

Presentation for Reigate Deanery

5th Mark of Mission at the time of COP26

14th October 2021

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**Centre for
Environment and
Sustainability**

Images: Ian Christie
unless other source given.



Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Prayer boats and
Creationtide display
Christ Church
West Wimbledon
2021

This presentation

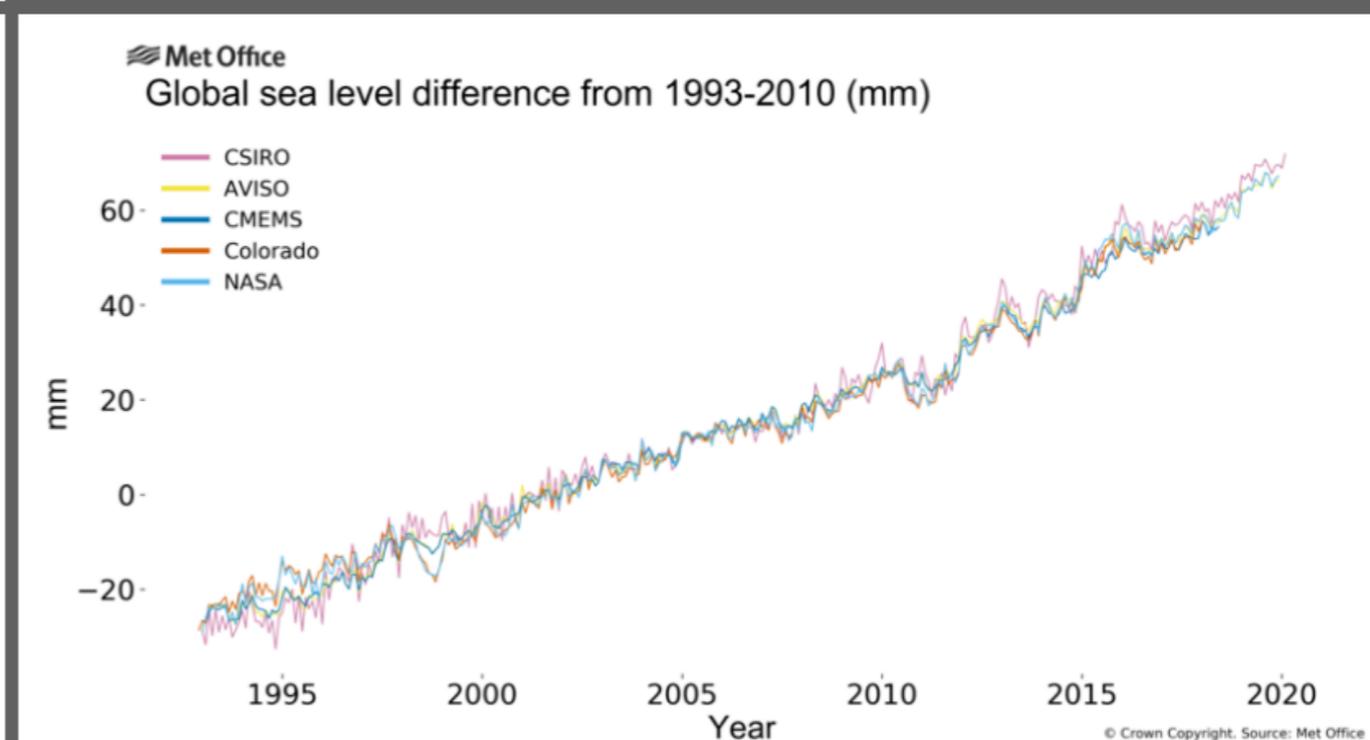
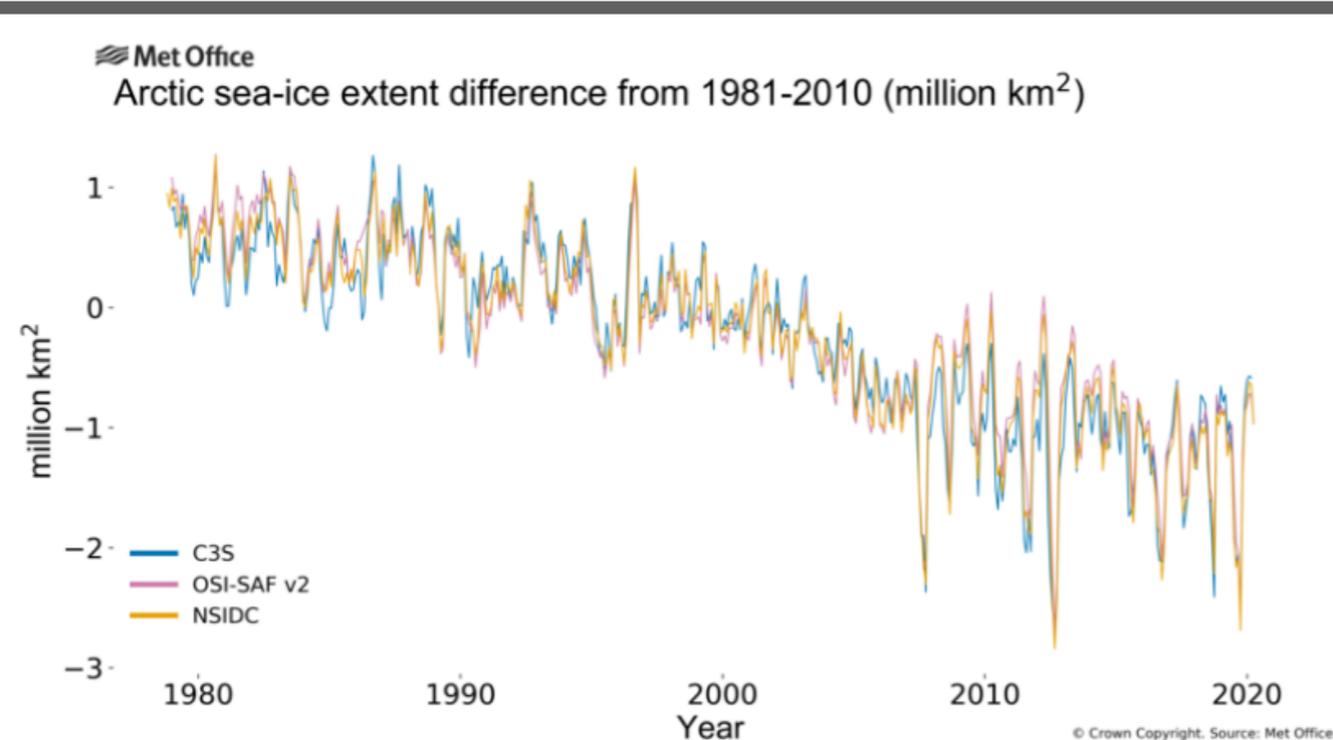
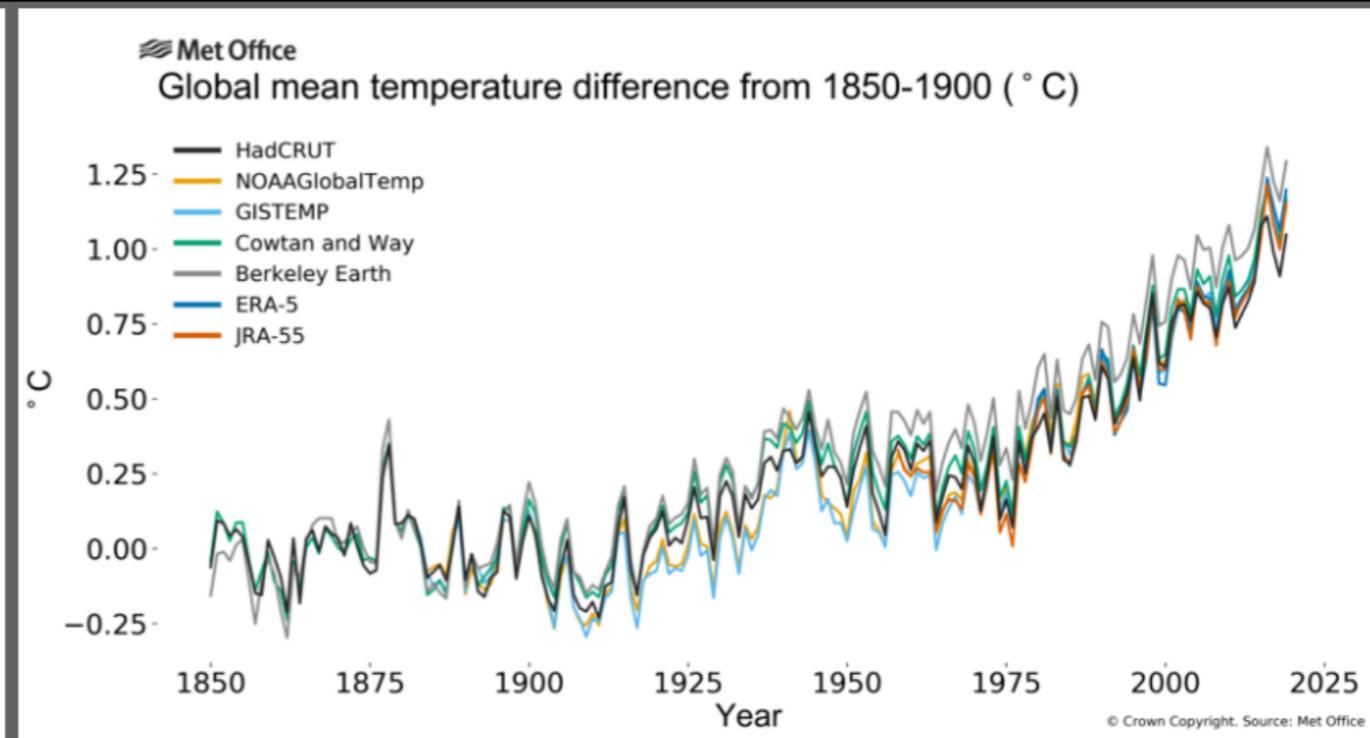
