



@laudatosicentre

<https://laudatosicentre.org.uk>



Laudato Si' Centre

# LAUDATO SI' CENTRE

*A statement of hope - rooted in the belief  
that we can make a difference*









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# INTRODUCTION

The Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall is the Diocese of Salford's ambitious response to the call by Pope Francis to every living person on this planet in his letter 'Laudato Si' – Care for Our Common Home'.

Our vision was to create a place of education and outreach mission that generates environmental hope in those that visit or access our resources.

The Laudato Si' Centre engages with people of all faiths and none. Since our inception in 2019 we have welcomed over 3,000 visitors including school groups, parishes, community groups and individuals wanting to learn and change for the benefit of our common home.





We are currently using the land and woodland on the estate of Wardley Hall, giving us an opportunity to repurpose redundant space to help people to learn how they can take practical action to address the ecological crisis and work towards a sustainable world.

## OUR MISSION

To provide the tools and learning needed to provoke an ecological conversion that enables all to hear and respond in hope to the cry of the earth and the cry of the people.

## OUR AIMS AND VALUES

- We will demonstrate ways of living that better care for our common home and all creation that are practical and can be replicated across parishes, homes, schools, and communities.
- We will educate through a variety of experiences, including immersive experiences in the outdoors for school pupils and adults, seminars, and events for parishes, schools and communities; and activities relating to a variety of technologies and behaviours.
- We will provide a space to heal and flourish to support human and spiritual renewal.





Through offering a wide range of engaging activities for people of all ages, we strive to make our Centre a thriving place of learning, spirituality, and wellbeing.

Our rich and varied education programme provides memorable outdoor learning for primary and secondary education - as well as for colleges and SEND schools.

We are also delighted to regularly welcome a number community groups and parishes who come to our Centre to learn more about practical ways to care for our common home and to discover more about Pope Francis' document *Laudato Si'*.

Rooted in our Catholic faith, the Centre aims to educate, inspire, and empower people to be good stewards of creation. Furthermore, we are proud to share this mission with people of all faiths and none as we work together for the good of our common home.

As Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si'*, we must hear and respond to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the people, so our Centre also offers a diverse range of programmes to support mental health and wellbeing, in addition to providing opportunities for people to develop new skills and gain vital experience to help future employment opportunities.

Continue reading to find out more about our different activities and spaces!

## Learning



## Spirituality



## Wellbeing





# INTRODUCING OUR SPACES

## WALLED GARDEN

Within our accessible Walled Garden, we have created an environmental learning centre where groups and individuals can visit and explore our permaculture forest garden. We have organic fruit and nut trees, an edible walkway, herb spirals, and pollinating plants to enrich biodiversity. Read more about this fantastic space over the page.



## WOODLAND

Our accessible Woodland is situated close to our Walled Garden. It is an enchanting and beautifully calm space where an abundance of flowers, plants and trees grow providing homes, food and shelter to a diverse range of animals and insects. Read more over the page to find out more about the variety of spaces within our woodland.



## MEMORIAL FOREST

This peaceful corner of creation is a beautiful way to remember a loved one. Our memorial forest, in partnership with Life for a Life, provides a lasting legacy to our friends and family members, whilst our wildflower meadow offers a beautiful spot for prayer and reflection.





# WALLED GARDEN



## **Outdoor Classroom**

An educational learning space which can seat up to 20-25 adults and 30 children, providing a sheltered area for discussions and activities.

## **Polytunnels**

A space for groups to grow a selection of many different fruits, vegetables and herbs throughout the year. We have a self-watering system and a propagator allowing us to develop the growing conditions for seeds and propagation.

## **Heated Greenhouse**

A learning space that includes potting stations, indoor plants as well as fruit and vegetables that prefer warmer environments, providing the opportunity to learn about horticulture all year round in our heated greenhouse.

## **Raised beds**

Here we grow seasonal fruit and vegetables without herbicides and pesticides, instead focusing on companion planting using vegan friendly compost allowing biodiversity to thrive .

## **Herb Spirals**

A unique collection of herbs, which are both delicious and are proven to have many health benefits for our body and mind.







### **Wildflower Meadow**

A space for wildflowers; created to attract many different species of insects where nets, magnifying glasses, and collection pots can be used to investigate the animals we have in our grounds.

