

## It's time to act!

For decades now we have been talking about Climate Change. The vast majority of people agree that changes are taking place and that human activity has been, and still is, a major contributory factor. There has been so much talk and so much acceptance that it seems to have lulled us into doing nothing. In this country we have a Climate Change Act with specific targets for reduction but there seems little political will to take them seriously. It's not an issue that wins votes. The financial crisis has been used as an excuse to do very little about investing in alternative green technologies – rather the opposite with the emphasis on extracting cheap shale gas.

Also being overlooked is the fact that those who are likely to be most affected by changes in global weather patterns are the poorest and least advantaged in our world.

The latest International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report is clear, the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world are already being hardest hit by climate change and will be in the future; climate change that is caused predominately by burning fossil fuels.

Here's how the IPCC says that climate change harms the most vulnerable people:

**Extreme weather** – “climate-change-related risks from extreme events, such as heat waves, extreme precipitation, and coastal flooding, are

already moderate and high with 1°C additional warming.” We've experienced that this year with exceptional rainfall and flooding and days of very high air pollution. However “risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities in countries at all levels of development.”

**Food** – “climate change has negatively affected wheat and maize yields for many regions and in the global aggregate” whilst further climate change brings “risk of food insecurity and the breakdown of food systems linked to warming, drought, flooding, and precipitation variability and extremes, particularly for poorer populations in urban and rural settings”.

**Water** – further climate change brings “risk of loss of rural livelihoods and income due to insufficient access to drinking and irrigation water and reduced agricultural productivity, particularly for farmers and pastoralists with minimal capital in semi-arid regions.”

**Health** – “Throughout the 21st century, climate change is expected to lead to increases in ill-health in many regions and especially in developing countries with low income, as compared to a baseline without climate change.”

**Fisheries** – “Risk of loss of marine and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and the ecosystem goods, functions, and services they provide for coastal livelihoods, especially for fishing communities in the tropics and the Arctic.”

So what can we do about this?

There is a need to replace talking with action. Individually and within our households we need to constantly audit our lifestyles and have the courage to make the changes that are realistically possible. But we mustn't stay inward looking. We must see where we can make a difference in our communities. There are many opportunities to challenge, to be involved, to take action. We need also to stop being afraid of political action. With a General Election in 2015 now is a good time to challenge the political parties to have clear policies to tackle Climate Change in their manifestoes.

In the rest of this issue of Find we offer a number of ideas and resources which we hope will enable you to take action on this critical issue.

**It's time to act!**

**Terry Thake**

Portfolio Holder and Chair of  
Derby Diocesan  
Environmental Group

### Taking Action

*Hope for the Future campaign from the dioceses in the North East:* Write to your MP asking for clear Environmental Policies in each party manifesto for the 2015 General Election. For a sample letter and more info see [www.hfff.org.uk](http://www.hfff.org.uk)

## EVENTS

### **Belper Goes Green**

From 11 am onwards 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014

At Belper Rugby Club. Free admission. Craft stalls and Workshops. Home energy marquee. Bash the Trash-music from scrap. Kid's games and forest skills. Grow your own plants and advice. Bikes, travel and transport. Health and Wellbeing. Hot and Cold food. Beer festival and lots, lots more. Organised by Transition Belper. For more information see: [www.transitionbelper.org](http://www.transitionbelper.org)

### **Bright Now, Right Now - Supporters' Day and AGM** **Operation Noah**

Saturday, 7 June 2014 from 11:30 to 16:30 Birmingham, Please [book your place](#) for our annual supporters' day in central Birmingham on Saturday 7 June from 11.30am. Following a brief AGM we will review the successes and progress of the Bright Now campaign and hear some personal stories from people who've been campaigning on the ground. Then we will get stuck into how we can move the campaign forward locally and nationally with some interactive group sessions, including a session about anti-fracking campaigning.

### **Bakewell Green Festival** **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

10 am – 6 pm at Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre Celebrating Sustainable Living in the Peak District. A fun, family-oriented event that will mix great local food, music and dance with inspiration and ideas for living a greener life.

More information at [www.bakewellgreenfestival.org](http://www.bakewellgreenfestival.org)

**This edition has been prepared by the Derby Diocesan Environment Group.** We are a small group and always looking for new ideas and enthusiasms. We meet about six times a year, usually during the working day and usually in Derby. If you would like to know more please contact either Rita Brierley ([Rita.Brierley@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Rita.Brierley@derby.anglican.org)) or Terry Thake (email address below).

The group welcomes invitations from both deanery synods and parishes - indeed any group to give talks and presentation on the Environment and Climate Change and how we as Christians can better live up to the fifth Mark of Mission "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth". Contact: [terry.thake@btinternet.com](mailto:terry.thake@btinternet.com) if you would like to arrange a date for someone to speak.

## RESOURCES

Climate change impacts most on the lives of poor communities in the developing countries. Here are some useful resources about those effects:

Tearfund have a powerful you-tube video which includes an interview with Sir John Houghton, former Co-chair of the International Panel on Climate Change: [http://www.tearfund.org/en/about\\_you/campaign/climatechange/driedup/](http://www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/campaign/climatechange/driedup/)

Rowan Williams, now Chair of Christian Aid wrote in the Daily Telegraph in March:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/10732121/Rowan-Williams-warns-of-climate-catastrophe.html>

Christian Aid have an on-going climate change campaign and the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week is Time for Climate Justice, and there is much food for thought about it on their webpages, for example:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/blog/campaign/climate.aspx>

Anyone wanting to get started, or work out what to do next, on the environmental journey within the church could do well to start by looking at the Eco Congregation materials ([www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)). There are a series of free modules, which churches can work through to consider their response to the environment, looking at worship, their buildings and the wider community. Module 1, the "Church check-up" is a great place to start, and to recognise all of the good things that are already going on in your church, as well as the gaps you can work on.

