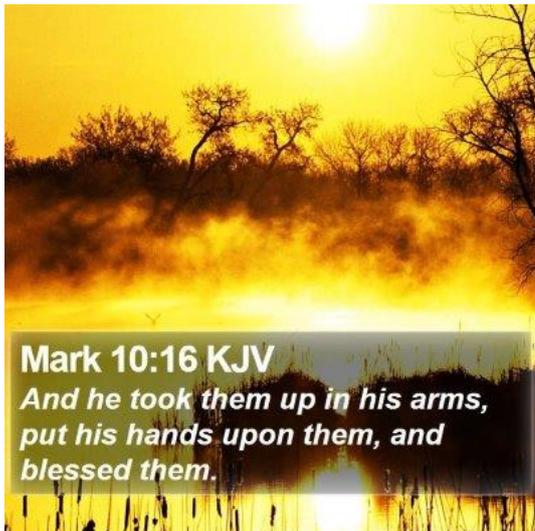


Facebook Posts – October 2021

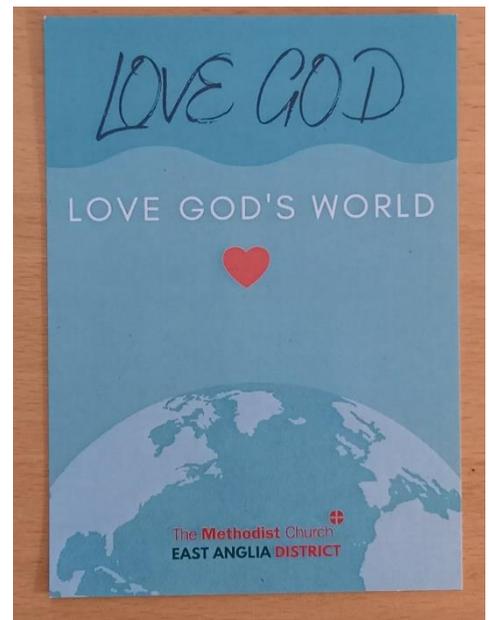
1st October



2nd October

At the end of the first week of our preparation for COP26, here is a prayer for God's World written by our Chair of District, Rev Julian:

God of grace and love,
embodied in time and space,
we glimpse your glory
in the living word of Christ and the dancing fire of your Spirit.
In the light of your presence
you call us to open our eyes
to the gift of your good creation
and to take delight
in all that you have made;
may we be truly thankful,
truly happy
and truly responsible
as we step lightly upon the hallowed earth.
In the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



5th October – Rev Jacqui Horton



This is the second week of our Circuit's preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in early November (COP26). The theme of the second week, and of the course 'Caring for Creation' that we are using on Tuesday evenings (an hour from 7) on zoom (contact us for the link), is 'Global Warming and Climate Change'. Here are Colin Abbiss' notes on this theme:

- Climate change is a term used to describe what happens when we overheat our Earth.
- Basically we are making our Earth more tropical. The climate bands in both north and south hemispheres are moving towards the poles, already by more than a hundred miles.
- As a result rain bands are moving similarly, altering rainfall patterns.
- Average temperatures are increasing since the invention of the steam engine, to well over one degree Celsius.
- This might not sound very much but the accompanying changes in weather patterns are dramatic.
- The frequency of floods, high energy storms and droughts and the incidence of epidemics are rising

exponentially with the temperature.

- The probability of storm flooding that happened in Germany recently was about 9 times greater due to global warming or overheating.
- Equally the likelihood of the fires that have affected Europe, North America and Australia have increased in proportion.
- The United Nations have agreed that we must not let the rise in temperature go above 1.5 deg C.
- However we are currently on track for a 3 deg C rise by the end of this century, when many of us should still be alive.
- Geology tells us that the last time the planet reached this level most of the creatures on the earth were extinguished. (The last Great Extinction).
- The good news is that our Earth responds to a reduction in radiation within a month. We all know the coldest day is about January 21st and the hottest day is around July 21st. Think of frosts in the garden and the timing of summer holidays.
- With an infra red thermometer we can measure the temperature of a starry night sky and work out the amount of heat coming in from the green house gases. It is about half that from the daily sunlight.
- So all we have to do is reduce the green house gasses and the Earth's temperature will start to come right! Emissions down by half in the next ten years?

