

GREENBELT ACT OF COMMUNION 2026

INTRODUCTION

Packing to come to Greenbelt takes a lot of careful planning. Should you take wellies or trainers? How many tee shirts? Where are the tent pegs? Will I need an umbrella? Remember to pack everything you need - but don't forget you may have to carry it all.

Now Greenbelt itself is moving. What will we take with us? What should we leave behind?

When Jesus sent out his disciples he gave them a detailed list of what they were to carry. Absolutely nothing. No shoes; no money; no rucksack. Nothing. (You can read about it in Luke 10:1-11). He invited them to go on a crazy, reckless journey of abandonment. Travelling with nothing meant they would be completely dependent on God, each other, and the people they were going to. They were entering what T S Eliot called

A condition of complete simplicity
(Costing not less than everything)*

The world is at a perilous moment. Most of us have never lived through such unpredictable times. Some of the things we brought with us, from Sunday School certainties to treasured traditions, and from prescription drugs to pension plans, are starting to look less reliable. At our Sunday morning Act of Communion this year adults and children will meet for a joyful unpacking, as we *unequip* ourselves for the road ahead. We will share bread and wine together. And like the first disciples, we will let it all go, and whisper to each other the only thing we can be sure of: "The kingdom of God is very near".

* T S Eliot The Four Quartets: *Little Gidding*

WELCOME

WENDY

Welcome to our Greenbelt Act of Communion 2026.

HUW

Please join in, dance and sing. Let it all go!

SONG

*Come Christians join to sing
Alleluia Amen
Loud praise to Christ our King
Alleluia Amen
Let all with heart and voice
Before God's throne rejoice
Praise is God's gracious choice
Alleluia Amen.*

*Come lift your hearts on high
Alleluia Amen
Let praises fill the sky
Alleluia Amen
Christ is our guide and friend
On him we can depend
God's love will never end
Alleluia Amen.*

*Come with your hopes and fears
Alleluia Amen
Come laughing, come in tears
Alleluia Amen
God's love is bursting through
New life is overdue
Come and be born anew
Alleluia Amen*

(Christian Bateman adapted by Andrew Graystone)

INTRODUCTION

WENDY

Hi. I'm Wendy. Welcome to the Greenbelt Festival Act of Communion.

ANNABEL

And I'm Annabel.

HUW

And I'm Huw. *Helo a chroeso i'r gwasanaeth cymun Gwyl Greenbelt.*

WENDY

I moved house last year. If you've ever done that, you'll know that it's a good time to let things go. You go round the house

picking up each item and deciding whether it should come with you into the future.

ANNABEL That's what we're doing today, as we meet for our last Act of Communion at Boughton House before we move into the wherever and whatever of God's future for Greenbelt.

HUW When Jesus called his first disciples, he told them to leave everything they had and follow him. We're meeting today for a joyful dismantling, as we *unequip* ourselves for the road ahead. We will share bread and wine together. And like the first disciples, we will let it all go, and whisper to each other the only thing we can be sure of:

WENDY, HUW, ANNABEL The kingdom of God is near.

PRAYER

WENDY Let's look for some ways to say what that means. After each picture we give you, please shout out loud and strong 'The Kingdom of God is near'.

WENDY The bread of God is fully risen
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

ANNABEL The jigsaw of God is almost complete
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

HUW The dance of God is about to begin
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

WENDY The network of God is fully connected
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

ANNABEL The carnival of God is ready to start
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

HUW The breath of God is in our lungs
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

WENDY The baby of God is being delivered
ALL The kingdom of God is near.

ANNABEL The seed of God is bursting into life

ALL	The kingdom of God is near.
HUW	The rocket of God is ready for take-off
ALL	The kingdom of God is near.
WENDY	The story of God has reached its cliffhanger
ALL	The kingdom of God is near.
HUW	The life of God is within our grasp
ALL	The kingdom of God is near.

