

# Taking a Stand for Creation



We want others to know how we take care of God's creation, and we want our politicians and leaders to take environmental concerns seriously too.

The PCC on behalf of the Church has made its own commitment to take creation care seriously. At its meeting in May 2021 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.

In preparation for COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, St Mary's was one of over 2,200 churches that held Climate Sunday services. On a Sunday in the preceding June our worship focused on God as creator and we were reminded why and how we should be caring for God's creation.

The PCC also added its name to a petition to the Prime Minister asking him to act ahead of COP26, and wrote to Jonathan Djanogly MP. The PCC wrote again in February 2022 asking him to ensure that the momentum generated by COP26 was not lost and that the Government takes practical steps to implement its stated aspirations. The letters and Mr Djanogly's answers are shown on the following pages. [Perhaps you would like to write to your MP as well.](#)

[Back to Creation Care page](#)

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

Jonathan Djanogly MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

20<sup>th</sup> 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:

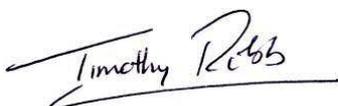
- Working to reduce our own environmental impact. You may be aware that the Church of England General Synod has passed a motion that the church should be "carbon-neutral" by 2030. We at St Mary's plan to do all we can to help achieve this aim
- Implementing changes in our building, land and practices 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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



Jonathan Djanogly MP  
Member of Parliament for Huntingdon  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Rev. Timothy Robb  
St Mary's Church  
Great North Road  
Eaton Socon  
St Neots  
PE19 8EJ

Our Ref: ZA39967

24 June 2021

Dear Rev. Robb

Thank you for your recent letter regarding climate change.

The UK has a proud record on climate action, being the first major economy to legislate to achieve net zero by 2050. The Prime Minister has set the world's most ambitious climate change target into law of reducing emissions by 78 per cent by 2035, compared to 1990 levels. This builds on the existing interim target of reducing emissions by 68 per cent by 2030. The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution lays the blueprint for how the UK can forge ahead in eradicating our contribution to climate change and achieving net zero.

As included in the plan, the UK will produce enough offshore wind to power every home, quadrupling how much we currently produce to 40GW by 2030, thereby supporting up to 60,000 jobs. The Government will work with industry and aim to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes. In addition, the Government aims to develop the first town heated entirely by hydrogen by the end of the decade. The UK will also become a world leader in carbon capture technology to store harmful emissions away from the atmosphere, with a target to remove 10MT of carbon dioxide by 2030, equivalent to all emission of the industrial Humber today, through £200 million investment. Finally, from £525 million investment in nuclear as a clean energy source this will develop the next generation of small and advanced reactors which could support 10,000 jobs.

Other parts of the plan include a target to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028, £1 billion funding to make our schools, hospitals and homes more energy efficient, planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year, promoting and investing in zero-emission transport and £20 million to develop clean maritime technology. The plan also includes a pledge to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, while the sale of some hybrid cars and vans will continue until 2035.

This plan will mobilise £12 billion of Government investment to create and support 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs across the UK. It is expected to spur over three times as much private sector investment by 2030.

I know the Government's International Climate Finance commitment has seen several projects established around the world in which the UK supports developing countries tackle climate change. One example of a project is the UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions), a bilateral capacity building programme, which responds to the critical global need to build the capacity of countries to accelerate the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). With £60 million between 2018-2021, UK PACT works with high-emission, high-ambition developing countries through bilateral programmes, skill-shares and a global challenge fund.

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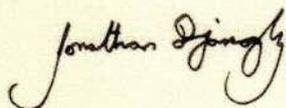
While the UK is taking world-leading steps to combat global warming, it is an issue that requires global attention and international action. That is why we will bring together world leaders, climate experts, business leaders and citizens from across the globe to agree ambitious action to tackle climate change. Further, we will use our Presidency to work to four clear objectives:

- To ask countries to commit to net zero by mid-century, with more ambitious nationally determined contribution targets for 2030;
- To urgently protect and help adapt our communities and natural habitats from the destructive effects of climate change;
- To increase funding to support these aims, making good on the \$100 billion annual climate finance goal affirmed through the Paris Agreement; and
- To close off the outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook, and accelerate delivery of the Paris Goals through collaboration between Governments, Businesses and Civil Society.

Encouraging progress has already been made, for example, when the UK accepted the Presidency, under 30 per cent of the global economy had signed up to a net zero commitment and I am delighted that that figure has now increased to 70 per cent. Around 120 countries are committed to or are developing long-term climate neutral plans. We are dedicated to working with all countries to inspire action ahead of and during the conference, including pressing for more countries to set net zero targets.

