

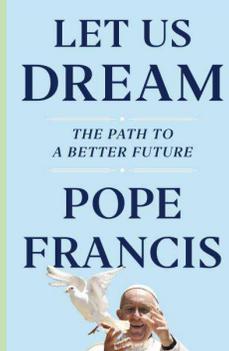
LIVE SIMPLY

FEBRUARY 2021

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A review of 'Let Us Dream'

by Pope Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh



“God asks us to dare to create something new. We cannot return to the false securities of the political and economic systems we had before the crisis. We need economies that give to all access to the fruits of creation, to the basic needs of life: to land, lodging and labour. We need a politics that can integrate and dialogue with the poor, the excluded and the vulnerable, that gives people a say in the decisions that impact their lives. We need to slow down, take stock, and design better ways of living on this earth.” Pope Francis

This statement from the Pope summarises his reflections on what we can all learn from the Covid-19 pandemic. A crisis can also be an opportunity. He addresses the key global issues of our time that have been highlighted by the crisis through drawing on the precepts of Catholic Social Teaching. He warns us about the virus of indifference. It is those on the margins such as refugees who need our especial attention. Our responses require a compassion that moves beyond the boundaries of culture and ideology that often divide us.

In this short, accessible book Pope Francis uses examples from his own experience of visiting those throughout the world who are the most vulnerable. His dealings with Church gatherings have led him to consider different fresh ways of enabling people to participate in decision making. His message is thus both for the Catholic Church and those in authority throughout the world. How do we enable real dialogue to take place? How do we recognize differences of opinion to

be held in tension yet allow the Grace of the Holy Spirit to find expression in overflows of collective resolution?

Pope Francis offers us a resource to inspire and guide us in this moment of profound challenge. It calls on us now, to have the courage and to take the actions to make the world safer, fairer and healthier for all people.

Making some improvements to your home? Want to know how to become a low carbon energy household?



This can feel like a big challenge but local organisation CREW (a not-for-profit, Community Benefit Society) is determined to help community groups and individuals across Wandsworth and Merton boroughs access low carbon renewable solutions, end **fuel poverty** and build stronger more resilient and sustainable communities. CREW have the expertise to advise on improving energy efficiency in our homes and run energy advice cafes to help reduce energy usage and fuel bills. Call 0808 169 1779 for energy advice or look up the Crew Energy London website.

If you missed these gripping programmes you may want to catch up:

A Perfect Planet BBC One



In the final episode of this series Sir David Attenborough pleaded with the public to help in the best way possible by reducing their carbon footprint and making small changes. "Right now we have the capacity

and knowledge to stop the damage we're doing, but what we don't have is time...the survival of humanity and our fellow creatures on earth depends on it.”

The Reith Lectures BBC Radio 4

Mark Carney reflects on the deeper issues. What is value? How does the way we assess value both shape and constrain our choices? Carney argues that society has come to embody Oscar Wilde's old aphorism: 'knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing.' He suggests ways which will allow inclusion and environmental sustainability.

The future is electric...how people are switching from driving petrol and diesel



Transport - and our personal decisions about how and what we use - impacts on the health and sustainability of the world. We are facing the need for big changes in the near future. This article focuses on the recent announcement to ban the sale of petrol and diesel cars in 2030 (and hybrids by 2035) which means the clock is now ticking for people to make a switch in their choice of car. There remain nagging concerns about the viability of electric vehicles and price, “range anxiety” and battery life all feature.

Notwithstanding the reservations, ownership of EVs has grown exponentially in recent years even during a time of reduced car purchases during the current Covid pandemic. In Wandsworth the registration of plug-in vehicles has increased from 252 in 2012 to more

than 5,000 in 2020. Purchases are increasing by 10% every three months. *

It's equally important to applaud the infrastructure being put in place to enable the street recharging of EVs. Wandsworth council has already made a borough-leading investment in charging points and plans to increase the number to 9,000.

Motorists may have already chosen to opt for hybrids as a compromise; having enough electric battery-driven range for daily urban usage with the backup of a petrol-driven engine for longer journeys.** Whatever our choices it's important to recognise that we as consumers have a role to play in helping to move the tide in favour of the greater needs of the planet and humanity. Recognition of a climate emergency has already filtered through to industry and technology to move us away from our dependence on fossil fuel production.

* Wandsworth Council website December 2020

* "Which" Car Guide February 2021

Working in the garden? Secret Garden walk?

It's time to fork over the vegetable beds, removing weeds as you go and adding plenty of manure or compost. This is a surprisingly easy task with all the rain we've been having. If you're thinking of planting potatoes start the seed potatoes by putting them in egg boxes with the "eyes" facing up. In a while they will begin to "chit" and be ready to plant sometime in March.



If you don't already know the beautiful community garden at St Paul's Church, Clapham Old Town, then a walk to the 'Eden Garden' is a complete delight. Hidden away at the end of no-through road Rectory Grove is this lovingly maintained little oasis.