### **Wormery**

Learn about different forms of composting and the benefits of adding a wormery to a space. Our worms provide a great talking point to further develop discussions around composting and soil health.

### **Willow Dome**

Our enchanting and masterfully-weaved living willow dome is a wonderful space for adults and children to feel a part of nature as well as being a unique learning area.





# WOODLAND



## **Brothers' Lawn**

A picnic area, surrounded by fruit trees, overlooks our newly planted ornamental pollinating woodland edge.

## **Campfire Circle**

Enjoy the warmth and comfort of our campfire circle, located in the heart of our woodland, which comes complete with a parachute in the canopy to provide shelter on those rainy days!

## **Den Building Area**

We have a large space for creating different dens, where you can learn the difference between natural and man-made dens.

## **Tool Use Area**

Bring pieces of wood to life as you learn how to whittle, shaping pieces of wood to create a multitude of shapes and animals.

## **Music Area**

An area to come and explore your musical ability, using instruments made from re-purposed materials.

## **Hammock Area**

A place to relax and take in the sights and sounds around you.







# SCHOOLS

We are proud to offer a wealth of unforgettable learning activities and experiences for all schools across the area. Whether primary, secondary, SEND, or further education, our education offer provides a fantastic opportunity to enrich curricular and wider learning, whilst equipping our young people with the skills to make a practical difference to our common home.







## Eco Sessions

Get inspired in the beautiful surroundings of our walled garden and woodland as we explore ways you can support nature to flourish at your school, whilst taking practical action to care for our common home.

Tour our Centre to find out what actions we take to tackle our ecological crisis, play games to support understanding of looking after our common home and learn practical skills to take back to school, such as reducing the carbon footprint of your packed lunch, supporting wildlife in your school and home, and creating awareness for the rest of your school community.

## INSET Sessions Staff and Governor training:

We are pleased to offer a wide range of training activities for school staff and governors here at the Centre, or in your own school. Activities can support you to develop and deliver your own action plans, including environmental audits. We provide faith-based training around Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Francis' environmental encyclicals, *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*.

Our beautiful space can also be hired for your own INSET session on any other subject.

## Curriculum Learning

Our practical and engaging active days are planned in line with the National Curriculum for all primary school ages. Days take place across the centre and are tailored to your specification. Come and learn how to cook on the open fire for your DT project, or follow in the footsteps of the great poets by allowing nature to inspire your creativity. Whether it's exploring local history, or discovering more about continents around the world, the opportunities for learning are endless!

## Forest School Sessions

Our calming woodland is the perfect place to experience Forest School activities. We offer one-off school sessions, as well as bespoke, six-week programmes, planned to your own specifications. Activities include whittling, fire lighting, den building, shelter work, knot tying, tree identification and much more!





**Retreats:**

Spend time in the beauty of creation with a retreat day to feel spiritually renewed and reconnected with Creator God. We offer retreats to tie in with the liturgical year, sacramental programmes, and feast days, including saints connected to the environment. We can also tailor our retreats to suit themes of your choosing.

**SEND and Vulnerable Groups:**

We have a fully-qualified SENDco who runs our school sessions, enabling all children to experience all the fun and joy of the great outdoors in an experience that nurtures confidence and relaxation.

We cater for all age groups and can tailor sessions to meet the needs of your students. Please contact us to discuss any individual needs in more detail.

**Bespoke Sessions:**

We can also plan bespoke days to meet the needs of your students and school. If you have something specific in mind, please get in touch and we will be happy to plan a half day / day unique to your school.

**Suggested Pricing for School Visits****Curriculum days or Retreats:**

Half day (9.30-12.30pm or 12.30-3.30pm)

£120

Full day (9.30-2.30pm)

£240

(Maximum 30 children)

**Eco Groups:**

2 hours (Maximum 15 children)

£80

**Forest School**

Full day - 9.30am - 2.30pm (Maximum 30 children)

£350

Six-week programme: Includes weekly two-hour sessions for six weeks. (Maximum 15 children)

£480

**Staff and Governor Training**

A range of activities, training, and venue hire opportunities are available. Please get in touch for further details and prices.







# PARISH GROUPS

Caring for Creation and the environment is an integral part of our Christian faith. Our Laudato Si' Centre, run by the Diocese of Salford, is a direct response to Pope Francis' teachings - as well as Bishop John Arnold, who has challenged each and every parish in our diocese to take practical action to care for our common home. Here at the centre, we're delighted to host a wide range of activities to help parish groups learn more about this inherently Christian call and provide the teaching and inspiration to help you take that next step.

