



Some of you may know this already but my father was a United Reformed Church minister and I was brought up in the URC church. He died when I was quite young and this last summer when I was visiting my mum in the North East we were sorting through some of his old papers that have been stored in a cupboard for about 40 years. I came across an article that my dad had written for our church magazine – the date of publication was July 1979. What he wrote struck a chord with me and I think is still relevant today some 42 years later. I make no apology for quoting his article here.

*'The other day I spent a few pounds on the kind of book a minister does not normally buy. It has the title 'Practical Building of Methane Power Plants'. It is a very important book because it gives up one idea of how to cope with the world-wide energy crisis; it suggests using methane instead of oil. The book is opportune for we hear every day about the energy crisis – we 'feel' the price of petrol and we are hearing more about using other forms of energy – methane gas, the sun, the wind and the oceans. The message is clear! Save it, 'conserve energy' for our resources are limited!'*

What struck me about this article that my father wrote was that he was talking about conserving energy in 1979. And here we are 42 years later still talking about conserving energy and utilising alternative sources of energy. I expect we have come a long way from the conversations that were had about this in the 1970s but the fact remains that we must continue to conserve energy as the resources are still limited.

At one of our Zoom CTiA meetings earlier this year we were joined by Rex Corfield from the Creation Care team at St John's. CTiA agreed that we should support the work of this team and the wider campaigns in Alresford and the surrounding villages that encourage us all to protect and care for our environment. When you read this article the COP26 conference will in progress. We must pray that the outcome of this summit and the ongoing concerns and actions of all of us extend beyond the conference itself. My father's article goes on to say:

*'In relation to our faith there is no energy crisis. Paul expresses it simply by saying that Christians have 'vast resources of God's power open to us...' (Ephesians 1:19)'. And he concludes by asking the church 'to build a power-plant by which the energy of God can renew the Church and the community'.*

Churches Together in Alresford has made a strong commitment to support the wider community initiatives to care for our creation and as we emerge from a global pandemic with a sense of renewal and reawakening we all have an opportunity to become a power-plant of God's energy.

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