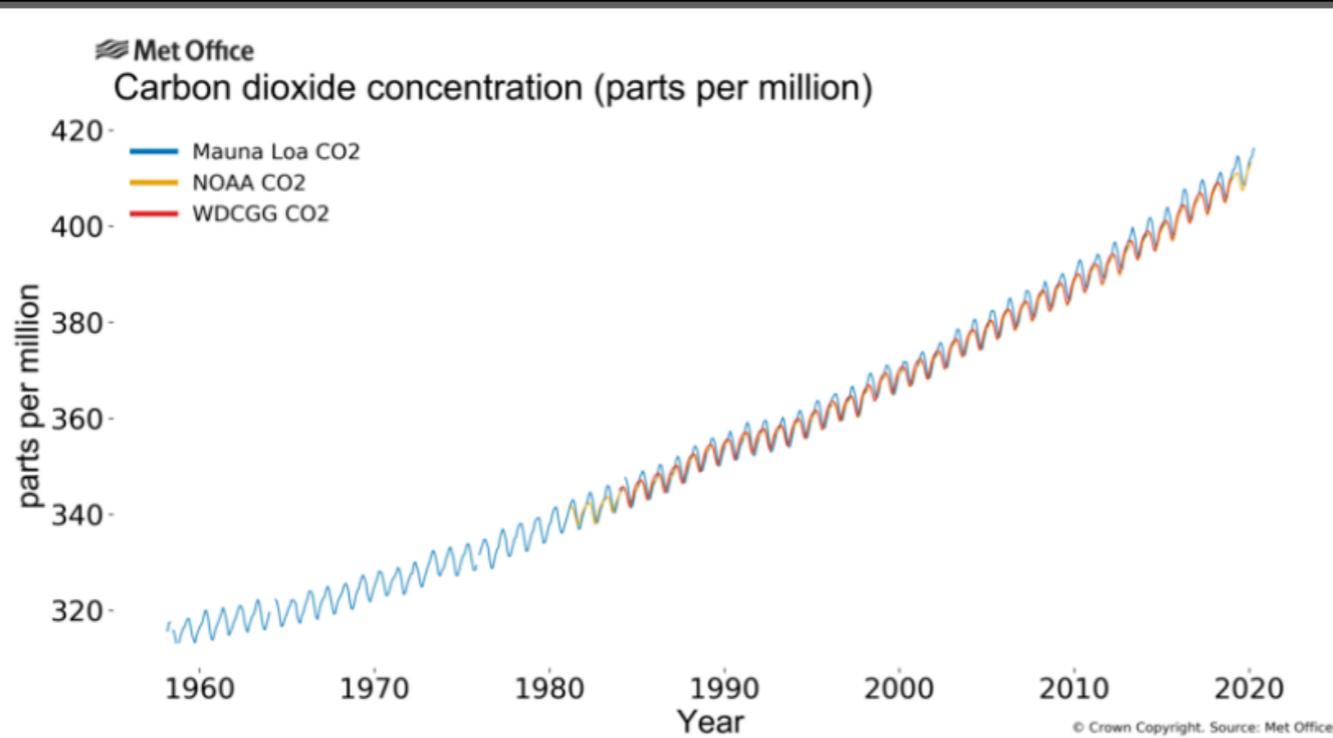
- **Climate crisis: the state we're in**
- **2 things - why we're taking action as Church**
- **3 things - what we need to be mindful of in taking action**
- **6 things - what we can do to best effect**