6th October



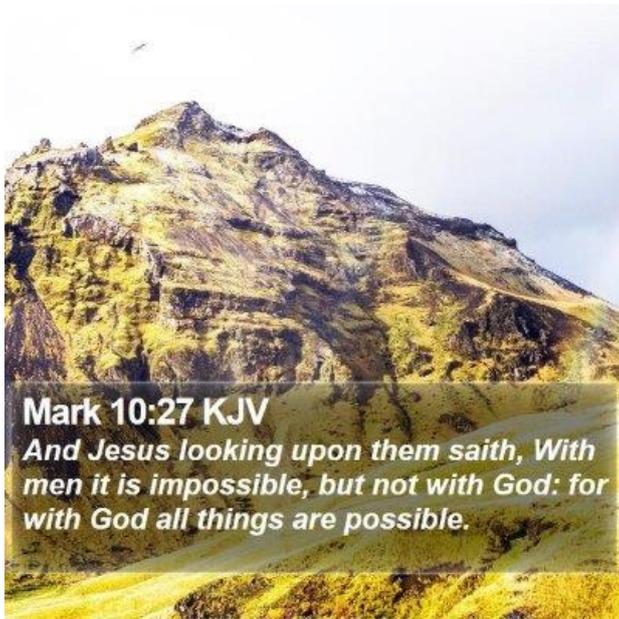
7th October – Rev Anne Richardson

Do you ever feel you are just going around in circles, not getting anywhere fast? I saw this slug trail – the poor little thing had been going around in circles too! I did a quick google search to find out if there was a reason for such a trail – and didn't come up with anything useful! Perhaps you know?

It gave me pause to reflect – how much of my activity is necessary? Should I just maybe stop and take time to think about what I'm doing and why? Tim Chester, who wrote 'The Busy Christian's Guide to Busyness' (IVP 2006) concludes that the issue is much deeper, and is linked with our faith in God. We are held in God's care but how often during the day do we remember this? As we learn to trust in God, we learn the truth of Jesus's words – Matthew 11:28-29 - 'Come to me all you who are wearied and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul.'



9th October



9th October



Our prayer for the end of our second week of COP26 preparation has been written especially by Rev Rosemary Wakelin:
Gracious God, creator of this beautiful planet,
we acknowledge with shame our failure as its stewards.
We have usurped your power and greedily and destructively exploited its resources
disregarding the delicate balances you put in place,
so endangering all forms of life and the very future home of our children's children.
We ask for your forgiveness and help in working with you in our daily lives
as we pray for the nations' leaders to act decisively
to restore what we can of your original intention. Amen.

11th October – Rev Jacqui Horton

We are at the beginning of the 3rd week of our Circuit Climate Change preparation for COP 26 which is now 3 weeks away. If you would like to listen/watch in catch-up our first two zoom meetings following the York Course 'Caring for Creation' then they can be found on our website at this link: <https://bit.ly/3BvP7N9>. The theme for the 3rd week is 'The Age of Humans' and here are the weekly notes from Colin Abbiss:

- There are about seven billion humans on the planet today, set to rise to about ten billion by the end of the century.
- Already it is said in China you cannot climb a mountain without finding that someone is there before you!
- Some people have said that we are such small creatures that we cannot have much influence on the vast systems of our planet.
- However the truth is that we have had an enormous effect on many of the planetary systems.
- So much so that the geologists have a new term for the geological era that we are now living in, calling it 'The Anthropocene'.



- This is already recorded in the soils and oceans in a way that will mark this period of time for the future.
- Examples are the movement of plants from one continent to another. Think of tomatoes and potatoes.
- There has been a redistribution of metals and chemicals, also changing huge areas to agriculture and the cutting down of the forests.
- From outer space the northern white ice cap has virtually disappeared due to our heating of the planet.
- This in turn has a direct effect on the circulation systems that control the weather. The Arctic Jet Stream in the upper atmosphere now meanders down over the UK producing unseasonable cold.
- The Gulf Stream, that has kept Britain and this part of Europe warmer than other parts of the planet at these latitudes such as Alaska, is weakening. We may actually get colder while the rest gets hotter!
- The monsoons that water the Indian subcontinent are becoming more erratic.
- Parts of the Middle East and of Africa are literally drying up.
- All this is a consequence of basing our lifestyle on burning carbon fuels and putting extra Carbon Dioxide (CO2) into the atmosphere.
- We need to change our ways rapidly in the next ten years!

