



Climate Challenge

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Church Challenge

**John Heywood and Sheena Heaton
St Peter's Maney in Sutton Coldfield
Claire Carter, Knowle Church**

St Peter's Eco Journey

- About 10 years ago, we set 'reducing our carbon footprint' as one of our Transforming Church targets
- Set up an environmental group – Eco Maney
- Strong leadership from a few committed individuals and the Vicar
- Eco Maney became formal committee of PCC with agendas, minutes, reports

What happened?

We installed solar panels in 2014



Quick wins

- Switched to a green energy provider
- Installed LED lights – asking the congregation to sponsor one or more bulbs
- Set up a Traidcraft stall and introduced Fairtrade products for church events
- Introduced recycled paper throughout
- Use eco friendly cleaning products

Set up a monthly working party to care for our green space with wildlife friendly planting



Importance of Prayer and Worship

- Pray for Creation monthly – written in to Prayer Calendar
- Special emphasis on environment in Lent
- Celebrate all Sundays in Creationtide with ‘green liturgy’ and appropriate hymns; animal service; Harvest Festival
- Special service for Earth Hour

Worked to engage the congregation

- An article on environmental issues in every edition of the Church magazine
- Lent Challenge on reducing plastic use
- Encouraged congregation to undertake carbon footprint exercise bringing PCs into church hall at coffee time
- Environmental quiz
- Regular tips and information in pew sheets

Wider Outreach

- Set up local litter pick every year
- Website, Facebook and other social media
- Meet regularly with local MP, Andrew Mitchell, and encourage people to contact MP
- Work with local eco groups and other local churches
- Give talks to other churches
- Global outreach is an Eco Church requirement concerning social justice and sustainable development
- Twinned our toilets
- Christian Aid, Fairtrade Foundation and Malawi
- Charitable giving

Eco Church



- In 2016 we got our Eco Church bronze award
- In 2018 we became first Anglican church in the Diocese to receive a Silver Award
- Celebrated these events
- Going for gold has stalled because of Covid but we are working on it.

Key Points from St Peter's Experience

1. Be disciplined and be accountable – a formal committee reporting to PCC
2. Get some quick wins and celebrate successes
3. Tell people what you are doing – both church people and wider community
4. Regular prayer, preaching and special services are vital. Make good use of Lent and Creationtide
5. Use a variety of methods to engage people; enable them to access information
6. Involve children, young people and the uniformed organisations.
7. Sign up to Eco church



Problems

- Scepticism
- Money
- Lack of time
- Too many other initiatives
- No-one is sufficiently interested

Breakout rooms

10 minutes

- What do you think is holding churches back?
- What would help you get started or make you more effective?

Why should we do it?

- We are charged by God – ‘the earth is the Lord’s’
- The science – the evidence, the urgency
- Social Justice – the rich have created the current situation but the poor suffer most
- CofE is committed to be net carbon zero by 2030
- The Fifth Mark of Mission

Fifth Mark of Mission

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth





- Hold your own climate service before 5 September
- Register your service
- Sign a commitment to long term action for the environment and encourage individuals to do so
- Join national celebration on September 5 when all commitments will be presented to the government
- Meet your MP with other people (C of E, other denominations, other faiths)
- There will be other churches' services on line for guidance - details in the additional resources