Thank you again for contacting me on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jonathan Dingley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Jonathan Dingley".

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

Mr Jonathan Djanogly MP  
House of Commons,  
London SW1A 0AA

24 February 2022

Dear Mr Djanogly,

### **Climate Change**

We were encouraged by the leadership that the UK showed at COP26, and by the strong positive statements made then by the Prime Minister.

I am writing to you again on behalf of St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon to ask that you call on the Prime Minister urgently to maintain momentum on the climate and nature crises and to take clear actions in these first 100 days after COP26. We are particularly concerned about the impacts of climate change because poorer people and countries tend to be disproportionately affected.

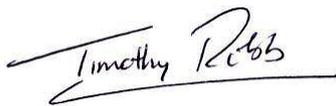
### **Please will you write to the Prime Minister and call on him to make these clear commitments on climate action following COP:**

1. End the era of fossil fuels, starting with cancelling the proposed Cambo Oil Field and the Cumbrian coal mine
2. Champion a global agreement for new and additional finance including for the losses and damages that countries on the front lines of the climate crisis are already experiencing, and reverse the UK's damaging aid cuts
3. Urgently get the UK on track to its own sixth carbon budget through a green budget, the urgent rescuing of carbon stores including ancient peat and woodland and clear signals that the UK is moving towards a green and just transition

It is essential that the Government follow up its stated ambitions with clear actions. Climate action is a fight that unites us all for the sake of the planet that our children and grandchildren inherit.

Please will you share your letter to the Prime Minister on social media? We look forward to seeing his response.

Yours sincerely



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



Jonathan Djanogly MP  
Member of Parliament for Huntingdon  
House of Commons  
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Revd. Timothy Robb  
St Marys Church  
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Eaton Socon  
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Our Ref: ZA44742

4 March 2022

Dear Revd. Robb

Thank you for contacting me about climate change and COP26.

I am strongly encouraged by the progress and agreements achieved at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. The Glasgow Climate Pact calls on countries to accelerate efforts towards the phase down of unabated coal power and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognising the need for support towards a just transition.

I appreciate you raising your concerns about the Cambo oil field. The original licensing consent for the Cambo oil field dates back to 2001 when it was approved by the then Labour government. Development proposals for fields with existing licences, such as Cambo, are subject to a rigorous scrutiny process and environmental impact assessment.

The consent application is ongoing, however I recognise that Siccar Point Energy has paused the development at this time. While I ultimately understand that this is a commercial decision to be taken independently by Siccar Point Energy, I know that the UK Government remains committed to the UK's domestic offshore oil and gas sector which continues to strengthen our security of supply while we grow our renewables sector. Without a domestic source of oil and gas, there is no doubt that the UK would be even more reliant on foreign imports.

While I am pleased that the Government is working hard to drive down demand for fossil fuels, I do also appreciate that there will continue to be ongoing demand for oil and gas over the coming years, as recognised by the independent Climate Change Committee.

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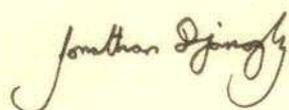
At COP25, countries highlighted that existing sources of funds from a wide variety of sources, including disaster reduction and response funds, respond to loss and damage. I understand they also urged donors and other funds to scale up support relevant to averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage in the most vulnerable countries.

Therefore, I was strongly encouraged that at COP26 in Glasgow, more public and private finance was mobilised to support climate action in developing countries than ever before and I am encouraged that the global financial system is aligning behind a net zero world. New pledges made at COP26 bring developed countries closer to meeting the over £75.3 billion annual climate finance target in 2022 and ensure it is exceeded after that, as well as mobilising billions in private finance and green investment. Governments have committed to double the overall finance for adaptation and better address the threat of loss and damage in climate-vulnerable countries, and I know the UK will now work with all countries to make good on those pledges.

When the UK took on the COP26 Presidency in 2019, in partnership with Italy, only 30 per cent of the world was covered by net zero targets. I am glad that this figure is now at around 90 per cent. Clearly, there is more work to do and I am encouraged that the Glasgow Climate Pact requires countries to return next year with a more ambitious 2030 emissions reductions target in line with the 1.5C target, ensuring crucial momentum on climate action this decade is maintained.

I will follow further progress closely, reassured that ministerial colleagues will continue pushing for increased global ambition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jonathan Djanogly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely".