

# **God's European Climate Keepers Outreach**

**GECKO**



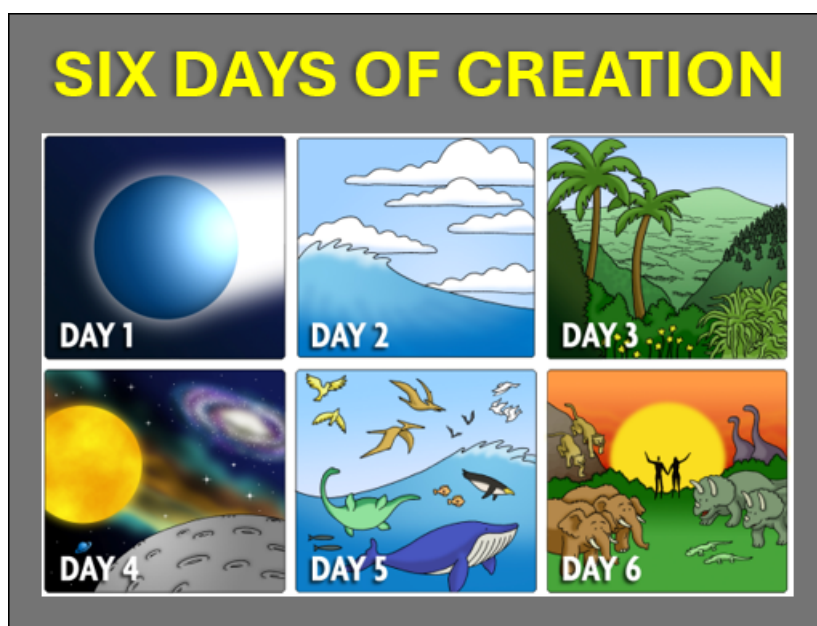
**Gibraltar Archdeaconry**

# **ECO NEWS**

**June 2025**

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GECKO



**We want to hear  
your news, projects  
and problems!  
Please share.**

Please submit your articles  
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**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



*Beauty of Creation – Spring flowers Algarve*

## A message from your Archdeacon!

Dear reader

Welcome to this exciting new venture – a ‘Care for Creation’ newsletter for our archdeaconry! My hope is that anyone from any of the chaplaincies within the archdeaconry will send in a short article or description of the sort of green projects that you are promoting in your part of the world at the moment and tell us all how they are going! Pictures illustrating your endeavours are also always welcome!

This could be a project that you’ve maybe received funding for recently, or one for which you didn’t but you still think it’s a brilliant idea anyway! It could be how your church is helping to reduce carbon emissions by changing the light bulbs, by changing your energy supplier, or by installing solar panels to name but three possibilities!

So often our efforts to reduce carbon emissions, to protect our beautiful world and to therefore make life better for us now and for the future – can seem like an isolated activity. This newsletter will link us all together and we’ll know that we’re not alone in the struggle!

So, get thinking and get writing! Please submit your articles or information to; Chris and Tricia Wells at [tricia.d.wells@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.d.wells@gmail.com)

Archdeacon David Waller



# CHANGE FOR THE WORLD

Tricia and Chris Wells



We thought it might be useful to introduce ourselves so that you could put a face to a name! We worship at St. Vincent's, Algarve where Chris is a Reader and Tricia is a chaplaincy warden and LEO.

We're passionate about us all working together to make a positive impact on the environment – God's Creation. As a church we endeavour to lead the way in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness throughout our congregations and local communities. But we're not 'dark green' – someone who says

unless you go vegan there's no point bothering. We're pragmatists. Our aim is to try and make the swaps that are feasible and raise our awareness – every small step is a massive help to the planet.

Four years ago, we created **Change for the World**, a Christian movement and charity, changing the way we think and act to sustain the world's resources, and raising funds for use in developing / low-income countries. In St. Vincent's we save our small change and to date have raised over 5000 euros towards helping A Rocha Peru, Toilet Twinning and WaterAid.