Eco Congregation is also an award scheme and there are a number of churches in Derbyshire who have achieved the Eco Congregation award. A few of us are also Eco Congregation Assessors, and can offer help and advice to churches who are thinking about applying.

The resources offered by Christian Ecology Link (<http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/>) are also useful, and individual or group membership allows you to link up with other Christians in the area.

## FUNDING

“We haven’t got the money so we can’t do it”

This is an all too familiar refrain, but it doesn’t need to be. In recent years new ways of funding projects have become possible and in order to make good things happen it is important to at least consider some of these options to fund your project alongside more traditional balance sheet expenditure.

Amongst the most exciting and relevant of these to community and church projects are “crowdfunding” opportunities. Various web-sites with a variety of loan, equity and “good cause” sites amongst them, present opportunities to promote your enterprise and raise funds.

Many innovative projects have also succeeded in raising the cash they need in a similar way but by appealing directly to a target constituency, such as local residents or people with a special interest.

Advice? Talk to people and projects who have done something similar to what you are doing. Research the sites. Do think beyond the ways you have raised money in the past. Don’t be afraid to go for it !

Places to start your research  
[www.cafonline.org](http://www.cafonline.org)  
<http://www.fundraising.co.uk>  
<http://www.crowdmission.com>  
<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk>  
[www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)

Whatever befalls the earth,  
befalls the children of the earth.  
The air is precious,  
for all of us share the same breath.  
This we know, the earth does not belong  
to us, we belong to the earth.  
We do not weave the web of life,  
we are merely a strand in it.  
Whatever we do to the web, we do to  
ourselves

Chief Seattle 1854

At one time, almost everyone would have derided the idea that the earth could possibly be round. Today, it seems unlikely that there are many people who still contend that the earth is flat. So what changed? Evidence from scientists and explorers perhaps? Or the passage of time, proving it once and for all?

Today the church’s actions on climate change and natural resource depletion benefit from modern scientific understanding. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch) has, in the first few months of 2014, told us unequivocally, that the impacts of human-induced climate change are being felt in the UK and even more severely in other parts of the world. The scientists of the IPCC tell us that the impacts will get much worse and very quickly - even if we all stop pushing fresh carbon into the atmosphere today (which we won’t). Time is not on our side.

Where is your church on these issues? What is it doing about it? Is it showing leadership in changing perceptions, understanding, attitudes and behaviour? Or is it continuing to insist – in effect - that the Earth is flat? Is it doing nothing? Is it lack of resources? Lack of knowledge? Belief that someone else will deal with the problems? Or is it that other problems (which will actually be swept away by the impacts of climate change and resource depletion) seem somehow more immediate and worthy of our time and energies?

The Derby Diocesan Environmental Group seeks to help churches (of all denominations), understand, come to terms with and take action on Climate change and natural resource depletion.

This group of dedicated volunteers gives talks, runs workshops, and provides signposting to other suitable resources and tools. Some of

the resources we recommend include:

<http://ew.ecocongregation.org>

(excellent practical resources section)

[www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org)

(faith motivated, science informed and hope inspired) and engagement with the work of other community groups like the Transition Towns Network

[www.transitionnetwork.org](http://www.transitionnetwork.org) .

“The Environment” (Creation) enables the church to demonstrate its relevance and to resonate with all who sense the urgent need for less selfishness, less hubris, more humility, great social and environmental conscience and justice. From such a perspective we can create space for new conversations about life and its meaning – and with new people. Churches can and must speak on these issues. With these resources, we can do it!

## **Creation Time**

**An increasing number of churches are keeping the period from 1<sup>st</sup>**

**September to the feast of St Francis on 4<sup>th</sup> October as a time to focus on the creation. Harvest**

**Thanksgiving is often celebrated during this period.**

**Why not consider this in your congregation?**

**CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland ) have produced resources for Creation Time each year since 2008. This year's theme has not yet been announced but all the previous years' ideas can be seen at**

**[www.ctbi.org.uk/295](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/295)**

**How often do you explore environmental issues in your church?**

**How often do you read your electricity and / or gas meters?**

**Have you done any projects with local environment groups?**

**(e.g. Transition Town / Sustainability / Wildlife)**

**Do you have any recycling bins in the church or office space?**

**Do you have green tips in your newsletter or notice board?**

**Have you checked the environmental policy of your bank?**

**Are you able to set your heating controls to both timing and temperature?**

**Are you worried about your heating and lighting bills?**

**Do your children / young people consider environmental issues?**

**Has anyone been to meet with your church to help you with environmental questions?**

This newsletter is produced by the Community Action Officer, Stella Collishaw and the Community Project Development Officer, Gareth Greenwood, who are part of the Derby Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team. This special edition has been written and collated by the Diocesan Environmental Group. If you would like your name on the mailing list, either electronically or by post, please contact the secretary, Rita Brierley. Tel: 01332 388684; email: [faithinaction@derby.anglican.org](mailto:faithinaction@derby.anglican.org); fax: 01332 292969; or by post: Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby, DE1 3DR. [www.faithinderbyshire.org](http://www.faithinderbyshire.org); [www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org). There is no charge