

Climate Action Day

Resources and Ideas for Individuals and Churches

Parliament has declared a climate change emergency and a series of climate strikes have taken place across the UK and elsewhere, led by young people. From 20-27 September there will be a global week of action to coincide with the UN Climate Summit on 23 September (<https://globalclimatestrike.net>). Churches across the diocese are being urged to get involved in a climate action day on 20 September.

The diocese is committed to taking climate change seriously through a new Diocesan Environmental Policy and Action Plan. Parishes across the diocese are registering for Eco Church – a national award that recognises and supports churches who are working to become more environmentally friendly. Details of these can be found at lichfield.anglican.org/environment

Our four bishops are encouraging churches, clergy and diocesan staff to show solidarity with young people to demand an end to the age of fossil fuels and climate justice for everyone.

Bishop Clive, diocesan lead on the Environment, said: "Our diocesan vision includes a prayer that we become a church 'that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.' As we grow deeper in our love for Jesus, we learn to love our neighbour, which applies to the whole of creation as much as our human neighbour. So often the care of creation has been seen as a marginal preoccupation within the life of the Church. But by making small changes to our own lifestyles and campaigning for the government to make big changes we can be part of halting the progress of climate change."

The Revd Rich Clarkson, Diocesan Environmental Officer, said "It's vital that as Christians we make our voices heard on this, the defining issue of our age, because we know from the Bible that God cares about the wellbeing of this earth and its inhabitants even more than we do. The effects of Climate Change are being seen right now and by engaging with the Climate Action day on the 20 September we stand in solidarity both with our global neighbours, and also with farmers and others in our own communities whose lives and livelihoods are being impacted."

This document contains some ideas and resources to help individuals and churches get involved with the Climate Action Day on Friday 20 September.

Churches are encouraged to share their efforts on social media with the hashtags #climatechange and #chadclimateaction

Let us know your plans at communications@lichfield.anglican.org

Think

Articles

A theological reflection on the need for Climate Action from Christian Aid:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/climate-change-whom-do-we-stand>

Christian Concern for One World reflected on the Climate Strikes in a recent prayer bulletin:

<https://www.ccow.org.uk/9286-2/>

Jeremy Williams writes about the role of Christians in Extinction Rebellion protests:

<http://redletterchristians.org.uk/standing-on-the-bridge-climate-breakdown-and-the-prophetic-moment>

Rev'd Susie Templeton writes for the John Ray Initiative on lobbying parliament:

<https://www.jri.org.uk/blog/the-time-is-now/>

A concise explanation of why Christians should care about the environment:

<https://arocha.org.uk/about-us/why-we-do-it/>

An article from Tearfund on taking care of God's earth:

https://www.tearfund.org/en/2019/02/taking_care_of_gods_earth/

Books

Spiritual Activism, by Alastair McIntosh & Matt Carmichael

<https://earthbound.report/2015/09/16/spiritual-activism-by-alastair-mcintosh-and-matt-carmichael/>

Planetwise, by Dave Bookless

<https://earthbound.report/2008/03/12/planetwise-by-dave-bookless/>

Climate Resistance Handbook, by Daniel Hunter (*a limited number of hard copies are available from our Diocesan Environmental Officer, email revrichclarkson@gmail.com*)

<https://trainings.350.org/climate-resistance-handbook/>

Podcast

The Hopeful Activist Podcast, from the Praxis Centre, especially episodes 3, 8, 12 & 13

<https://praxiscentre.org/the-hopeful-activists-podcast/>

Act

Ideas for individuals

- Find out if there is a climate march near you and get involved - <https://globalclimatestrike.net>
- Write to your MP or local council leader - https://www.campaigncc.org/lobbying_mps
- Find other local groups (e.g. Transition Towns, Friends of the Earth, Green Christians) and get involved with what they're doing
- Get in touch with a local farmer and find out how they look after their land and how climate change is affecting their work – Ask what you can do to support them, and how you can be praying for them.
- Switch your electricity supplier to a renewable alternative
- Try to go 'carbon neutral' for the day
- Spend the day fasting and praying for the environment
- Plant a tree, wildflower seeds, vegetable patch or
- More ideas here - <https://earthbound.report/2012/07/26/40-methods-of-non-violent-protest/>

Ideas for churches

- Get involved as a church in a local Climate Protest
- Organise a day of prayer for the environment
- Partner with other local churches/schools and hold an act of worship in your churchyard/another public space - <https://engageworship.org/>
- Register your church for ecochurch - <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>
- Organise a churchyard working party, make a plan for encouraging wildlife in your churchyard, undertake a wildlife survey, or set up some prayer stations in your churchyard - <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>
- Get in touch with your local Wildlife Trust and see if you can help out on a local nature reserve
- Invite a local farmer or NFU representative to come and speak about the challenges facing UK agriculture at the moment, find out how you can pray for and support farmers in your local community.
- See whether there are changes your church can make to reduce your environmental impact such as cutting out single use plastics or switching to renewable energy.
- Share what you're doing with local media and on Social Media – let people know what you're doing and why Christians care about this!

Ideas for schools

- The Diocesan Board of Education have collated some Climate Action resources for schools - <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/climateactionday/>