CONFESSION

ANNABEL	If we want to grab hold of the life of God we have to let go of everything else. And we're going to ask God to help us do that now.
WENDY	You should have enough pipe cleaner wands in your bag for everyone to have one. Someone in your group should also have a pot of bubble mixture - or maybe two. Perhaps someone with a steady hand could hold the pot, because we're going to use it in a minute to blow bubbles with our pipe cleaner wands.
HUW	We're going to pray together, a prayer in which we ask God to forgive us for the things we have held too tightly. When I say the words 'Let it all go' please blow your bubbles into the air, as a sign of letting go the things we are releasing to God. Loving God, forgive us that we have acted as if we own our planet instead of sharing it with all the rest of your creation. We have carved it up, broken it, set fire to it, put up borders to keep other people out of the parts we wanted for ourselves. We have turned friends into enemies, and fought other people for possession of things that were never ours to keep. Where we have tried to dominate the beautiful planet that you have given us, here and now, we LET IT ALL GO!

Loving God, forgive us that we have always wanted more: more money, more prizes, more power, more stuff. And to get more we have been prepared to give others less. Too often we have cheated our neighbours and let down our friends. We have allowed ourselves to be led by our insecurities. We have built our lives around the places, the privileges, the possessions and the plans that we imagined were ours to make and keep.

Where we have put ourselves first to collect the things that really belong to you, here and now, we LET IT ALL GO!

Loving God, you burst the bubble of our selfishness. We receive your forgiveness, and we thank you that you will never, ever let us go. Amen.

Let's bring our prayers together with one final blast of bubbles! LET IT ALL GO!

Please pop your bubble wand back in the bag for now, or keep it somewhere safe. Make sure that none are left on the ground.

PEACE

ANNABEL

It's time to prepare ourselves for the journey ahead. As we move through this Act of Communion we're going to get smaller and simpler and quieter. But we're starting good and loud! So please stand if you can, as we share the peace of Christ.

ANNABEL
CROWD

God makes peace within us.
Let's claim it.

ANNABEL
CROWD

God makes peace between us.
Let's share it.

ANNABEL

Let's offer each other a High 5 of peace

SONG

ANNABEL

Now we're going to sing *and dance* a joyful song of thanks to God.

*Your love has lifted me higher
Than I've ever been lifted before
So keep it up
Quench my desire
And I'll be at your side
Forever more*

*Your love keeps lifting me
Your love keeps lifting me
Higher, higher and higher
I said your love
Your love keeps lifting me
Keeps on lifting me
Lifting me
Higher and higher*

*Now once I was down hearted
Disappointment was my closest friend
But then you came and it soon departed
And you know he never
Showed his face again*

*That's why your love
Your love keeps lifting me
Your love keeps lifting me
Higher, higher and higher
I said your love
Your love keeps lifting me
Keeps on lifting me
Lifting me
Higher and higher*

(Gary Jackson, Raynard Miner and Carl Smith: Brunswick Records)

JIGSAW

WENDY

Greenbelt has met at seven different sites over its 52 year history. So we're quite used to packing up and moving. We are a migrant community, meeting at the side of the road each year, then moving on to places we don't know. That's what the Kingdom of God is like. It's not just here at Greenbelt. Wherever we are, the Kingdom of God is very near.

ANNABEL Tomorrow most of us will pack our bags and take down our tents and head off, not knowing exactly where we will put them up next. Together we make up a glorious jigsaw. Like this tower on the stage.

HUW As this Act of Communion progresses we're going to dismantle this tower and give every one of you a piece. We'll hand them out to the front of the crowd, and ask you to pass them back and out until everyone has one. No throwing please! There's one for everyone, so make sure no one is left out.

WENDY Every piece is a part of the picture. Each piece has a unique place. Please take it with you. Put it on your bathroom mirror, or your workplace, or use it to rest a nice mug of tea on. Then please, please bring it back when we meet again in 2028. We will gather up those unique pieces to reassemble the Greenbelt jigsaw.

Each piece of this sculpture has a message on it to remind us - the Kingdom of God is very near.

BIBLE READING

ANNABEL Our Bible reading is from Luke's gospel, chapter 10, verses 1-11. It's going to be read for us by Keziah and Bella Cross from our long-standing Greenbelt partner Christian Aid.

