**Recycling achievement report for**

**Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Parish**

In this season of Advent I bring glad tidings from the recycling projects in our parish! As part of our efforts to gain the *Live*Simply Parish Award a number of collections of various waste items are on-going in the parish, working together with the Terracycle company and others, to raise funds for the parish and other charities. From myself and the LiveSimply team a BIG THANK YOU to everyone that in the last 12 months (1st Nov15 to 31st Oct16) has contributed items for recycling. **In total we have raised £531.00**.

Here is a report back, from items collected:

**The Writing Instruments appeal** – funded by “Bic” we have collected just over 40kg, which raised **£80.00** for the North Herts Sanctuary across the road. This is equivalent to over 4000 items sent for recycling instead of going to a landfill site in the UK!!! In total since 2013 this raised £305.98. Currently there are two Primary schools collecting for us, they are Our Lady’s and White Hill, but I would love it if all schools in Hitchin would come on board as well. Is there anyone able to help this to happen?

**The Coffee Packaging appeal** – funded by “Kenco” we have only collected 23kg, which only raised **£25.00** for PHASE. This is a collection facility that is poorly supported in our parish, with some 800 families, we get few of these items for recycling, so I appeal to all parishioners that drink coffee in your homes and at work - please help us double the collection rate over the coming year. In total since 2014 this raised £80.34.

**The Tassimo appeal** – funded by “Tassimo” we have collected some 551.5kg (over ½ ton) of all types of Tassimo discs and bags, they raised **£326.00** for PHASE. This is a collection facility that is very well supported by our parish and further afield, so if you already use this make, don’t throw the waste away, bring them to church instead – by the way, there is no need to empty the residues out of each disc, just let them dry out. Please be aware that Tassimo will only fund waste recycling for their own products and not any other brand. For those using other brands, please use alternative schemes elsewhere for recycling. In total since 2014 this raised £1082.00.

So ***Phase*,** the local charity set-up by Churches Together in Hitchin to provide faith and counselling support in Hitchin secondary schools, is to receive this year directly the combined amount***£351.00*.**

**The Biscuit Wrapper appeal** – funded by McVities, we have collected almost 11kg, equivalent to about 4500 wrappers, which raised **£100.00** for our parish’s hardship fund. And even better news: *from now until the end of January 2017 we can take part in their Biscuit Wrapper round-up competition, and if we become one of the top 20 sites in the UK, we could be awarded a share of £500 prize funds* on offer, so if anyone is tempted enough to eat sweet biscuits, make sure that the wrappers are brought to be recycled! Please note that the wrapper must say that is from a sweet biscuit type product or it will not be accepted by McVities. All savoury product wrappers are excluded. In total since 2013 this raised £274.00.

**The Mobile Phones recycling** – over a year ago Terracycle stopped accepting these, but we recently teamed-up with another company *“Phone Recyclers”* and have sent them 35 collected mobile phones and raised **£100** for the parish funds. With *Phone Recyclers* we will be able to continue to provide this facility and raise funds for the parish from recycling mobile phones.

However, we have to stop the collection of Laptops/tablet computers since Terracycle have also discontinued that service and we have not yet found a suitable alternative service.

We have also collected several bag loads of coloured **milk bottle tops** or plastic lids – that have been taken to either of the nearest Lush Cosmetics shop in Luton or St. Albans to be re-used in their products packaging manufacturing site. The type of coloured plastic that they use in their factory is only of type **HDPE or High Density Polyethylene or type-2**, shown asor  - please remember that if the lids do not specifically show a recycling sign with a number 2 in it, then it will not be suitable to them, as it could contaminate the whole batch and make it useless.

These lids can also be recycled through the NHDC grey bin scheme, which is hand sorted in St. Albans, and most often is sent out of the country to be re-processed, on the other hand, our option allows for this type-2 of plastic to be re-used as a raw material for packaging in Poole, with environmental benefits all round!

If you haven’t a copy already, take a list of recycling projects in the parish, and use it as a guide. Please come and see me with any related questions you may have, and **thank you** for your support! We should all be very proud of all that has been achieved in the last 3.5 years of recycling. Full totals can be seen on the LiveSimply notices.

My appeal today is for greater support if possible from everyone in the parish.

All that was waste - that did not end-up in a landfill site somewhere on Earth. Once again, it’s not money I am after – **it’s some of your rubbish!**



Thank you very much!

May God’s Earth be blessed with all our efforts !

Deolinda Eltringham