

Experience the Dawn Chorus in the Bishop's Garden

The Bishop of Clifton, Right Reverend Declan Lang, is inviting people to a special event on **Sunday 6 April**. As part of Clifton Cathedral's year-long series of environmental events - Sound of Many Waters - the Bishop is hosting a dawn chorus - in his back garden. The event is free and open to all - but you'll need to be up with larks as it runs from 5am to 8am. People can drop in at anytime during the event. To wake you up and keep you going teas, coffee and croissants will be laid on.

Top naturalist Chris Sperring MBE of the Hawk and Owl Trust leads the event. He'll be on hand to explain the sights and sounds of this wonderful springtime sonic experience.

Bishop Declan said:

"The dawn chorus is part of Sound of Many Waters - which Clifton Cathedral has organised to explore our need to care for our environment. It's a way of helping us find out more about the natural world on our doorstep.

"I'm delighted Chris Sperring will be with us. His enthusiasm and insights will really help us enjoy the dawn chorus.

"I've got my alarm clock set! But if the dawn chorus is a little early for you, there are several other events that might be of interest."

Organiser Mary Colwell said:

"Sound of Many Waters is great opportunity to put our appreciation of the natural world and faith in the same place.

"Our events on Sunday 6 April - like listening to bird song, finding out about fresh, local food and a nature walk on our wonderful Downs - are usually activities done through naturalist groups and societies. But here we are enjoying the world around us in a church context. Our society likes to put activities in different boxes, nature here, religion there, but in reality there is no division, because if God is in all things, then he is in a dawn chorus as well as a church.

"I'm really looking forward to the day and hope people in Bristol and maybe beyond will enjoy it as well."

The bishop's garden is at St Ambrose on North Road in Leigh Woods. Further details and directions from www.soundofmanywaters.org and 0117 973 8128.

Three other Sound of Many Waters events take place on Sunday 6 April.

Spring lunch and cookery demonstration with Bordeaux Quay's Kate Benson 11.30am to 2.30pm in the Apostle Room at Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road. Using seasonal and local ingredients cookery teacher Kate will take you through the preparation of a tasty lunch with a wide variety of dishes which you can then enjoy. Limited numbers, so tickets are needed. Book yours for just £20 each on 0117 973 8128.

Brilliant Birds Family Fun Walk

4pm to 6pm starting at Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road.

Fun, games and activities for all the family led by Ed Drewitt from the Bristol Ornithological Club and Mandy Leivers from the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project. The walk goes to the peregrine watch point on the Downs and, on the way, you'll learn about the birds that make this amazing area their home. Free and open to all. Just meet at the Cathedral at 4pm.

Catholicism and the Natural World

7.30 pm in Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road.

The Bishop of Clifton, Right Reverend Declan Lang, who is the Bishop with responsibility for the environment for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, joins Mary Colwell for an illustrated talk. Free and open to all.

Sound of Many Waters

A year-long exploration of our need to care for our environment. The celebrations at Clifton Cathedral in Bristol draw on Catholic teachings, insights and networks - and are open to everyone. Together we can help restore the world, and fill it with the sound of many waters, flowing together. Sound of Many Waters was launched on Saturday 29 September 2007 when Right Reverend Declan Lang recently-appointed Bishop with responsibility for the environment for the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrated a special Mass. Full details of the opening Mass and subsequent events from www.soundofmanywaters.org.

Sound of Many Waters is inspired by Mary Colwell a Clifton Cathedral parishioner and BBC Natural History producer. It is supported by a range of organisations including WWF, Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD and the Apostleship of the Sea. Sound of Many Waters has backing on the national and international scene. Messages of support have been received from the Bishops' Conferences of Australia, USA and Scotland.

Right Reverend Declan Lang said:

“Join with us on the journey of Sound of Many Waters. Here at Clifton Cathedral our series of events demonstrate action, prayer, fun, and reflection, to help us explore our need to care for our environment.”

Sound of Many Waters began with the support of: WWF; Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC); Clifton Cathedral; Clear Design UK; St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Bristol; Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; The Apostleship of the Sea; Clifton Diocese; and CAFOD.

Next Sound of Many Waters event

Thursday 5 June 2008

Saints & Sustainability

United Nations World Environment Day

A lively evening at Clifton Cathedral exploring tales of Catholic saints who protected the environment. Radio and TV presenter Martin Palmer guides us through 2000 fascinating years of Christian engagement with our natural world, bringing to life amazing stories,

legends and myths. Martin's presentation leads up to Bishop Declan Lang launching the theological reflection produced by Gavin D'Costa, the University of Bristol's Professor in Christian Theology and Mary Colwell. Come World Environment Day 2008 you can access this beautifully-produced and much-needed summary of current theological thinking on the environment from www.soundofmanywaters.org.