



Churches Together in Alresford August Newsletter Climate Sunday

Churches Together in Alresford has decided to make the concerns for our environment the focus of our activities over the next couple of years. This will start later this year with the embracing of Climate Sunday.

What is Climate Sunday?

Climate Sunday has been organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) with support from charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, A Rocha UK, and Operation Noah.

The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland (CTBI) to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021). So far over 1,000 churches have joined in.

CTBI's vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their discipleship and mission and to make a significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at COP26.

The collective action and commitments from local churches across Great Britain & Ireland will be presented to the UK Government at a Nations Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow on Sunday 5th September 2021 praying for bold action and courageous leadership at COP26.

During their local Climate Sunday events, churches are invited to do one or more of three things:

1. **Worship:** Hold a climate-focused service, to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action.
2. **Commit:** Make a commitment as a local church community to taking long term action to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Speak up:** Join with other churches and wider society by adding its name to a common call for the UK government to take much bolder action on climate change in this country in advance of COP26, and to strengthen its credibility to lead the international community to adopt a step change in action at COP26.

Here in Alresford, each of our churches will have their own plans to mark Climate Sunday. For our part CTIA will look to organise a joint act of worship as well as other initiatives including supporting New Leaf Alresford in marking WinACC's "Winchester Green Week 2021" which runs between September 25th and October 3rd. More details to follow.

Information on how to plan worship and make a commitment both as an individual and as a church can be found on the Climate Sunday website <https://www.climatesunday.org>.

Gary Carter