KEZIAH *Jesus appointed seventy-two people and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

BELLA *Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.*

KEZIAH *"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.*

BELLA

“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is very near to you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you.

KEZIAH

Yet be sure of this:

BELLA

The kingdom of God is very near.’

TALK

LAMMA

My name is Lamma Mansour. I am a Palestinian Christian, born and raised in Nazareth, and currently residing in Jerusalem. Coming from Palestine, the theme of this morning — letting it all go — might be landing a bit differently for me.

Where I come from, and for many others in our world, letting it all go is often not a choice. Across my homeland, Palestine, people are stripped of their homes, land, and often even the people they love. People are made vulnerable against their will. Letting go is, many times, not a choice.

And when everything that normally allows us to live independently is taken away, dependence on one another becomes a condition of survival. We’ve seen this most starkly in Gaza in the past few years: people depending on each other for the most basic things — sheltering in a neighbour’s home, leaving a phone in the care of a stranger while it charges at a makeshift power station, sharing and accepting food from people we’ve never met. Things taken for granted as private, individual matters become matters of survival that depend entirely on someone else’s willingness to share. So I hesitate to romanticise letting go as a spiritual virtue.

But Luke 10 invites us to think about another kind of letting go. Jesus deliberately sends his disciples into a state of vulnerability. He takes away the things that allow them to remain self-sufficient. No purse, no bag, no sandals. Go, he says. Depend on whoever opens the door. Eat what is put before you. Be dependent on others.

This is not simply a teaching about hospitality, nor is it seeking out suffering for its own sake. We can read this instead as an

invitation to solidarity — an invitation to embody Christ's presence in the world by entering the very condition so many people have no choice but to live in.

Jesus doesn't send his disciples out to give charity from a position of strength. He sends them out needing charity, dependent on strangers for food and shelter and safety. He is teaching them that they cannot do this work alone, holding themselves apart from the people they've come to serve.

And this echoes the incarnation. Jesus himself didn't remain insulated from human vulnerability, but entered it fully — hungry, exposed, rejected, and ultimately subject to violence.

And if we follow Christ, we are invited to do something similar in our own lives. Not to reproduce another person's suffering, and certainly not to romanticise the vulnerability that so many people are forced to endure. But to let go of the securities that keep us insulated from one another. To enter other people's worlds. To become vulnerable enough to listen, to receive, to depend, and to be changed.

So maybe letting it all go is not simply about travelling light. Maybe it is about letting go of the illusion that we can remain untouched. It might be about whose door we are willing to knock on, whose table we are willing to sit at, and whose vulnerability we are willing to enter, as Christ entered ours.

CREED

JANE

We're going to say the beatbox creed now, with help from Testament. If you are able to, please stand. We'll say the first lines, and your response is 'Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again'. We'll do it with our bodies as well as with words. When you say 'Christ has died', stretch your arms out to the sides like a crucifix. For 'Christ is risen', lift your arms in front of you, palms up. For 'Christ will come again' — it's jazz hands! Let's go!

WENDY, HUW, ANNABEL

We believe that God Creator
Spoke and brought the world to birth.

ALL

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

WENDY, HUW, ANNABEL

We believe that Jesus Saviour,

lived and died with us on earth.

ALL Christ has died,
 Christ is risen,
 Christ will come again.

WENDY, HUW, ANNABEL We believe the Holy Spirit,
 Soaks the world with love and grace.

ALL Christ has died,
 Christ is risen,
 Christ will come again.

WENDY, HUW, ANNABEL This we share with every Christian,
 throughout time in every place

ALL Christ has died,
 Christ is risen,
 Christ will come again.

PRAYERS

WENDY We're going to take some time now to lead each other in prayer, right where we are in our groups. Let the children lead the grown-ups and let the grown-ups lead the children.

ANNABEL Pray for the needs of the world. Pray for our homes and our families. Pray for those people whose homes are full of pain. Pray for an end to wars everywhere. Pray for our neighbours far away and for the strangers near at hand.