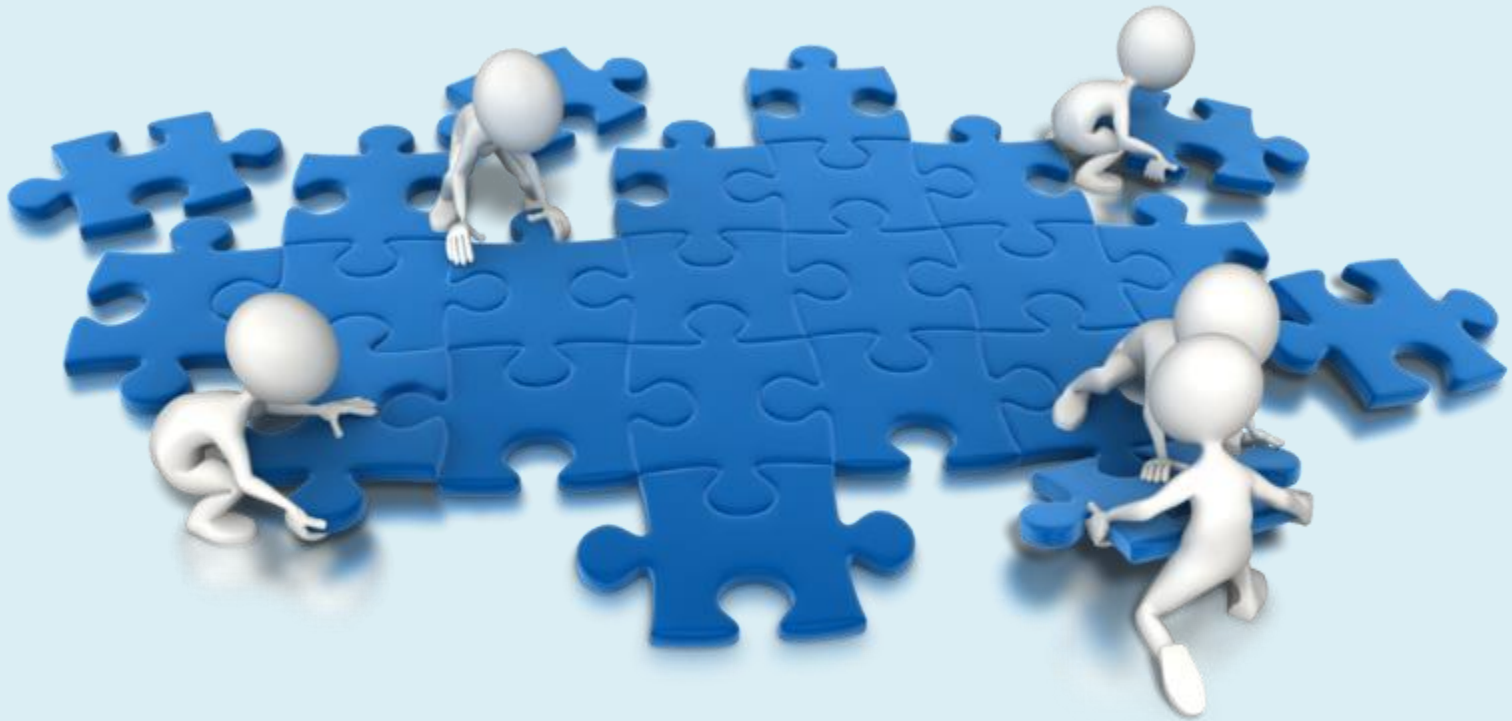
Importance of COP 26

- COP 26 will be in November in Glasgow
- Longevity of carbon in the atmosphere
- Promises are not enough – actions are needed
- International resolutions hold governments to account
- Our government's plans only address half of our carbon emissions
- Our government's plans are not consistent or concerted
- We are serious & we want serious help from our MPs

How to meet an MP

- Research what they are like
- Use website www.theyworkforyou.com
- Find supporters
- Ask for date
- Agree what to ask (who speaks/chairs)
- Either Zoom or in person.
- Will they work with other MPs?
- Hope for the Future - offers helpful approaches

Working Together – there is lots of help out there



Resources to support and help

Don't be put off by over-provision of information

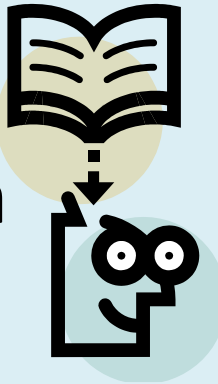
- Eco Church survey is a good starting point
- Climate Sunday information is excellent - includes green liturgies, music, scripture
- Birmingham Diocese eco pages (on website)
- CofE Environment Programme (on website)
- Find an approach that suits your style – e.g. Footsteps brings different faiths together

CofE Birmingham

- New Area Deans have brief to encourage churches on eco matters – a rep. from every church and an Eco Champion in every Deanery
- Bishop has set up Environmental Oversight Board
- Patrick Gerard is the Bishop's Advisor for the Environment
- Net Zero Environment Group (NZEG) - net zero carbon target is priority for Diocesan Property team
- BACA - a 'ginger' group?

