

The Five Marks of Mission

Did we know, when we planted a sapling in Howick Hall Gardens, that we were enacting the fifth mark of mission of the Anglican Communion?



In true MULO A style – we listened, observed and acted. We listened to environmental warnings; we listened to our Patron's Jubilee request; and we listened to God's Word in a new time. We observed the environmental stresses around the world. We acted symbolically by planting a tree.



Indian Chestnut
planted by MU
Newcastle Aug '22

The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion...

1. To proclaim the good news of the kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Tell... Teach... Tend... Transform... and Treasure.

The first Mark of Mission is a summary of what all mission is about. The mission of the church is the mission of Christ.

The first four Marks of Mission were agreed in 1984: evangelism / response and initiation, nurture and teaching / service / transformation. These are firmly enveloped in Mothers' Union Objectives and reflect our baptismal promises.

The 5th Mark was added in 1990 in response to growing awareness of environmental issues. Thirty two years later Oxford Diocese has led by authorising this fifth mark in its rites of baptism and confirmation. It has yet to be included in our MU Objectives.

Maybe when we planted our tree, we were adopting the 5th Mark into MU?
Maybe when we see the miracle sapling unfurl its leaves to the sun, our hearts sing?
Maybe this symbolic act will help our own awareness of how we can better live to rejoice in and safeguard the environment for future generations?

***When I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand has made...
then sings my soul 'How great thou art.'***