How things stand: Climate crisis

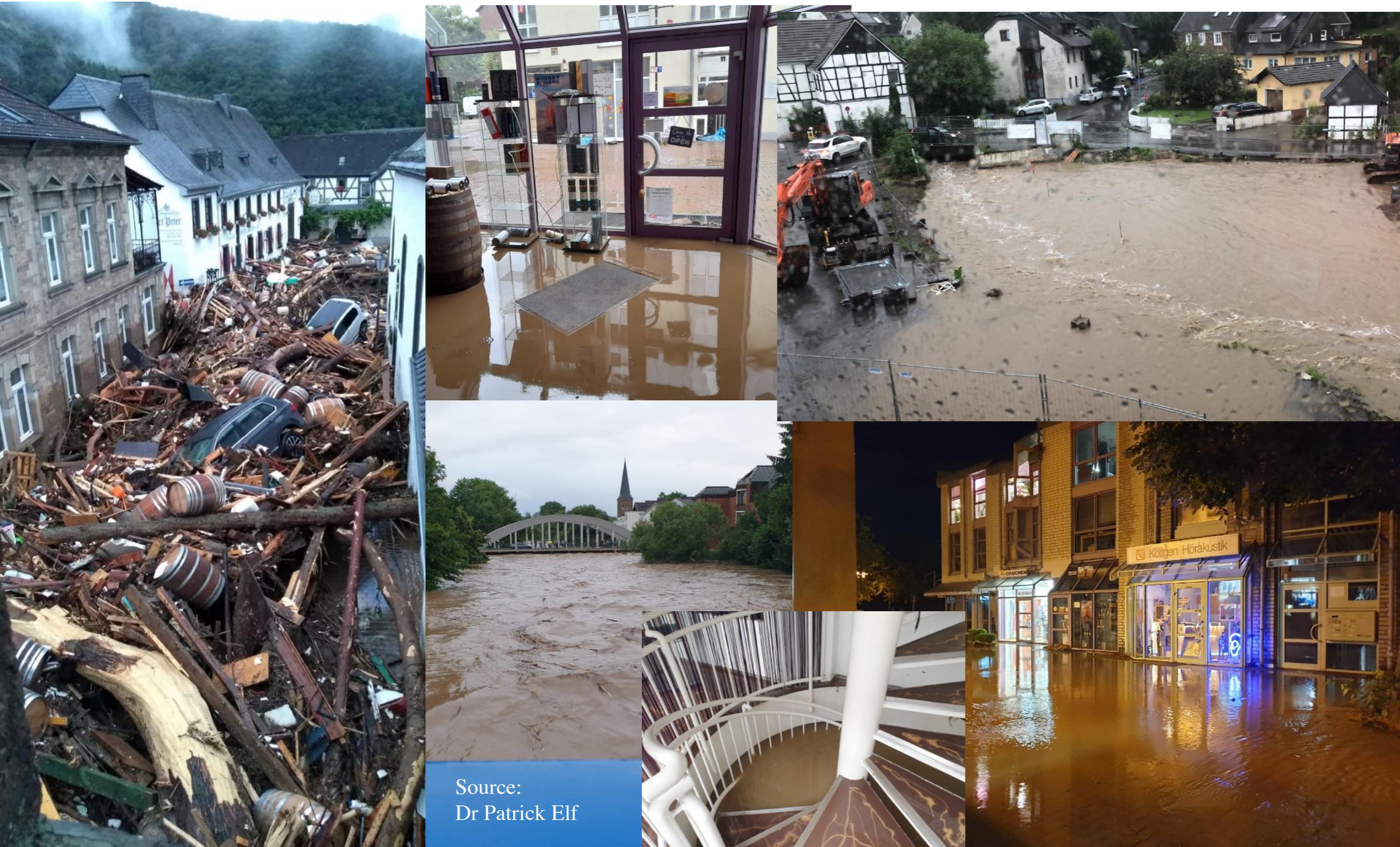
Met Office Climate Dashboard

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/monitoring/dashboard.html>



The Heat is On: extremes and intensity

Catastrophic rainstorms and flooding in western Germany and eastern Belgium, July 2021



Source:
Dr Patrick Elf



António Guterres, the UN secretary general, 9th August 2021: “[The IPCC 6th Assessment report] is a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk.”

The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review



one Extinction: The Facts

Home Clips



Watch now

With a million species at risk of extinction, David Attenborough explores how this crisis of biodiversity has consequences for us all, including putting us at greater risk of pandemic diseases.

11 months left to
watch

🕒 59 minutes

- BBC programme *Extinction: the facts* (September 2020)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mn4n>

- Climate crisis is a ‘threat-multiplier’ for biodiversity loss - and vice versa...
- COP processes for climate and biodiversity protection need to be closely aligned...
- *“When all eyes are on the climate crisis, we must not forget nature’s vital role in climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation. As healthy ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, seas and grasslands, have served as enormous carbon sinks and helped mitigate climate change, a better way is to coordinate the two COP processes for a synergised solution.”*
- Source: Ma Jun, of China’s Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs, 11th October 2021: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/11/cop26-must-not-overshadow-kunming-we-need-joint-climate-and-biodiversity-goals-aoe>