HUW Speak your prayers out loud if you want to, or say them in your heart. Right where we are in our groups, let's lead each other in prayer from the heart.

SONG

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

Chorus

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.*

*Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

Chorus

*We cannot live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

Chorus

(Karen Lafferty: 1972 CCCM Music, administered by
Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing Inc.)

COMMUNION

HUW As we prepare to share our communion, please take the bread
from your bag and put it in the middle of the group. If
someone in the group has a clean cup, please pour the juice
into it now.

WENDY It's getting dark, and we are a long way from home.
Let's eat together.

ALL We don't have enough

HUW What can we bring?

ALL Everything we have.

ANNABEL God has given us bread

ALL This will be God's body
(Reach hands toward the bread)

WENDY God has given us wine

ALL This will be God's blood
(Reach hands toward the juice)

HUW God has given us a song

ALL This will be our song

SONG Holy Holy
Holy Holy

God Almighty
God Almighty

Hosanna
Hosanna

In the Highest
In the Highest

ANNABEL God is coming. Let's keep silent.

ALL Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!

WENDY The night before he died, Jesus met with his young friends.
They were laughing and joking together.
Then things got more serious.

HUW Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to you, God.
He broke it into pieces, and gave it to everyone.
"This is my body," he said.
"Do this, and know that I am with you."

ANNABEL Jesus is alive

ALL And we are alive in Jesus.

WENDY Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.
He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood.
It brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you."

ANNABEL Jesus is alive
ALL And we are alive in Jesus.

HUW And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new
life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that
life and live in him.

ANNABEL Jesus is alive
ALL And we are alive in Jesus.

WENDY Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and juice can be for
us the body and blood of Jesus.

ANNABEL God has given us God's own self

ALL	Now we have enough
WENDY	Whoever you are, Christ invites you to his multiplication table. Whatever you let go will come back to you many times more.
HUW	Let's share the bread and juice together in our groups. And as you give someone bread and juice, say to them "The Kingdom of God is very near".
DURING DISTRIBUTION	<i>Wade in the Water</i> <i>Wade in the water</i> <i>Wade in the water, children</i> <i>Wade in the water</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water</i> <i>Wade in the water</i> <i>Wade in the water,</i> <i>Wade in the water.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>Sometimes I'm up Lord and sometimes I'm down.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>Sometimes I'm level to the ground.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>Water ahead is dark and cold.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>It chills my body but not my soul.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>If you should get there before I do,</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>Tell all my friends that I'm comin' too.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>(And I'll) wade in the water</i> <i>Wade in the water,</i> <i>Wade in the water,</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>I said God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i> <i>God's gonna trouble the water.</i>
SONG	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>

*hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.*

This is our prayer, this is our prayer.

*Give us today
our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.*

This is our prayer, this is our prayer.

*Lead us not
into temptation
but deliver us
from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory
are yours now
and for ever.*

Amen.

OFFERING

KATIE

My name is Katie and this is Georgia. We are trustees of Greenbelt. Your generous giving at today's Communion Gathering will be split 50:50.

50% will stay with us at Greenbelt. It's a thank offering – to help us safeguard the future of the festival as we move forward.

GEORGIA

The other 50% will go to projects supporting the people of Gaza – both right now and in the longer term. We'll be channelling your giving through our trusted, longstanding partner Christian Aid.

Nearly three years into the conflict, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip continue to face immense challenges. Since last year's festival, Christian Aid's local partners have continued adapting

their response as conditions have deteriorated. They support urgent humanitarian needs while also helping communities identify and address their own priorities. Once again, some of your giving will be used to provide immediate help in any way we can. Some will be ring-fenced to support the longer-term task of rebuilding in Gaza, in the future that we hope and believe will come.

