

Climate Sunday Address

by John Heywood

Eco Maney are glad to be kicking off the new season of Creationtide with information about some fresh initiatives. Those who have read the diocesan bulletin will realise that I am cribbing the theme of interdependence from Bishop David. And all of you will be getting the long version of this talk from Becky by email or post as a supplement with the parish newsletter.

Our interdependence shows up in myriad ways.

We all depend upon God for his saving grace; and we would not be here if he had not created his wonderful world; nor would we have the daunting responsibilities that come with the stewardship he gave us.

But even though we are stewards we are not in charge, we depend upon plants and animals for our food; and we depend upon many other natural systems like rainfall for our water supply and on trees to absorb some of the carbon that we produce.

Malawi and other worse-off nations depend on our aid money to pay for the devastation brought by floods, drought and poor harvests.

We at St Peter's are interdependent with our government ministers. They need us to tell them how seriously we regard the climate crisis. And we need them to work tirelessly to

achieve an international agreement at next year's United Nations Conference. The UK is chairing the conference, which needs to turn the promises of the 2015 Paris Agreement into hard policies.

At St Peter's we can be proud that we have worked so hard and effectively for more than 10 years, both as individuals and collectively as a congregation – we called it 'reducing our carbon footprint'. And now we need to apply ourselves a little differently: we must work together with like-minded churches across Sutton to show our MP that he must share our priority to save God's world for our children & grandchildren.

And in addition we can explain to Mr Mitchell that St Peter's and the whole Church of England have started on our journey to make serious reductions to our energy usage, by 2030 – the buzzword for this is 'net zero carbon'. This plan shows that we are not just asking others to act, but we are prepared to set an example.

Please do read the Eco Maney supplement to the newsletter, as this gives a lot more details. Then ask us questions – maybe at next week's AGM. And please keep praying for the preservation of God's World, perhaps in words like this: Almighty God, you created the heavens & the earth & all that is in them. And you created humankind in your own image and it was very good; grant us the courage to recognise our failures to maintain your creation. And by your grace help us to preserve your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came that we might have life in all its fullness. Amen.