Other Resources

- Books – Naomi Klein, Greta Thunberg, Ruth Valerio
- On line resources – WWF, ARocha, Woodland Trust, Royal Horticultural Society, National Trust and loads more
- Invite a speaker – BACA, ARocha, Footsteps
- List of Resources will be sent to you after the Presentation



How to engage your congregation

- Prayer, preaching, talks, testimonies
- Involve those already interested in the natural world – gardeners, bird watchers, pet owners, ramblers, National Trust members.
- Appeal to grandparents and older people who are concerned for the next generation
- Involve young people and uniformed organisations – use social media
- Enable people to access information – provide help with computers, smart phones

- You could show this David Attenborough film, lasting less than 9 minutes, in place of a sermon

www.ourplanet.com/en/video/how-to-save-our-planet



- Set challenges to encourage people to make one change – or ask people to make a pledge – provide them with examples
- Use quizzes and games to raise awareness.
- Tap into existing concerns – litter, overuse of plastic and packaging, pollution and air quality, social justice, food banks and food waste

Claire Carter, Knowle Church

Practical suggestions on food
waste, plastics, packaging and
sustainable living

Claire Carter

Knowle Parish Church & Food Blogger



www.therealmealdeal.com

Engaging our congregations around Food



- Inspiring congregations and communities to take action in their own homes is **CRUCIAL** to tackling the Climate Emergency.
- Helps reinforce work undertaken in church
- Unites our communities in sense of shared goal and responsibility

Why Food?



- Emissions from food = over **25% of global CO2 emissions.**

Where does the carbon come from?



- How food is farmed
- Transportation
- Food miles
- Storage
- Waste



SUSTAINABILITY

NEXT EXIT



What is a Sustainable Diet?

- Locally Sourced Food
→ reduction in emissions from Food Miles.
- Seasonal Food
→ reduction in emissions from energy to produce food out of season & store

Reducing Meat & Dairy



- Reducing meat & dairy consumption is essential.
- Swapping to a plant based meal even just once per week can have significant impact.



Carbon Impact of reducing meat

- If everyone in UK replaced just ONE red meat based meal with one vegan meal per week, the environmental impact would equal taking **16 million cars off the road.**

(Source Joseph Poore Oxford University)

Choose high Animal Welfare products

- High animal welfare products better for the animal
- Better for the environment. All meat and fish production not the same

Choose Sustainably Farmed Products

- World produces enough food to feed 10 Billion people
- Choose sustainably farmed products such as organic over industrially farmed to protect land and biodiversity

Fairtrade

- Supporting Fairtrade is a direct way to help many of those already affected by climate change.
- Fairtrade supports sustainable farming practices



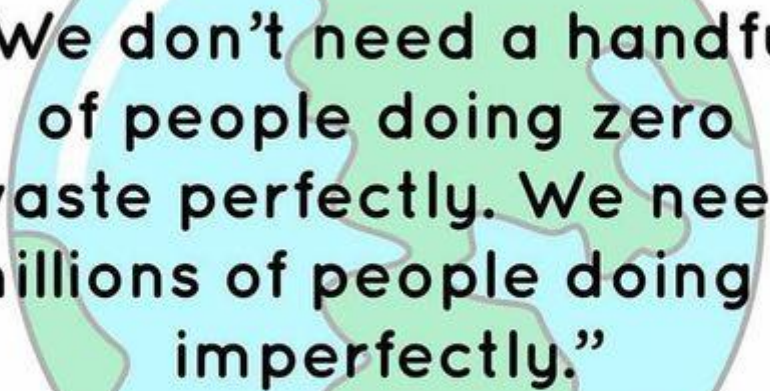


Reduce Food Waste

- Globally one third of all food produced is wasted
- If food waste were a country, would be third largest emitter of CO2 after USA and China
- Majority of food waste comes from homes
- Plan of action for surplus food at church events

Plastics & Packaging

- We cannot recycle our way out of plastic crisis
- Reduce single use plastic & single use items.
- Encourage new habits such as reusable water bottles, coffee cups as a starting point.



**“We don’t need a handful
of people doing zero
waste perfectly. We need
millions of people doing it
imperfectly.”**

- Anne Marie Bonneau

Our Opportunities

Echoing Claire's final quotation

“The biggest thing that most of us do that contributes to climate change is to assume that what we do does not really matter. We underestimate our own capacity to contribute to a sustainable world”

Karen O'Brien, Professor at the University of Oslo and Co-founder of cchange.no.

Perhaps this is the right time to do it!

- We have all had to deal with an unprecedented situation over the last 14 months
- We have shown we have the capacity to cope and change
- Now is a great time to reset, to start anew

We don't need to be perfect

We don't need to do everything all at once

We do need to do something

