

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RECOGNITION

We believe that:

1. God made the world and 'saw that it was good' (Genesis 1). 'God so loved the world ('the cosmos') that he gave his only Son' (John 3:16). For Christians, because the environment is God's creation, caring for the earth is our proper response to a loving, creating God.
2. He also specifically tasked us to care for it: (Genesis 2:15) 'The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it' (CEV). Caring for creation is a key Christian task.
3. God calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and to seek justice for people who are suffering in any way.
4. The world is currently facing a severe crisis, through climate change, pollution and the destructions of species, and urgent action is necessary to halt and reverse all of these. The measures taken up to this point are not sufficient to limit consequences such as drought or flooding, which are disastrous for the world's poorest people.
5. The church and individuals, as well as governments and administrations, must devise measures to reduce or halt the different contributors to global warming.

Therefore, we as members of Stocksfield Baptist Church want to recognise a Climate and Environmental Emergency, and commit ourselves to the following:

1. As a church we will pray, repent, practise compassion, seek justice, move forward, and live in faith.
2. We will examine our lives individually and corporately in relation to this crisis, and seek to live faithfully to God. We will continue with the Eco Church scheme as an aid to achieving this.
3. By September 2021 we will produce an action plan for Stocksfield Baptist Church with SMART targets, to minimise our church's negative impact on the environment and climate and to help restoration where possible.
4. Recognising that much systemic change is needed, we will use whatever influence we may have to bring about positive actions by local and national government and by corporations.
5. We will encourage, inform and support our members to make specific action plans for future lifestyle changes for themselves as individuals or families, as appropriate to their circumstances.
6. We will encourage action on this emergency in our communities, workplaces, other local churches, and wherever we can have an influence.