With EcoChurch in mind we devised a '**How Green Are You?**' test. Check out our questionnaire by clicking: [questionnaire](#). We also organised an A Rocha and St Vincent's '**Plastic Ocean**' conference across the Diocese in Europe. Click on [Plastic Ocean Conference](#)

As a chaplaincy St Vincent's has achieved a Silver EcoChurch award and are working towards gold. One of the ways we show we are an EcoChurch is by displaying the award on our weekly pew sheet so that all worshippers – regulars and visitors – know that we are caring for Creation.

Archdeacon David thought it would be useful to have an Archdeaconry Eco Newsletter where we can all share projects, successes and failures so here is the first attempt! The Newsletter belongs to us all so please, please let me have your **articles, tips, questions, etc. etc. by 1<sup>st</sup> Aug** for the next issue.

**Psalm 24:1-2:**

*The earth is the Lord's...*

emphasises that creation is not merely a resource to be used but a sacred trust



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## OUR ECO YEAR IN THE ALGARVE (April 24/April 25)

Tricia Wells (LEO)

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This last year has been busy in the Algarve and below are some of the eco events we have had during the past year.

### ECO WALK 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024



We wanted to hold an ecology walk along the stunning cliffs of the Ponte Da Piedade (Piety Point), to enjoy views, see the wonderful spring flowers and learn more about the insects which live in symbiosis with them. As you know, March was rainy (prayers fulfilled as the Western Algarve is in severe drought) so we held off until the days were sunnier and lighter. We chose Saturday, 20th April at short notice as it was a date that our leader from A Rocha was available and the wildflowers were still in abundance.

We met near the Cascades Wellness resort, hoping we would have more than six walkers, and were delighted when thirty people and three dogs arrived: 15 members of St Vincent's, and 15 people from the surrounding community. The walk was led by Isabel (Bébé) Soares, A Rocha Portugal's Education Officer, who has a wealth of experience in the area and who leads our beach cleaning expeditions. We were soon spellbound, listening to the fascinating life history of ants, bugs and bees, how they live, pollinate flowers and figs, and the importance of not cutting back flowers too soon.

All along the 4 km walk, there were super views of the sea, the cliffs and charming, small beaches down below, as well as a wealth of lovely wildflowers. The sea was splendid, shimmering and clean.

Everyone received different benefits, and all enjoyed different aspects. Everybody was able to be at one with God's creation. Interest was expressed in other similar events.

### ECO SUMMER EVENT 1st and 2nd JUNE

The Summer ECO event on **1st June** took place in and around The Cascade Wellness Resort in Lagos. Twenty-two people attended the lectures, which began at 10am followed by questions/discussions. Topics covered were: Global Warming (Michael Bartlett); Heating and Energy Use (Christopher Shiell); Food Carbon Footprint (Tricia Wells); A Rocha (Marcial Felgueiras); and The Oceans and Plastic Waste (Chris Wells) Following on from the talk, twenty-four people joined the walk along the stunning cliffs of the Ponte Da Piedade (Piety Point).

**On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**, Chris and Tricia accompanied Christopher Shiell and his wife Heather to worship at St Luke's, Eastern Algarve, after which Tricia spoke on A Rocha and EcoChurch and our aspirations for a gold award, and Christopher Shiell, Archdeaconry Environmental Officer, talked about the carbon footprint within our homes and travel.



We continued our fellowship with a bring-and-share lunch at the lovely home of Alison West & Nick Sykes.

## BEACH CLEANS



St Vincent's has participated in two beach cleans last year:

**Alvor Estuary.** A Rocha, in partnership with Fundação Oceano Azul, and a group of 19 volunteers put words into action by rolling up their sleeves for another International Coastal Clean-up Day. They collected approximately 24kg of rubbish along 2km of Alvor's inland beach and estuary.

Promenade in Luz on 7th December at 10:30am to join A Rocha in their annual **Praia da Luz beach clean**. Representatives from A Rocha provided gloves and instructions: pair up in groups of two -- pick up items that do not naturally belong on the beach -- document what you find! We started with a bit of cheer and then rolled up our sleeves and went to work. Interestingly enough, a few of the rubbish categories have changed over the years... fewer plastic bottle caps and fewer metal beer bottle tops were found this year, but those items were replaced by burnt wood and building rubbish after Paraíso Bar-Restaurant caught fire in February 2024.



## CREATIONTIDE – THE SEASON OF CREATION

The theme for the Season of Creation 2024 was to **HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION**.

