

**Subject: Woodland**

### *Woodland Workshop at St Luke's, Formby*

#### **Here's what we did:**

The Church is known as "The Church in the Pinewoods". The Woodland Workshop began, when we were clearing the site for the building of the meeting room. Paths have since been created, seats, bat boxes and bird boxes have been put in place, wild flowers have been transplanted, daffodils & new trees have been planted.



We are thinning our sycamore saplings to encourage re-growth of flora of the woodland floor and to prepare for replanting with pine trees to provide food for our red squirrel population.

#### **Who we worked with:**

We are now part of the new Sefton Coastal Forest which in turn is part of the Mersey Forest. We are receiving valuable advice from both these organisations and the Sefton Coast and Countryside Management Scheme.



#### **Health and safety issues:**

It is essential to ensure that everyone knows how to use Woodland tools and the safety rules associated with them. Demonstration is essential the first time the individual is using them. Power tools must not be used by children. Appropriate protective clothing must be provided for the various activities.

#### **What went well:**

Our church has been awarded the 'Eco-Congregation Award', the first one in the north of England. Church members are much more aware of environmental issues due to the project. We have become involved with the National Wild Flower Centre (in Knowsley) by collecting seeds and growing them on in mini greenhouses. One of our members is going out to our church project in Rwanda, to demonstrate how to construct pole lathes.

#### **Telling people about it:**

We have appeared quite often in the local press and we have been on BBC Radio Merseyside 'Daybreak' on a Sunday morning. We have a regular feature in the Church magazine.

#### **Funding:**

We have received a grant from the Forestry Commission through the guidance of Mersey Forest. This is part of our involvement with the Sefton Coastal Woodland Project.

#### **Where you can go for help or advice:**

We have received very useful help and advice from Mersey Forest and from the Sefton Coast and Countryside Management Project including workshop facilities.

#### **For more information about this please contact:**

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#### **Local to Global**

In Africa's drylands, the massive loss of trees exposes the topsoil to the ravages of strong winds, blistering sun and brief but violent rains, removing the means for people to grow their own food.

TREE AID is working to reverse poverty and environmental degradation for some of the most threatened people on earth, through skills transfer and community forest and income generation projects. Find out more by contacting them on 0177 909 6363 or visiting [www.treeaid.org.uk](http://www.treeaid.org.uk)