## **Tours of the Laudato Si' Centre:**

Take in the inspiring surroundings of our Walled Garden and Woodland area whilst finding out a little more about the day-to-day steps we take to support nature and encourage ecological flourishing. Explore these in further detail with our skilled staff members, who can advise on the simple activities and actions you can do at your own parish to take up the call to action for caring for our common home.

## **Parish Action Planning Support**

Beginning a project is often the most difficult stage of any journey and it can be hard to know how best to start. If you are not sure how best to begin your parish group project, we can help you create an action plan, give practical ideas to explore, and then upskill you with hands-on sessions to help support your knowledge. For parishes already on the journey to care for creation, we can support your next plans.







### Retreats:

Our retreats largely take place in our woodland area, where we can feel inspired by God's gift of creation. We have retreats to fit in with the liturgical calendar, feast days, sacramental programmes, as well as environmental saint retreats. Meditating on scripture and using nature to help us to pray, our Laudato Si' Centre is an excellent place for an away day. You can also celebrate Mass in our woodland area.

### Liturgical Sessions:

Feel inspired by Pope Francis' words of the Laudato Si' encyclical and the Laudate Deum exhortation, linked to our liturgical sessions. At certain times of the year we offer Stations of the Cross and Rosary sessions always with an ecological focus. Take time to reflect and pray whilst embracing all that God's creation has to offer.

### Interfaith Gatherings:

In our woodland, we have a special tree planted by an inter-faith group who travelled to Rome to meet with Pope Francis. To honour this trip, we host interfaith sessions during the year where we get together and share our knowledge and expertise and how our faith inspires us to care for our common home.







**Bespoke sessions:**

We can also plan bespoke days to meet the needs of your parish or faith group. If you have something specific in mind, please get in touch and we will be happy to plan a session unique to your group.

Parishes and Faith Groups	Suggested Donation
<p><b>Tours</b></p> <p>1.5 hours</p> <p><i>Developed for a group of 15</i></p>	<p>£30 for the group</p>
<p><b>Retreats</b></p> <p>Half Day (9.30 - 12.30pm or 12.30 - 3.30pm)</p> <p>Full day (9.30 - 2.30pm)</p> <p><i>Developed for a group of 15</i></p>	<p>£120 for the group</p> <p>£240 for the group</p>
<p><b>Liturgical Activities</b></p> <p><i>This includes Stations of the Cross and Rosary Prayer Sessions</i></p> <p>1 hour</p>	<p>£2 per person</p>

*Refreshments are included for all visits. Lunch is not provided as standard but can be arranged on request.*







# WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

We have a wide variety of activities and sessions available for all ages looking for wellbeing and connecting with nature. We work with community and corporate groups and can tailor sessions to fit your needs.

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## **Tailored sessions for community and work-based groups:**

We work with a range of groups from charities and organisations across the area, including The Prince's Trust, Salford City Council, and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service. Together, we have undertaken some fantastic projects at the Centre, such as creating a woodland music space with instruments made out of repurposed materials, planting hedgerows, building up woodchip pathways, creating hugel mounds, and more.

If you are interested in getting involved in a similar project, or would like to rent the space, or enquire about activities tailored to your group, please email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)







### **Woodland Sessions:**

Immerse yourself in the sound of birdsong and explore the beautiful native trees of our woodland in one of these back-to-basics sessions. Stripping away all the distractions of the modern world, our woodland sessions are designed to renew our relationship with nature by going back to our roots with a wide range of activities, from cooking around a campfire, woodland tool and craft making, bushcraft skills, foraging, and more.

### **Wellbeing Sessions:**

Research from leading mental health and wellbeing organisations reveals that being near and in the presence of plants and nature can be mentally restorative and reduce stress. The act of gardening is also well-known to have many physical health benefits. And so, we're delighted to be able to provide a range of sessions that engage us in nature and encourage us to get active whilst helping to improve confidence, self-esteem, resilience, and overall wellbeing.

As part of a group, you will be invited to step away from the stresses and strains of daily life through a range of activities. From breathwork and meditation sessions, to learning about the proven health benefits of a range of herbs and vegetation, and participating in seasonal wellbeing sessions to support the mind, body, and spirit.