During the Season of Creation 1st September to 4th October, a Thursday Compline service was held and Chris preached on the theme of Creation on two Sundays.



We celebrated Creationtide on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September with the children who attended St Vincent's monthly Sunday Club. The following extract is taken from a Luz Newsletter article by Shirleen Horley.

*Typically, we begin our time with the children by doing an activity that is related to the lesson, so on that Sunday, we did a service project to practice being good stewards of God's creation by picking up the litter in the small garden next to the church. As we prepared the children with gloves and trash bags, we talked about the verse in Genesis 1:26 that tells us God put us in charge of the earth and that we are to take care of it. We talked with the children about the responsibility of taking care of God's creation, and by doing so, it also means we can live in a clean, safe place. So, we asked the children to tell us ways they take care of the things God*

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*created. They talked about putting bird food in the garden, going shopping with a reusable bag, and walking to church.*

*We asked the children to pick up a minimum of 5 different types of litter including paper, plastic, metal, glass, food, etc. Although that day we had a small group of children, within 10 minutes, three sizeable bags of litter were picked up and eventually everything put into the recycle and garbage bins.*

*Next, we worked on a Wildlife Word Search. By reading designated scriptures, we learned each one named a specific animal, so the children looked for the name within the word search. It was nice to see the older children helping the younger ones locate the names.*

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## ST VINCENT'S CHAPLAINCY IS AWARDED QUICK WINS ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT

Rev. Carla Vincecio Prior

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In a welcome boost to its sustainability efforts, St Luke's Church in Palhagueira, part of St Vincent's Chaplaincy in the East Algarve, has been awarded a €3,000 **Quick Wins Environmental Grant** by the Diocese in Europe. This funding has been used towards essential repairs to the church's West door and windows—sealing gaps and weatherproofing the structure to reduce energy waste. These improvements are a meaningful step in aligning with the Church of England's ambitious Net Carbon Zero target, demonstrating how even small-scale projects can contribute to a larger environmental mission.



*Doors showing draughty gap*



*Door repair ready for painting*

The grant will not only help preserve the historic charm of St Luke's but also enhance its energy efficiency, ensuring the church is a welcoming space for worshippers year-round. By addressing heat loss and improving insulation, the church is taking practical action to reduce its carbon footprint—an example of faith in action through environmental stewardship.

The community at St Luke's is deeply grateful to the Diocese for this generous support. The Quick Wins initiative is a testament to how targeted funding can empower local churches to make impactful changes, and St Luke's is proud to be part of this growing movement toward a greener, more sustainable future.



# TOP GREEN TIPS from HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FUNCHAL

Jean Faulkner (former LEO)

As part of qualifying for A Rocha's Ecochurch Silver award and moving on to the Gold award, it is a requirement to pass on various **environmentally friendly** things to our congregation and friends . I have already done this in the HTC Friends Magazine and on the [holytrinitychurchmadeira.com](http://holytrinitychurchmadeira.com) website, but this hand out is designed for the church AGM and any other relevant meetings that might be inspired by it and it will be passed on to churches of the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar.



\* Art from rubbish



Compost bin



Bug hotel

- **Buy from the chill counters/** they tend to wrap in paper not plastic.
- **Pick up rubbish** and then enjoy using it artistically to highlight the problem.\*
- **Buy in bulk** and then use glass containers to keep.
- **Buy locally:** Ask your fruit shop/butcher to explain where they source their products( in my experience they quite happy to tell you) Buy locally.
- **Reduce use of plastic:** don't buy cling film, use silicone covers instead  
When lining your kitchen bin use one plastic liner and then infill it with a strong paper carrier bag. When time to empty just decant the paper part in to the waste. The plastic one lasts 4 times longer.
- **Check your own and your churches carbon footprint.**
- **Share lifts, use buses; walk or cycle .**
- **Use eco friendly bamboo toothbrushes and Use Jordan green toothpaste**  
It contains fluoride to keep your dentist happy but is of natural products.
- **Use Garnier products** (shampoo etc) as they advertise on their products just how they are being Green in production and also are cruelty free.
- Make you own yoghurt ( simple and cheap machines available) save tons of waste containers,