11th October



12th October – Deacon Jen Woodfin

What is time? That is a question that has been challenging philosophers and theologians for centuries. It is a concept that we understand on one level, indeed, by using the word 'centuries' I have put the statement within the context of a measure of time.

We went to Bury St Edmunds on a beautiful morning when it was a delight to walk around the medieval ruins in the Abbey Gardens. At one point the view of two pillars framed the view of a huge crane that was standing very tall in the town. I was really struck with how strange was the juxtaposition of two constructions created 1,500 years apart.

Certainly, the latter was not built to last as long as the former. One was built to worship God and one to enable more trade or businesses in the town. One was using natural elements and one was using those that had been manufactured and created by people. But, to me, it was the difference in time that was the most significant matter.

However, God is beyond time. Psalm 90 is a prayer to the everlasting God in which it says 'from everlasting to everlasting you are God'(v1), and 'for a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by'(v4). Our concept of God is so limited by our own restricted understanding and imagination that we have to construct concepts that seem to make some sense. But God is beyond everything, so is beyond our understanding of time. And yet, amazingly, God is also right here, right now, in this very moment. He always has been, always is, and always will be.



14th October – Rev Cliff Shanganya

At times, God must discipline us as part of our spiritual training. Parents do the same when they discipline a child. No child enjoys discipline, but it teaches them right from wrong. The Bible says that “no discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way” (Hebrews 12:11). When you feel God’s hand of correction or rebuke, accept it as proof of his love. Realise that God is urging you to follow his paths instead of stubbornly going your own way. Have a lovely day. God loves you!



Psalm 94:12-14 NLT

Joyful are those you discipline, LORD, those you teach with your instructions. [13] You give them relief from troubled times until a pit is dug to capture the wicked. [14] The LORD will not reject his people; he will not abandon his special possession.

16th October



The Lifestyle Challenge for this week as part of our Circuit preparation for COP26 has been to work out your own individual carbon footprint. If you would like to join in, there are several websites that enable you to guesstimate your footprint. The Woodland Trust has one at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/.../carbon-donation>.

18th October



19th October

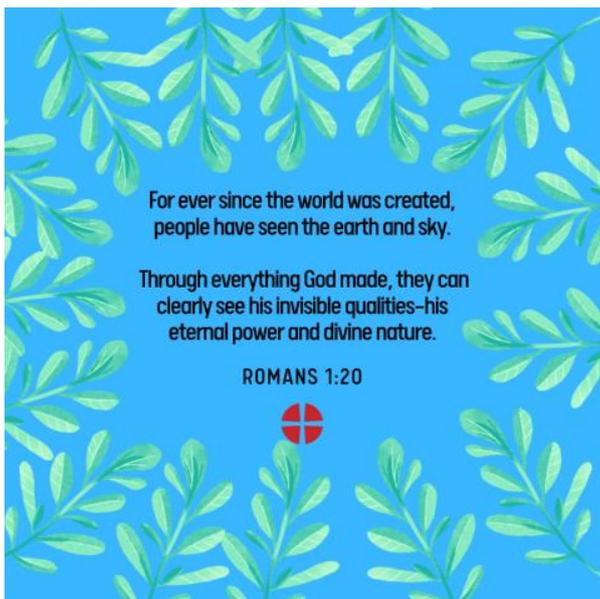
This is the 4th week of our preparation for the COP26 Climate Change Conference and the theme is 'Facing Crisis'. Colin's notes are again helpful:

- We probably all have friends who say 'Oh the weather goes in cycles', the Romans were growing grapes in Britain two thousand years ago. There is nothing special about what is happening and it is not due to us.
- The temptation is to partly accept these loose arguments and feel perhaps there is no need to bother. After all 'things are going on pretty much as normal' and nobody else seems to be particularly concerned.
- However there may well be a growing sense that things are actually far from normal and we ought to know why, and what we can do about it.

