

(Week beginning 16th March)

Lent prayers

‘He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate-bringing forth food from the earth.’ Psalm 104:14

This Lent we are inviting you to pray for projects overseas that are helping people to improve the environment, help wildlife or to avoid the effects of climate change. Each week we will tell you a bit about the projects and ask that you pray for their success.

21st March is the United Nations International Day of Forests, so this week we invite you to pray for the work of all the charities, including Farm Africa, who are working to protect forests and the people who rely on them.



The theme for this year is ‘Forests and Food’. Forests are essential for food security, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and a thriving planet. They provide everything from fruits, nuts, seeds, tubers, mushrooms, honey and insects to fuelwood for cooking and boiling water. At the same time, they provide habitat for insects that pollinate crops, clean water and make fertile soil. In times of crisis, forests are a lifeline, preventing malnutrition and famine when farmed crops fail. Maintaining the health of forests is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

However, in many regions forests are under threat due to habitat destruction, land use change, pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and growth of populations and cities.

Farm Africa is one charity working to promote agroforestry whereby trees are grown alongside food crops. Here we see Benjamin, a village-based advisor in Farm Africa's regenerative agriculture project, and his wife Rose, inspecting their farm in Kenya.



Sustainable forest management can ensure food security while supporting Indigenous communities and preserving forests for the benefits of people and wildlife.