## KEEP ON BEING GREEN – THE PLANET NEEDS YOU



## ***ROOTED IN FAITH, GROWING IN CARE***

### **7 ways of Thoughtful Action to Live More Lightly**

- Try to take shopping bags to avoid single use packaging, keep a small bag in your handbag and some bags in your car just in case
- Try out a farmers' market close to you or the market halls in Ibiza/ Santa Eularia and bring your own bags and baskets to get your fruit and veggies without plastic packaging
- Try out a shop where you bring your own containers to refill cleaning products
- Separate your organic waste and deposit it in the brown containers if your "municipio" provides them or start a compost yourself
- Make sure you separate all your waste accordingly and deposit all your plastic in the yellow containers
- Be mindful of your purchases. Avoid impulse buying and choose durable, long-lasting items to reduce waste over time.
- Repair and reuse. Fix broken items instead of throwing them away and repurpose materials when possible.

# TEARS OF GOD: THE GREAT ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

Rui Lino Ramalho, A Rocha Portugal

Ever since I was a kid, water, in all its states and appearances, has always fascinated me. As I grew up, I realised that, although it is fascinating, it is a finite material resource that can be either life-giving or life-taking. On the other hand, I discovered a new fascination: water as an infinite spiritual resource. Life-giving water. In the Algarve, the region where A Rocha's first project sprouted 41 years ago, water is increasingly scarce. But Christ continues to flood us and to make us flourish with hope.

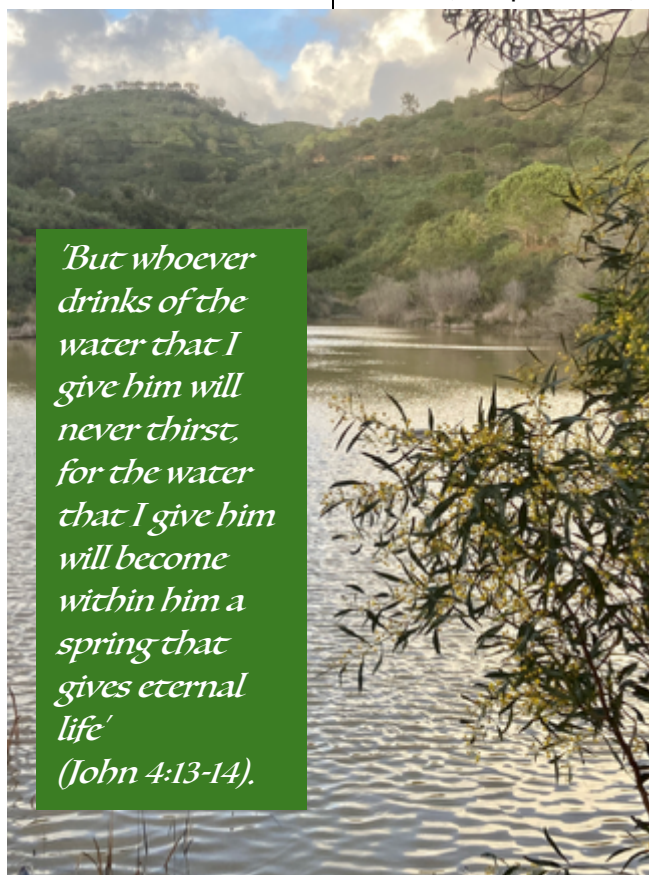
A deep sea covered in darkness and the Spirit hovering over the waters. This is how Genesis describes the universe even before Creation. Water has always been there. It was synonymous with fruitfulness and abundance for Adam and Eve, with condemnation for Noah's contemporaries, with repentance and transformation for John the Baptist at the Jordan. In the same water on which Jesus walked, Peter sank. The same sea that was opened for Moses was closed for Pharaoh. When Jesus was born from Mary's womb, he pierced the waters of the amniotic sac. When Jesus was pierced by the Roman soldier's spear, blood and water flowed out. Life. And death. Our orchard here in Cruzinha, A Rocha's first study and community centre, mirrors this dichotomy.

