

# ALL SAINTS'

## ECO-BULLETIN Issue 3

### Climate Emergency

There can really be no doubt about it now. The scientists have been warning us for years. Now is the time to take notice as never before and to pray that we have not left it too late.

The RSPB says that “we are at a pivotal point in history where we can choose a beautiful world full of colour and life, skies filled with birdsong, healthy and happy people, clean air to breathe- but only if we stop the nature and climate emergency. We’re watching the sixth mass extinction in Earth’s history, along with polluted air, drought, flooding and more.

We can revive our world back to health if we stop watching and start acting. We all need to work together, including our politicians and leaders.

In 2020 the importance of having nature in our lives has never been clearer, but the crisis facing nature is huge. So huge that our wellbeing, our economic future, and our very survival depend on the choices we make now. If everyone works together, we have time to turn it around. And when we say everyone, we mean everyone. We need politicians with the power to make big changes to help us build the world we want to live in.”

The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) says “nature is being lost at a rate unprecedented in human history. Average global temperatures have risen by more than 1.0°C since pre-industrial times – dangerously close to breaching the critical 1.5 degree increase that would cause irreversible change. We are witnessing a planetary emergency. When it comes to nature loss and climate change there are no winners. Their impact will not only devastate wildlife and ecosystems- they will be felt (and are already being felt) no matter where in the world we are and in all areas of our lives.

Healthy soil is disappearing from the earth’s surface at a rate of 24 billion tons a year. Half of the planet’s topsoil has already been lost in the last 150 years through over grazing, unsustainable agriculture and land use, as well as the effects of pollution and the climate crisis. Healthy functioning soil is not only home to almost 90% of living organisms in terrestrial ecosystems but is relied on for the production of over 95% of our food and for freshwater for most of the world

8 million tones of plastic waste enter our ocean every year & by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the sea. Plastics not only harm marine wildlife but also break down into microplastics small enough to enter our food chain. Research shows that the average person could be unknowingly ingesting around 5g of plastic every week – the weight of a plastic credit card.

The global crisis is causing global sea levels to rise 2.5 times faster than in the last century. By 2050 as sea levels rise and fish stocks shift due to a warming ocean one billion people who live in low lying coastal area will be at risk. By 2100, if we continue at the current rate major cities including Jakarta, Lagos, Houston, Venice, Bangkok, Dhaka, Rotterdam & Miami could be under water.

The battle against nature loss and climate change can only be won if we work together & make the protection of our planet a global priority.

In a recent talk Mark Powley, principal at St Hilda's Theological College says that we must

- 1 Recognise the climate emergency
- 2 Develop plans to decrease greenhouse gases
- 3 use our influence to spread the message.

"Each one of us needs to think. It is not just down to governments or churches or any other groups. We all need to make our own plans and use our influence in whatever setting we find ourselves – in a business, in schools as parents, governors or staff, in our streets & neighbourhoods, in our families.

We are the lifeguards whose job it is to act quickly, with faith and hope, for the love of people and the world that God has made."

In the coming months the PCC will be discussing how the whole church should respond and what actions we need to take.

Both the RSPB & the WWF have petitions you can sign online [www.RSPB.org/reviveourworld](http://www.RSPB.org/reviveourworld)  
[www.panda.org/petition](http://www.panda.org/petition)

If you would like to support communities whose lives are already affected by climate change look at [lendwithcare.org](http://lendwithcare.org) and [practicalaction.org/pumpkin](http://practicalaction.org/pumpkin)

And finally a prayer for the Climate & Ecological Emergency

(Taken from a collection of 26 on St George's Church Leeds website, slightly abridged to fit on the page.)

Father of Creation

God of Compassion,

You created a world of wonder, of possibility and potential.

You declared it to be good.

For this we give thanks; to you be praise, honour and glory.

This world is no longer as you intended it to be.

Humanity has betrayed its calling to tend and keep.

Creation groans.

For this we weep, Lord have mercy;

For this we mourn, Christ have mercy

On our watch,

We reap what we have sown,

On our watch, sea levels rise.

On our watch, forests destroyed,

On our watch, locusts swarm.

For this we weep, Lord have mercy

For this we mourn, Christ have mercy

And so now with tears in our eyes we look to you,

With regret, with repentance,

Knowing the difficult decades that we face,

As temperatures rise, as extinctions increase,

As we come to terms with our existential plight.

For our children, for our Grandchildren,

For the world's most vulnerable,

Father of Creation, God of Compassion,

Wake us from our slumber,  
Equip us afresh to be the justice-shaped people of God.