KATIE

If you are at the back of the crowd, there may be a white collection bucket near you. If you can see one, please pass it forward through the crowd toward the stage. You can make a gift by putting cash or a cheque (made out to Greenbelt Festivals Limited) into the bucket. But lots of people don't use cheques or cash. So instead you can make your donation online by credit or debit card. If you'd prefer to do that, please visit the Jesus Arms, The Hope and Anchor or The G-Store any time over the weekend and say you want to contribute to the communion offering. Finally you could make a donation online by visiting [www \[dot\] greenbelt \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk \[slash\] gift](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/gift). If you are a UK tax payer, please make sure that you also complete a Gift Aid form, which you will find in your communion bag or online, and put that in the bucket too.

GEORGIA

Whatever you choose to do, THANK YOU for supporting Greenbelt and this offering.

HUW

Thank you. And as the buckets pass through the crowd, we're going to sing.

SONG

*When I wake up in the morning in my bed,
God behind, God beside, God ahead.
When I am eating up my breakfast bacon and egg
God behind, God beside, God ahead.
When I am going on a summer holiday,
God behind, God beside, God ahead.
When I am opening my presents, Christmas day,
God behind, God beside, God ahead*

In the sunshine, and the rain,

*In the laughter, and in the pain, (yeah)
With us in the morning, with us in the day, with us in the
evening, Always, always, always.*

*When it feels like you have been left out on your own
God behind, God beside, God ahead.
When there are no cards or letters no one phones,
God behind, God beside, God ahead.*

*When you fall out with your friends – feeling sad,
God behind, God beside, God ahead.
When somebody in your family drives you mad,
God behind, God beside, God ahead.*

(Fischy Music)

WENDY Please keep passing the buckets forward through the crowd.
And if you don't yet have a piece from our sculpture, please
wave and someone will try to pass one to you.

HUW And as that continues to happen, please welcome Testament.

SONG Testament leads crowd in *You Love Has Lifted Me Higher*

TREE PLANTING

WENDY We have focused this morning on the things God calls us to let
go and leave behind. As a festival we wanted to leave one
thing here as a gift to these fields that have blessed us over the
last ten years, and the people of Boughton House who have
given us such wonderful hospitality here.

HUW So we are going to plant this tree as our gift back to the land.
It's a two year-old oak tree - and by the grace of God it will
grow and thrive here for a hundred years.

ANNABEL We're going to carry it through the crowd now and plant it at
the back of the Glade, just behind the Caravan of Love. Please
make a path for the tree to come through. And as we do that,
let's pray.

HUW Loving creator God, you have blessed us in this beautiful place for ten years. You have fed us and held us. You have given us sunshine and rain.

WENDY We thank you and praise you for allowing us to care for the earth, to meet you here, and to be co-creators with you. We ask for your mercy on our burning planet.

ANNABEL As we move on from Boughton we offer you this tree as a sign of our thanks. We pray that it will put down deep roots, and grow strong, and provide a home and a shelter, and take its place in the beautiful web of your creation here for many decades to come. Amen.

SONG In love this tree is rooted and grounded

*Fed by the earth, watered by the sky,
God's delight growing deep and high.*

*Do you hear the call? Time for us to go;
Jesus lead, and we'll try to follow.*

*Flying like a bird, fruiting like a tree,
Spirit with us eternally.*

(Suzanne Butler: Fischy Music)

WENDY Feel free to go and visit the tree later today, behind the Caravan of Love. Maybe you could use it as a focus for your own thanks and prayers.

ANNA If you do visit the tree, please take a cup of water with you and pour it at the root of the tree. It's one way to bless this land as we move on.

HUW And as we bring our Act of Communion to a close, let's stand and sing together this simple song. *We're going in the grace of Jesus.*

SONG We're going in the grace of Jesus.
We're leaving in the love of Jesus.
We're carrying the hope of Jesus,

and everywhere we go, there's Jesus.

*Jesus, Jesus, you'll never leave us.
Send us, lead us, we go with Jesus.*

(Sam Hargreaves: Engage Worship)

WENDY

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit".

ANNABEL

Go with Jesus, until we meet in another field somewhere. Until we do, remember that wherever you go, the Kingdom of God is very near.

HUW

Thank you so much for joining in our Act of Communion. We're going to keep singing this song as we all move off to the rest of the programme.