2023/24 I have expanded activities to include more people in community-based activities. I propose to continue with these activities and, when opportunities arise, expand them.

My proposed Action Plan for:

(a) the 12 months 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025

(b) the next 3 to 5 years

is submitted as a separate document.

Linda M Morris 21st February 2024