- If we really want to know the truth and how you find out what is true and what is just opinion being circulated Jesus said ' The Truth will set you Free'
- This is because when we are in touch with reality, courses of action are much clearer and practical action makes good sense.
- This then reinforces the ability to overcome inertia and find real encouragement in what we can actually do.
- The realisation that we are in the middle of an existential crisis, like no other, could be paralysing.
- But to have a vision of what wonderful possibilities exist, and even of the world being restored or redeemed is energising.
- To be told that we need to live on a third of the resources currently being used sounds daunting.
- Then to find out that, providentially, this is exactly what is possible certainly in the matter of energy usage, is really inspiring.
- (Renewable electricity with an electric motor needs only one third of the energy required by a combustion engine, as does a heat pump compared with conventional heating)
- Also land can produce three times as much plant food as animal products, and use one tenth of the water. Changes of lifestyle can be very effective.



22nd October



23rd October

The prayer for this 4th week of our preparation for COP26 has been taken from the Methodist Handbook:

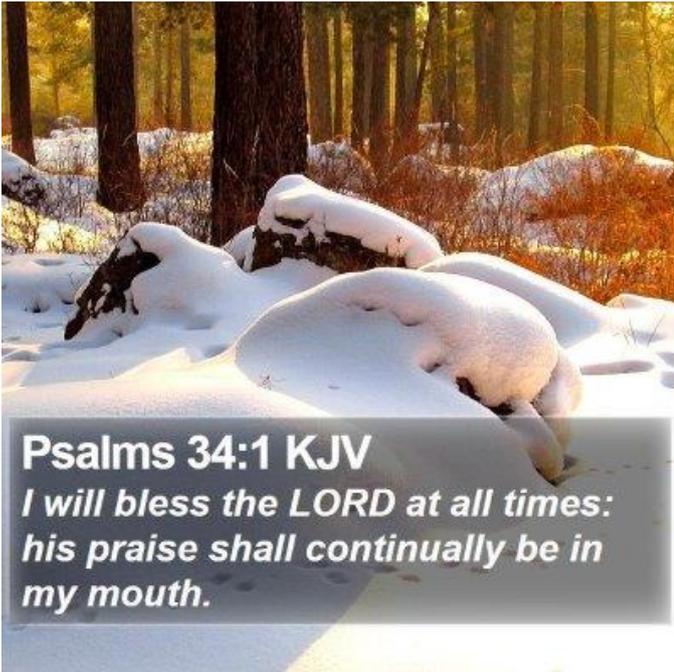
Gracious God, thank you for your generous and awesome gift of creation, which you have entrusted to us, your people. Yet we have marred, ill-treated and neglected your gift with catastrophic consequences for creation and humanity.

Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for we have failed to listen and see the results of our actions on creation and others, especially the poor.

Holy Spirit, empower us to seek your guidance in our decision-making and to follow where you lead so that creation may be healed. Amen.

Karen Le Mouton in the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/2021

25th October



26th October

We are now on the 5th and final week of our Circuit preparation for COP26. The theme of the York Course material 'Caring for Creation' is 'Faith, Hope and Love'. Colin's final notes for us on the theme are:

- Faith in the Creator Lord and the 'just rightness' of His Creation is a great encouragement.
- The Earth had been established with an almost exact balance of the CO₂ in the atmosphere and the plant population for millions of years.
- This can be recovered by appropriate action in spite of the state where we have arrived at present.
- We were promised that there would be enabling to overcome 'mountains' of problems.
- Our Victorian forefathers built Swaffham Chapel in proportion to the perfect cube of the Heavenly City in Revelation.
- There is the vision of a time of justice and 'healing of the nations'
- By learning 'to be content with such things as you have'?
- Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven spread like small seeds that grew into large plants
- What motivates us to be engaged with this hope is a love for other people.
- They may be younger members of our families who are going to experience our world in future decades.
- They may be people we have never met but who are already experiencing traumatic weather conditions, loss of crops and loss of hope for the future.
- Love is 'wanting the good of the other'. Wanting the other to be able to experience life that flourishes and is wholesome.
- One definition of ethics is 'Long Term Common Sense'!



27th October

Wendy Parfitt has given us permission to share a poem on the Climate Crisis that she wrote for a competition at school. Here it is:

The earth is our home and we are destroying it,
Cutting down forest and trees,
taking animals homes and lives,
We are poisoning the water with plastic and oils,
The air is getting hotter, causing raging fires,
But not all hope is lost
We are regrowing trees
Trying to clean our oceans
and trying to save the Earth.
By Wendy Parfitt



29th October