The severe drought that has plagued the Algarve over the last decade has already caused several of our fruit trees to succumb (meanwhile, the never-ending lawns of the

region's golf courses would make even the gardens of Versailles jealous). In April, when we had our last rainfall of the year, we planted new trees. In June, we were delighted to hear that, for the first time in three years, some of the (little) water that had accumulated in the nearby dam would be made available to us. With it, we filled the ponds, the cistern, watered the orchard again and life returned. Birds, amphibians, mammals, insects

(including the rather unloved mosquitoes). They all came for the same reason. Will it last forever? Probably not. After all, the water that flows through the pipes of our irrigation system is just a 'finite material resource'. Whoever drinks from this water, as Jesus would put it, 'shall thirst again'. Fortunately, there is also the water of the 'infinite spiritual resource' type: '*But whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst, for the water that I give him will become within him a spring that gives eternal life*' (John 4:13-14).

The pain of a wounded planet on the brink of destruction is temporary and healing is already guaranteed. The world is not going to end because of a lack of water. Nor are we going to save the world because we're good at saving water (we'd better be!) – God is the saviour, not us. The prophet Zechariah tells us it is the Lord who sends the rain (10:1). God is sad because we are only interested in quenching our physical thirst. As stewards of Creation, we have a duty to tell the world that there is a river of living water that earthly circumstances



cannot dry up. Christ's second coming to this planet is the greatest and most important ecological act of all.

Of course, this should not lead us to an attitude of neglect, laziness or alienation in the face of the present situation. We must learn to take care of the planet with urgency and, at the same time, with serenity. Every time we look after the planet, we're telling the world that the world doesn't end here. Every time we look after the planet, we are telling the world that there is a time when water will never run out – and yes, a little piece of future can already be experienced now. Saving water won't solve the problem of water scarcity. Saving water is a drop of hope sprinkled on the world. Avoiding

plastic consumption is another drop of hope. Choosing organic and local products is another. Reducing our carbon footprint is another. All over the world, A Rocha will continue to sprinkle these and other drops of hope. Until the day when the Lord of rain comes to completely solve the problem.

I want to drink from the other water and become a source of eternal life from which others drink. That's why I accepted the challenge of running this community centre, Cruzinha. Drink with me and let's make a toast!

## Animal Corner



# ANIMAL CORNER

CHRIS WELLS

This part of our newsletter is dedicated to animals! God created *“living creatures of every kind”* (Genesis 1:24-31 <sup>24</sup> And God said, *“Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.”* And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.)

He also provided for them...

(Psalm 147:9, <sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their food and to the young ravens when they cry.

Matthew 6:26, <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.)

So should we!

Most Christians love animals, and all the good things we do for animal welfare, from contributing to shelters, aiding sterilisation programmes, and actual adoptions, all help God's creatures. So that is



partly why our Logo is a Gecko. Although Net Zero is vitally important, personally I find animals more exciting, and it is great that this is also our responsibility in caring for creation!!  
So, **do write in and tell us** what **you** are doing for **animal welfare**, or write a short article about it, preferably with a picture or two!

To start off, we are going to tell you about our own new kittens, who are charging around our feet whilst we are trying to prep our newsletter and articles. It is a sad initial story, as an elderly and clearly lonely British man (unknown to us) took his own life in a remote Algarvian community. His UK family didn't get out to see his place for a few days, and when they did, they found it overrun with cats, and some newly born kittens with no mother. They were saved, temporarily, by a good lady but she had no way of keeping them, there were five originally, one died, and we took two, at about five weeks old. We got them on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and they are growing very fast! Their names are Orion and Mercury, and we will share some pictures of their development in future newsletters!



Orion and Mercury



## THE GECKO

Chris Wells, Reader, St. Vincent's, Algarve

Our Newsletter logo, beautifully designed by Collin Stone: <https://www.cogneio.com>, represents the acronym for our work. But what do you know about Geckos, the cheeky little chappies and chapesses that populate our walls and our verandas?

Gerald Durrell in "*My Family and Other Animals*" wrote about geckos in 1956. We watch them climb our outside walls, waiting patiently by the lights to catch the moths that flutter round. We appreciate them catching insects, especially mosquitos. In the occasionally empty guest wing of our house, we find droppings on the floor and on worktops but also stuck to the wall, so you can relax that it isn't the dreaded "*ratos*" and anyway the droppings from geckos each has a little white 'stone' attached to it. Reptiles expel their urine and stools through the same opening, so the white bit is the lizard's urine, actually uric acid crystals.