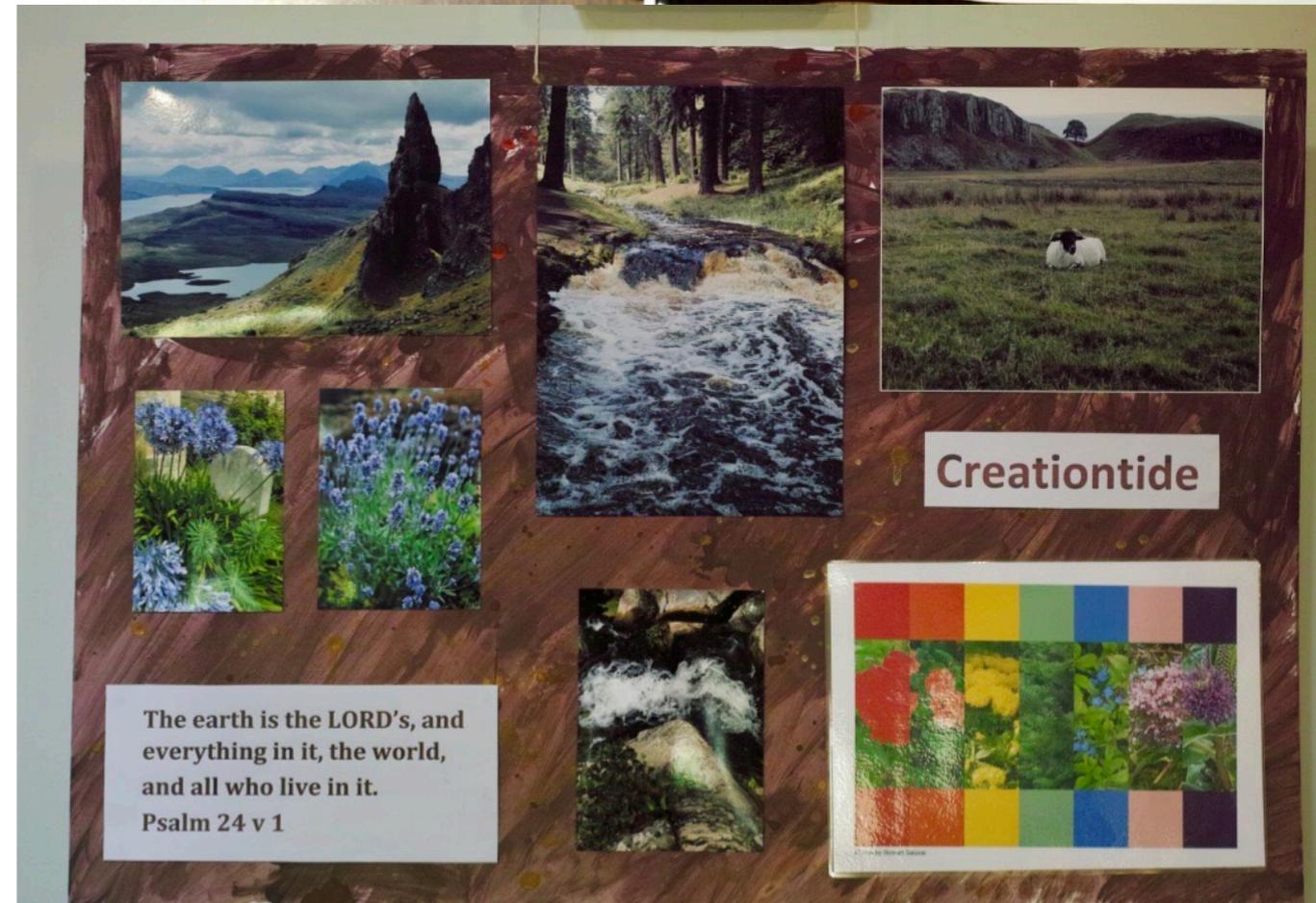


2 things: why we, as Church, want to take action on climate and nature crises

To show love of God and gratitude for the Good Earth, the Gift of His Creation...

“We have inherited a Garden; we must not leave a desert to our children.”

