

# Climate Action Day Resource Ideas



Climate change is the defining issue of our time and **now** is the defining moment to do something about it. There is still time to tackle climate change, but it will require an unprecedented effort from all sectors of society. To boost ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on 23 September to meet the climate challenge. The Summit will showcase a leap in collective national political ambition and it will demonstrate massive movements in the real economy in support of the agenda. Together, these developments will send strong market and political signals and inject momentum in the “race to the top” among countries, companies, cities and civil society that is needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. (<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/>).

As a diocese, we are committed to taking climate change seriously. In March we passed a new Diocesan Environmental Policy and Action Plan. Parishes across the diocese are registering for Eco Church – a national award that recognises and supports churches who are working to become more environmentally friendly. Alongside this we recognise that many of our schools are also working hard to tackle this issue through both education and positive action.

From 20-27 September there will be a global week of action to coincide with the UN Climate Summit. Our bishops, and the rest of the Bishop’s Staff team, have unanimously agreed that the diocese should show solidarity with young people to demand an end to the age of fossil fuels and climate justice for everyone. As part of this week we would love to encourage our schools to hold a ‘Climate Action Day,’ and to this end we have put this pack together with ideas to help plan such a day.

## Climate Action Day – Collective Worship and Reflection Ideas

### Operation Noah

- Climate change: resources for worship. These resources provide a wide variety of useful inputs –prayers, liturgy materials, responsive Psalms, ideas for prayer and Bible studies, and two study courses ideal for small group use.

<https://operationnoah.org/resources/climate-change-resources-worship/>

### Prayer spaces in schools (you will need to do the free sign up):

- Prayer space - *Climate Change Windmills*  
<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/138>
- Prayer spaces around the theme of nature  
[https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/search/resources?name=&theme\\_id=4&tags=16&resources\\_order=id](https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/search/resources?name=&theme_id=4&tags=16&resources_order=id)

### Spiritual Child Network

- Hunger: All Age Worship with Prayer Stations  
<http://spiritualchild.co.uk/praystationshunger.html>

### Messy Church Does Science

- This includes a quiz on climate change <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/messy-church-does-science> . Quiz <https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/climate-change/what-do-you-know-about-climate-change2>

### Treasured Tales

- **Harvest – Care** <http://www.ldbe.co.uk/collective-worship/>

### Christian Aid

- Harvest toolkit: collective worship ideas  
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/harvest-toolkit-collective-worship-ideas>
- Assemblies: Climate change and sustainability  
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/climate-change-and-sustainability-assemblies>

### CAFOD

- Zero Hero campaign for primary schools – this includes films, worship ideas and workshop plans <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Zero-Hero>

### **Campaign Against Climate Change; Climate Change in Schools**

This website includes many links to sites on climate change including:

- NASA Climate Kids <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>
- World Wildlife Fund <https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/resources/climate-change-resources>
- OXFAM - for the love of... <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/for-the-love-of>
- Science Museum <https://learning-resources.sciencemuseum.org.uk/resources/carbon-cycle-caper/>

### **Books by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso.**

The books take a look at the world through the eyes of one who believes. They are a good, creative place to start with primary children to think about the world that we share.

- Noah's Wife: The Story of Naamah
- Creation's First Light
- God's Paintbrush

### **Window by Jeannie Baker**

<https://www.jeanniebaker.com/focus/window-on-a-changing-world/>

Window is a simple book with deep resonances. The central image is a window. Each of the thirteen double-page spreads shows the window frame and the view outside the window – the reader is always standing inside, looking out. In the first panel a woman stands at the window, holding a baby, looking out at bush teeming with bird life and plants, with wooded hills beyond. The double-page spreads follow the view from the window as the baby grows up. And as he grows, the landscape seen through his window changes, reflecting the impact of the expanding community. The trees and birds gradually disappear, to be replaced by houses, roads and supermarkets. The fact that the book contains no words means that it is a fantastic prompt for discussions around how our world is changing and the impact this is having on the climate. This could lead to a piece of research on how the local environment around the school has changed over the past decades.

### **Wonderful Earth by Nick Butterworth**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gJobmfWLPg> this gives you a quick look into the book.)

We have a wonderful Earth! This book retells the Creation story through interactive

elements such as lift the flap, turn the wheel, look in the mirror, and more. However things have gone wrong and the book also looks at how we have failed to take care of the world and the impact this has had on God's amazing creation.