Worldwide, there are over 1,500 gecko species, and unlike some animal species which are becoming extinct, new species are being discovered all the time! Click on the links below.

EXTINCT AND THREATENED SPECIES	NEW SPECIES
Caribbean Monk Seal and rhinos are amongst many threatened species. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean_monk_seal">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean_monk_seal</a>  <a href="https://sigmaearth.com/animal-extinction-due-to-human-actions/">https://sigmaearth.com/animal-extinction-due-to-human-actions/</a>	<a href="https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/article300513204.html">https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/article300513204.html</a>  <a href="https://news.mongabay.com/2025/03/three-new-gecko-species-described-in-nepal-interview-with-herpetologist-santosh-bhattarai/">https://news.mongabay.com/2025/03/three-new-gecko-species-described-in-nepal-interview-with-herpetologist-santosh-bhattarai/</a>



*Tarentola mauritanica*

In Iberia, there are two species, the larger and lighter Moorish Gecko or crocodile gecko (*tarentola mauritanica*), which is found throughout Southern Europe and Northern Africa, and the Mediterranean house gecko, *hemidactylus turcicus*, which is mostly found in the Algarve and Alentejo regions.

There are stories about them being poisonous, but they are perfectly safe. Sadly, these tales have led to their 'persecution' in Iberia, and they are now a protected species under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.



*Hemidactylus turcicus*

Up to 15cm long, geckos typically live four years in the wild and nine in captivity. They like rocky environments, but most people see them on the walls of their houses. Feeding on insects and spiders, geckos replace their 100 teeth every three to four months.

What is fascinating about geckos is the way they can stick to ceilings and walls, using their amazing feet which are covered with tiny hairs (setae). These get them so close to the surfaces they cling to that an amazing force called the Van der Waal phenomenon keeps them adhered to it. Another marvellous creation arranged by God. And they aren't sticky as you might imagine, though their tongues are.

Geckos depend on their fabulous eyesight, which even in dim light allows them to see their prey. They are mainly nocturnal creatures, sticking to surfaces perfectly still, until insects land nearby. They can catch any who land or fly too close with their sticky tongues and swallow them whole. They can also scuttle pretty fast when the need arises!

They hibernate between November and February, breeding in the spring with the females laying their eggs together in the same place. Each lay on average two eggs and incubation can take between 40-120 days. The babies are only four or five cm long!

They can be kept as pets, though I'd much rather have a cat or a dog, but **do write in and tell us if you have an unusual pet, or indeed any pet story**. They are all God's creatures, and it is up to us to care for them.

We are always pleased to see them come back to our terraces in spring, they are the advent of warmer weather, and if encouraged, we have less mosquitos. Our own little dragons, what's not to like?

Common wall gecko or Moorish gecko (*Tarentola mauritanica*)

*Salamanquesa común* in Spanish

*Dragó comú* in Catalan

Mediterranean house gecko (*Hemidactylus turcicus*)

*Salamanquesa común* in Spanish

*Dragó comú* in Catalan

*Osga común* in Galician

*Osga Moura* in Portuguese

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# ADVENTURES WITH A ROCHA PORTUGAL

Will and Emma Godwin

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*Emma, Ella, Will and Immy*

In May 2024 the Godwin Family decided that it was time for a family adventure. The idea soon developed into a plan to volunteer with A Rocha Portugal at their centre, Cruzinha, on the banks of the Alvor estuary in the Algarve. The estuary is an ecologically significant site, particularly for migratory birds and is where the A Rocha story began 42 years ago.

Now active across six continents, A Rocha is a Christian conservation charity founded by Peter and Miranda Harris, with the aim of realising the biblical imperative to care for creation. Peter is an avid 'birder' and the Portuguese project remains focussed on the running of a bird observatory and field study centre. It completes its own conservation work, as well as hosting students and researchers to monitor the condition of the local ecology.



*Birding with the A Rocha expert*

We soon found a small holding just over the river, the owner of which was happy to host us in a borrowed motorhome on a pitch-for-duty basis. With the great support of our family and friends in Surrey we left our job and house, packed our things into storage, squeezed too many books into the roof box, said our goodbyes and sailed from Portsmouth on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. We then travelled down through the Iberian Peninsula, stopping in the Picos de Europa, Salamanca and Marvão, and arriving at Cruzinha ten days later.

