



Climate Sunday



Many Christians want to make their mark in the lead-up to COP26, the intergovernmental climate conference in Glasgow in November. The church wants to express God's love and desire for justice on this critical issue of our age.

Climate Sunday has therefore been organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) with support from many churches (including the Church of England) and over a dozen charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund and A Rocha UK.

Along with over 1000 other churches, St Mary's has arranged its own Climate Sunday. On 6th June our worship will focus on God as creator and be reminded why and how we should be caring for God's creation.

The culmination of the campaign will be on Sunday 5th September 2021, two months before the COP talks, when there will be a national Climate Sunday event at 4pm in Glasgow Cathedral to celebrate the commitments made by churches at local level over the previous year. There will also be a presentation to the UK government with the combined commitments and calls which local churches have made – to show our political leaders that they have our support to act boldly, justly and compassionately on this issue.

The PCC on behalf of the Church has made its own commitment to take creation care seriously. At its meeting in May it passed the following resolution:

St Mary's recognises that humanity's failure to take proper care of God's creation has led to a global environmental crisis, including pollution, loss of biodiversity and climate change. Driven by our love of God and his creation, and his demand for justice for all peoples, we must change our habits and practices. We benchmark our environmental programme against external standards, planning to maintain at least the standard of the Eco Church bronze award. We also accept General Synod's challenge to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.

The PCC has added its name to a petition to the Prime Minister asking him to act ahead of COP26, and it would be great if you [added your name too](#). The PCC has also written to Jonathan Djanogly MP (see the letter on the next page). [Perhaps you would like to write to your MP as well.](#)

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St Marys Church
Great North Road
Eaton Socon
St Neots
PE19 8EJ

Jonathan Djanogly MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

20th May 2021

Dear Mr Djanogly,

Climate Change and COP26

We are writing as the Church Council of St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon, to tell you of our concern about the effects of climate change and to encourage you to act for the long-term interests of this and other nations.

As Christians we believe that God creates all life on earth. We must therefore be concerned with the protection and flourishing of the environment, and the sustainable and equitable use of resources. We are therefore:

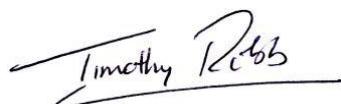
- Working to reduce our own environmental impact. You may be aware that the Church of England General Synod has passed a motion that the church should be "carbon-neutral" by 2030. We at St Mary's plan to do all we can to help achieve this aim
- Implementing changes in our building, land and practices as recommended by A Rocha's "Eco Church" scheme and the Cambridge Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme
- Within our services, celebrating creation and highlighting our responsibilities as a church and as individuals. We are holding a special "Climate Sunday" service on Sunday 6th June in anticipation of COP26. We as a Church Council have endorsed the Climate Coalition's "The Time is Now" declaration and are encouraging our parishioners to sign up too.

This year the UK is hosting the G7 summit in June and also the annual UN climate talks, COP26, in November in Glasgow. Decisions made at these meetings will be immensely important in shaping the world's response to the climate crisis, which is one of the most serious threats to the world. We are encouraged by the government's recent announcement of increased ambitions, and ask that you use your position as a Member of Parliament to do all you can to ensure that these ambitions are translated into positive and generous implementation. In particular:

- Invest in a green recovery that leaves no one behind – either in the UK or in the world's poorest communities
- Remove the tax breaks on fossil fuel energy and step-up support for clean energy
- Protect, restore and expand our green and wild spaces, allowing nature to thrive, and removing carbon from our atmosphere
- Increase financial support to the world's poorest countries and push for their debts to be cancelled so they can better confront the climate crisis and other urgent priorities that they face.

We look forward to hearing your views on these vital issues.

Yours sincerely,



Rev'd Timothy Robb
Vicar of St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon
On behalf of the Parochial Church Council