### **If the World were a Village by David J. Smith and Shelagh Armstrong**

This book explains facts about the world's population in a simple, non-political and fascinating way. It presents the whole world as a village of just 100 people, instead of unimaginable billions. People's religions are explored, and their education, standard of living and much, much more are discovered. This is a great starting point to begin to understand how unfair the world is and how climate and poverty cannot be easily separated.

### **If the world were a village of 100 people (statistics)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFrqTFRy-LU> (as above but a short film clip)

### **Baked Alaska**

<https://ridinglights.org/baked-alaska/baked-alaska-for-schools/>

On this site you can find all 7 Baked Alaska Films along with its accompanying teaching resources and PowerPoint presentation. Curriculum themes include:

- Explaining connections between religion and belief and environmental ethics.
- Giving reasons for their views about climate change and its impacts on humanity.
- Considering arguments for climate justice.
- Analysing the challenges faced by this generation on Earth about the future of the planet.

The site states that it is specifically aimed at 14 year olds beginning their GCSEs – however the films could be easily used with KS 2 and 3 pupils and the ideas adapted for this new audience.

## **RE – Ideas and Resources**

Looking at climate change in RE is an important opportunity to consider the effect human beings have on the environment. You may like to develop a cross-curricular event as part of Climate Week which could involve most, if not all, subject areas.

**Religious Education for England and Wales** – the downloadable PDF offers a number of ideas that could be used in the classroom for learning about climate change in RE.

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/resources/documents/learning-about-climate-change-in-re/>

## Christian Aid

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools> including Global Explorers

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There are a number of lesson ideas here for both primary and secondary schools around global issues including climate change.

**Understanding Christianity** has a lot of material around God and Creation that could be used as an introduction to a Climate Change Day. One of the key questions that they look at is 'Should Christians be greener?' This would be a great focus for a Climate Action Day – if you wanted to open it out further you could pose the question, 'Should people of faith be greener?'

### Key Bible Passages to explore:

- Genesis 1-3
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLHB\\_hNk42g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLHB_hNk42g) – a reflective film clip of creation
  - Creation Song [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-9\\_IOeaGhs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-9_IOeaGhs)
  - Godly Play the Creation Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBgSHFGnSZI>
  - Beetle drive - Creation Story, works as a normal beetle drive but each number represents the first 6 days of creation. The children build up the picture of creation as they roll the die and win another part of the creation story - needs to be done in order.
- Creation Psalms:
  - Psalm 8,
  - Psalm 19,
  - Psalm 139

### RE:quest

- Contains creation stories and activities <https://request.org.uk/restart?s=Creation>
- Also a number of interviews and articles around Christianity and the environment <https://request.org.uk/issues/the-natural-world/environment/>

### Creation stories from around the world

- **C is for Creation** - a brief overview of world views about creation <https://www.bbc.com/teach/class-clips-video/c-is-for-creation-stories/zvfp382>
- Look at how beliefs around creation impact how people of faith live (e.g. Hindus being vegetarian)
- **A Hindu creation story** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfy0jKaxBFs>
- **TES** has a wide collection of creation stories <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/creation-stories-from-around-the-world-6174755>

### **'This is RE' Book 1 by Cathy Large**

(ISBN 0-7195-7439-0)

- This book contains a chapter entitled 'What are we doing to the environment?' It looks at issues including climate change, vegetarianism, vivisection etc.

### **Our World: Religion and the Environment by Joe Walker**

(Hodder & Stoughton ISBN: 0-340-60549-9)

## **Science – Ideas and Resources**

### **Marine Stewardship Council**

[https://www.msc.org/for-teachers/teach-learn-about-ocean-sustainability?gclid=CjwKCAiAt4rfBRBKEiwAC678KdRpI9dMwXtdb3Bw9VLGeKYdnG5f8wyAcWdgJn\\_VX7Z3zHvNZrj5AhoCo0wQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.msc.org/for-teachers/teach-learn-about-ocean-sustainability?gclid=CjwKCAiAt4rfBRBKEiwAC678KdRpI9dMwXtdb3Bw9VLGeKYdnG5f8wyAcWdgJn_VX7Z3zHvNZrj5AhoCo0wQAvD_BwE)

Use these curriculum relevant teaching and learning resources to discover how we can help keep our oceans healthy for generations to come. There are films, downloadable activities, learning resources and games all aimed to teach about the issues facing our oceans.