The weekly rhythms of Cruzinha run around four main areas of activity; ringing and recording within the bird monitoring projects, environmental education through hosting school visits and the weekly open days on Thursday mornings, supporting the work of visiting students using Cruzinha as a base for fieldwork, and the hospitality which enables all of the above.

Having come from farming at home our focus quickly became the land and the four-acre garden.



*Painting the children's play area*

We participated in both routine maintenance through stimming, pruning, deadwood processing and repairing the bird monitoring equipment, but also individual projects such as creating a herb garden, pond restoration, building a children's play area and the establishment of vegetable beds.

As well as the on-site activities, Cruzinha is the base for continued work to protect the



peninsula on which it is situated. This work has as long a history as the centre itself and has achieved significant successes. Most notably in securing the designation of the estuary as part of the Natura 2000 landscapes and providing additional limitations to development.

We came to Portugal for a family adventure and the essence of adventure is uncertainty. This time away has indeed been rich in uncertainty and with it all kinds of opportunities, which certainty would otherwise have kept from us.

Walking to 'the end of the world' (only 65 km away as it turned out!), receiving a kitten as a surprise Christmas present, and possibly the most comfortable cottage in the Algarve as our latest home! We are now preparing for our return to the UK with job and house hunting in progress, enjoying time with friends and of course contemplating re-packing the roof box! We leave rich in happy memories made together as a family and grateful to have joined the ranks of countless individuals who have been blessed by time amongst this extraordinary place and people.

### TO THINK ABOUT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

We need articles for the next issue, and you can help! Please think about the following and how you can contribute. Any other ideas most welcome.

- ◆ Please let us have your favourite prayer or poem about Creation and a short explanation as to why
- ◆ Is there any information not covered in the newsletter that you would like to see?
- ◆ What Eco activities have you had in your chaplaincies?

In our next issue of GECKO, we can look forward to:

- ◆ Article from our AEO, Christopher Shiell
- ◆ ECODIVE
- ◆ Poetry - Rui Lino Ramalho
- ◆ The Power of Prayer – the Godwin Family
- ◆ Creationtide feature
- ◆ PLUS ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS 😊

*The next newsletter will be released the middle of August so please let the Editor have articles for inclusion by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August.  
Tricia.d.wells@gmail.com*

# To Breathe Together

*By Emma Godwin*

Daughter kneels,  
ladling cool water into dry roots;  
like a mother at the table,  
a small-tenderer, careful-nurturer.

**Kneel:** (verb) 'be in or assume a position in which the body is supported by a knee or the knees, as when praying or showing submission.'<sup>1</sup>

Grandmother stands,  
Spreading vine leaves into dry air;  
like a sentry holding an umbrella,  
a sun-shader, steady protector.

**Stand:** (noun) 'an act of holding one's ground against or halting to resist an opposing force/another term for partnership.'

They are conspiring.  
Heads together, blond curls  
and green bunches.  
What fun mischief are they planning?  
as they mutually sustain each other,  
reciprocal breath after reciprocal breath.

**Conspire:** (verb) 'to unite...to breathe together, from assimilated form of com "with, together" + spirare "to breathe".'<sup>2</sup>

'We often think that environmental issues are for the foresters, or the biologists, or maybe the agriculturalists and rural development workers. But we all turn on taps or fetch water, we all switch on or off lights or light fires, we all breathe and eat. All of these things involve us in choices, and responses to God's good gift of creation. They may well also involve us in the suffering that has been brought into the world through the Fall. The water may be polluted, the light comes at a high cost to creation, the very fabric of our food is increasingly an artefact of profit-driven choices that have major implications for many other species of plants and animals that share the planet with us. So whether we live in a mega-city, or a tiny hut in the rainforest, we live in Creation, and its care is our concern.'<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Oxford Dictionary

<sup>2</sup> [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com)

<sup>3</sup> Creation Care and Mission By Peter Harris, Director, A Rocha International. Adapted from DOWN-TO-EARTH CHRISTIANITY edited by R W Dayton and P E Pretiz, 2000. ISBN 0-9678717-0-0