Sessions can be tailored to the needs and interests of a particular group, so please do get in touch to discuss all the different options for your community group.

### **Horticultural Sessions:**

Reconnect with nature whilst upskilling your horticultural knowledge by working across all the different areas of our walled garden. Take a walk around our edible forest garden and learn how to create a richly biodiverse area in your own space, whether that's in containers, yards, gardens, or playing fields. Our horticultural sessions will leave you feeling confident, upskilled, and enabled to regenerate outside spaces using sustainable methods. Activities can include gardening for wildlife, propagation techniques, seed saving, tree pruning, and horticultural therapy.





Wellbeing and Community Groups	Suggested Donation
<p><b>Wellbeing sessions (bespoke to your groups needs and requirements)</b> 2 hours <i>Maximum 10 people</i></p> <p><i>For a full day (9.30 - 2.30), please contact us to discuss prices for bespoke community and organisation sessions.</i></p>	<p>Prices starting from £80</p>
<p><b>Horticultural Sessions:</b> Garden Club membership</p> <p><i>Bespoke group horticultural sessions may vary depending on packages required - please contact us for further information.</i></p>	<p>£3 per person, per week.</p>
<p><b>Therapeutic sessions:</b> Four people or less</p>	<p>Prices starting from £140 per hour</p>
<p><b>Woodland Days:</b> Full day (9.30 - 2.30pm) <i>Maximum of 10 people</i></p>	<p>£350</p>
<p><b>Tailored Sessions for Community and Work-based Groups:</b> Please contact us to discuss bespoke sessions to meet the needs of your community groups.</p>	<p>Please contact us for quotes based on your specific requirements</p>







# VISITOR INFORMATION

## **How to book:**

Booking is essential for all visits to the Laudato Si' Centre. We strongly recommend that you book as early as possible, to avoid disappointment. To book a session, please email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) for a booking form where one of our team members will get back to you to discuss, in more detail, the programme that you require, and to confirm your booking. Please note, visits do not offer access to Wardley Hall.

## **How to find us:**

In our effort to care for our common home, we kindly ask you to use public transport or car share wherever possible. Luckily, the Centre is accessible by both bus and train. There is also a small car park available but spaces are limited.

**Bus:** There is a bus stop at the bottom of Wardley Hall Road, with buses from Bolton to Manchester stopping regularly. Please see <https://tfgm.com/ways-to-travel/bus> for up to date information.

**Train:** Moorside Train Station is one mile away. Please see <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/journey-planner/> for up to date information.

**Car:** The postcode for the Laudato Si' Centre is M28 2ND . Limited parking spaces available for our visitors to use.

## **When you get here:**

The mini-bus drop-off is located in the small car park at Wardley Hall. You will see the Laudato Si' Centre sign by the brown gates, where someone will come and meet you. Please ask your driver to park or turn around in the upper car park only, as the driveway around the grass and meadow area is reserved for emergency access. If you are coming by coach, please contact us for further information.







### **Whatever the weather:**

The majority of our activities and sessions take place outside. Please make sure you are dressed appropriately for the changing weather with suitable footwear for being in a garden and woodland.

### **Lunches:**

Refreshments are made available during your visit. However, if you are planning to eat during your visit or if you are here all day, please bring your own packed lunch. We kindly ask that visitors take all of their rubbish home with them and leave the spaces as they found them.

### **Risk Assessments:**

We have completed detailed Risk Assessments for the activities and the areas of the Laudato Si' Centre. Our Risk Assessments will be emailed to you once your booking has been confirmed. If you have any concerns about anything mentioned in our Risk Assessments, please speak to a member of our team.

### **First Aid and Allergies:**

We have fully qualified Outdoor First Aiders. Please let us know if any of your party have any dietary requirements or allergies before your visit.

### **Adult ratios for school groups:**

EYFS: 1:4

KS1: 1:6

LKS2: 1:8

UKS2: 1-10

All others: 1-10

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## **SUPPORTING OUR CENTRE**

We are very grateful to have the support of wonderful volunteers, who are so important to the running and development of our centre. To find out more about joining our excellent team of volunteers, please email us at [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

In addition, we are extremely grateful for the generous donations we receive. If you would like to support our work through a donation, please scan the QR code.







Let's...



# BEE CONNECTED



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