### **Science Net Links**

<http://sciencenetlinks.com/collections/climate-change/>

There are a lot of great ideas here for lessons around science and climate change but some do need quite a bit of forward planning.

### **World Wildlife Fund**

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/resources/climate-change-resources>

The Earth's global temperature is warming, meaning that weather patterns and ecosystems are changing more quickly than animal species and human communities can adapt. These engaging classroom resources have been designed for both primary and secondary schools. By learning more about the science and geography that affects our world, and the decision makers and organisations who have the power to champion change, we want young people to embark on a personal journey with WWF to understand what needs to be done, to recognise what matters most to them and to take action to help protect the places, animals and things they love.

**Project Learning Tree** (12 videos to help explain climate change)

<https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/videos-climate-change-middle-school>

## Science KS2: Blue Planet Live, Class Clips

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks2-blue-planet-live/zd9y7nb>

Chris Packham, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall explore our oceans and its wildlife, to find out how marine life is coping in the face of increasing environmental pressure. These short films are taken from the BBC series Blue Planet Live. Suitable for: Science at KS2

## Community – Ideas and Resources

**Caring for God’s Acre** <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/resources/education-pack/>

The organisation works nationally to support groups and individuals to investigate, care for, and enjoy burial grounds. Their vision is to keep burial grounds beautiful, accessible and connected to communities. Part of their work aims to put burial grounds across England and Wales on the map by revealing their hidden heritage and importance to biodiversity. The project will inspire, engage and support interest groups, communities and individuals to learn about, research and survey the natural, built and social heritage of their local burial grounds by.

The Education Pack consists of five topics, each containing several activities and ideas, including photographs, worksheets and templates. The activity topics covered are:

- Precious Places
- What’s the Story?
- Marvellous Monuments
- Wildlife Safari
- Art and Architecture

**Forest schools / Forests for the Future** <http://www.forestsforthefuture.co.uk/>

This resource is designed for upper Primary learners 10 –12 years, to explore the local and global issues surrounding climate change and sustainable development. There is a focus on the role that trees, forests, and people can play in reducing and/or mitigating any negative impacts. The Forests for the Future resource seeks to encourage teachers and their learners outdoors – using local trees, parks and woodland areas (private and public) to help understand climate change issues, the value of trees in the carbon cycle, and what individuals and schools can do to make a difference.

### **Children’s allotments and gardening.**

The RHS is promoting the ways in which our gardens help keep the planet green and healthy and help to combat climate change. Here is a brief summary of four key areas in which our gardens can make a difference to our changing climate:

- They help control urban temperatures, mitigating the effects of extreme heat and cold.
- They prevent flooding by absorbing rainwater that would otherwise overload drainage systems.
- They have effectively become some of Britain's best nature reserves, supporting a range of wildlife including birds, mammals and invertebrates.
- They support human health by easing stress and providing physical exercise

The full report makes for very interesting reading -

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/climate-and-sustainability/urban-greening/gardening-matters-urban-greening>

The benefits of encouraging our children to be involved in gardening / setting up allotments can be great – it is educational, encourages physical and mental wellbeing and it can be a way of working alongside the community as well as providing fresh veggies to use or sell.

- <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/how-to-plan-an-allotment/design-a-childrens-allotment/>
- <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/how-to-plan-an-allotment/design-a-childrens-allotment/games/>
- <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/school-stories?stype=&regionID=&region=&ageGrpID=undefined&ageGrp=&storyTypeID=&storyType=&page=1>
- <https://kidsgardening.org/about-us/>

### **Reusing is the best form of recycling**

Hold a community 're-use/ previously loved' event. This could be done in collaboration with your local church. Depending on your local community you may want to either sell the items on to raise money for a local charity or simply use it as a swap shop.

## **Arts – Ideas and Resources**

Hopefully many of the above activities will promote creativity within your classrooms, whether that is art, music, drama, creative writing, poetry, storytelling or dance.

However if you search 'junk art for schools' there are many other ideas on the internet.

Can I encourage you to use recyclable materials, search through your local community Scrap Shack (this is the one in Fenton)

<http://www.communityscrapshack.btck.co.uk/> or even upcycle old clothing.