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RED WEDNESDAY, TODAY 23 NOVEMBER

Coming ahead of Black Friday, which is a celebration of commercialism, **RED WEDNESDAY** is a reminder that **Faith matters**. It is a world day of prayer when we remember those persecuted for their Christian Faith and break the silence about Christian persecution. Christians are being persecuted in over 80 countries and suffer death, injury, displacement, homes and lands being destroyed and discrimination. Today the Houses of Parliament are lit up in red as are cathedrals and churches through our land. May we spend some time in prayer and solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

GOOD NEWS

COP27 announced Fund to give compensation and adaptation for climate change by the rich countries of the world to those poor countries who have suffered most with effects of climate change.

FISHING NETS TO FURNITURE

Gravity Wave, Spain now recovers the broken nets from hundreds of Mediterranean fishermen and grinds them to make striking pieces of furniture. Fishing nets make up more than half of oceans' plastic pollution, take 1000 years to decompose and are a death trap for marine life.

HYGIENE BANKS

I saw for the first time yesterday a Hygiene Bank in Boots the Chemist, Falmouth. This is a collection point, like food banks, but for items needed for daily use like toothbrushes, soap and other essential personal items. Perhaps we need to ask other shops to set up collection points for their products which are necessary daily items.

THE NATIONAL LIVING WAGE

Is to be increased from £9.50 to £10.40.

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

TRURO FOODBANK has had to buy in food for the first time because there had been more requests for help than food available.

ARCTIC WARMING

As described in the Falmouth local press, a Cornish woman had made a return visit to the Arctic to find out the impact of warming temperatures for herself. No walrus were to be seen, they were there in abundance before. It had been necessary to shelter in a deserted rocky bay for over 2 days on account of a typhoon, then immediately race to escape an imminent hurricane level storm. Storms were increasing in ferocity and length. She saw home was jammed under a bridge and half a hotel saved by driving a bulldozer through as an impromptu firebreak. It is to be regretted that COP27 did not come to a decision re the lowering of carbon emissions, the cause of climate change.

BREXIT has reduced the UK's trade intensity by 15% with leaving the EU, with an adverse effect on trade and the overall trading relationships between UK and EU firms. The You Gov survey finds now that 56% people think Brexit was wrong and only 32% right.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

5 people have been executed in Iran for taking part in the mass protests calling for an end to dictatorship. The Parliament is calling for ruthless treatment of the 15,000 jailed for protesting. They may well face execution too.

NEWQUAY

With the publicity re the inhumane conditions at the Manston detention centre for refugees and asylum seekers, busloads of them were sent to 2 hotels in Ilfracombe and one, normally closed for the winter, in Newquay. In both cases the local MP and Town Councils were unaware of their arrival. Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support, based in Plymouth, are working with various organisations to help them. Hopefully local churches will be of assistance in providing friendship and support too.