Faith leaders’ statement on the climate and nature crises, 4th October 2021



2 things: why we, as Church, want to take action on climate and nature crises

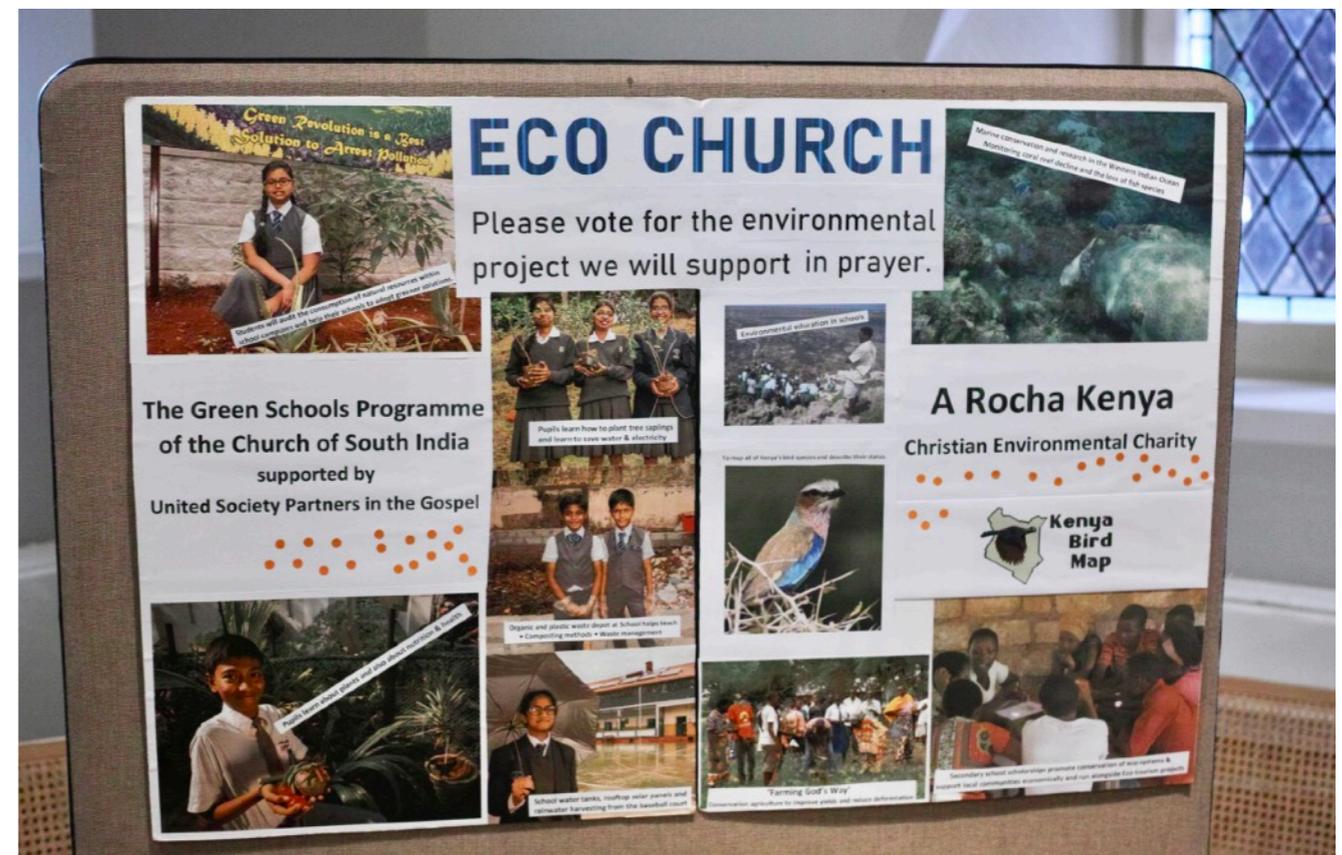
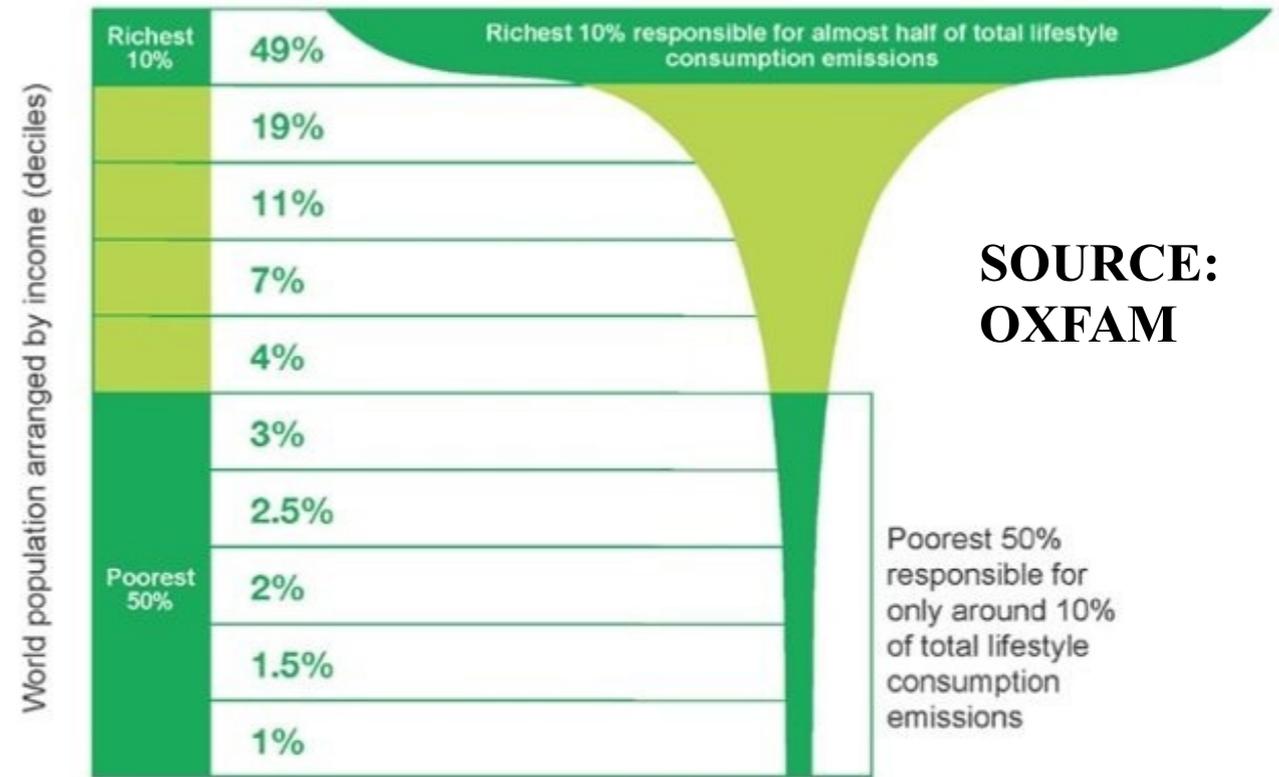
To show love of neighbour...

Recognising that the poor of the world are hit first and worst by a crisis that they have done little or nothing to cause...

“We’re all in the same storm, but we’re not all in the same boat.”

Eco-church project display at Christ Church, West Wimbledon

Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



1. TALK ABOUT IT.

**2. INDIVIDUAL ACTION
NEEDS SAFETY AND
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.**

**3. CHURCH ACTION
NEEDS TO BE AMPLIFIED
THROUGH WORK WITH
OTHERS.**



3 things to be mindful of as we take action

1. TALK ABOUT IT.

Make sure climate and nature crises and what we can all do about them are subject of weekly prayer, regular discussion, sermons, displays, events.

Creation-tide is not just for September and October...but every season.

Eg at Christ Church West Wimbledon over past decade:

- two community eco-festivals
- *Changing Our Planet* pre-COP26 community event with Churches Together, 9th October 2021
- weekly Green Prayer - and ever-present theme for intercession prayers
- ever-present theme for social committee, garden team etc - not just the Eco-Church group
- themed editions of church magazine
- Junior Church and teenagers' group activities
- Creation-tide photo and artwork displays



2. INDIVIDUAL ACTION NEEDS SAFETY AND STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.

- It's easy to feel overwhelmed as an individual trying to take action...
- We need to know we are not alone in taking steps to change lifestyles...
- Do things at home and work along with relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues...
- Your church's *congregational community* is a powerful source of encouragement, shared ideas and practices...



3. CHURCH ACTION NEEDS TO BE AMPLIFIED THROUGH WORK WITH OTHERS.

- Just as we shouldn't try to 'DIY' eco-action as individuals and need support from others...
- So the Church needs to make common cause and collaborate with other bodies...
- Local councils, charities, businesses, NHS, National Trust, universities...
- Local climate change commissions (Surrey has one)...
- And other faiths...as in Faith for the Climate network...



<https://www.faithfortheclimate.org.uk/>



6 things we can do

As well as use all the great resources for Eco-Church from A Rocha, and from the Environment and Climate web pages of the Church of England...

...We can **TAKE THE JUMP**... See www.takethejump.org

**THE
JUMP**

[Take the Jump](#) Community Toolbox



**LESS STUFF
MORE JOY**



TAKE THE JUMP TO PROTECT OUR EARTH AND LIVE WITH JOY

6 things we can do...

**END
CLUTTER**

**EAT
HEALTHY**

**HOLIDAY
LOCAL**

**DRESS
FRESH**

**TRAVEL
WELL**

**CHANGE
THE
SYSTEM**

Examples of those 6 things...

Our electronic kit... Repair, reuse and buy secondhand !

Our diet... Cut waste, reduce meat and dairy, eat more plants!

Our holidays... reduce flights to minimum, use trains, boats, buses, bikes and feet!

Our travel... work from home when we can, use public transport, bicycles and feet!

Our clothes... Repair, reuse, buy secondhand!

Big systems (energy, finance, government, retailers)... Write often to your MP, bank, pension provider and favourite shops and tell them action for climate and nature matter to you and that you support ambitious changes...



... part of God's big family caring for His Creation



**Thank you for your
attention and interest!
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