



Eco Church COP 26

The first COP took place in Berlin in 1995 and has worked very hard to progress international agreement on life changing commitments regarding global warming.

Cop 26 is well underway now, over the two-week window of the Cop Summit, at Weydon School we are

flying our MEGA (Make Earth Green Again) Flag high to show our commitment for 'Climate Justice', our young people are reading and engaging with climate and biodiversity science and policy in a way that previous generations haven't. They have good reason to: without action, their futures will be increasingly dominated by the heatwaves, storms and floods.

It was at the 21st COP in Paris, five years ago, that an agreement was achieved, to try to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and not to allow it to go above 2 degrees Celsius. If the previous sentence turns your brain to spaghetti, suffice it to say that there is a problem. A big problem. And we need to act.

Our Earth is in crisis, with natural habitats under threat like never before. Without radical action from us, this will likely reach catastrophic levels by mid-century. Now, before you check you have accidentally clicked on a copy of National Geographic, let us consider why Christians should know about this.

The answer is, of course, so that we can take responsibility and therefore, action, both personally and collectively as a church.

People are feeling tired and overwhelmed, as someone reminded me recently, the burdens brought by Covid, Brexit are visible. True enough. But, I am also reminded daily by the passion and drive of our younger generation, that we must. If we feel that we truly believe we can't do anything about it, we won't, and this will only add to the problem.

I came across this phrase recently ... 'If all insects were to disappear from the Earth, within 50 years all life on earth would end. If all human beings were to disappear within 50 years all forms of life would flourish.'

I guess we're all only too aware that we each contribute to this in some way. We only have to look at the cars in our driveways, the contents of our cupboards, the plastics, our energy consumption and wonder how we can reverse this trend.

The first step, I think, is believing in why we should respond. Once we have that conviction, we work out how to make changes.

This beautiful song <https://youtu.be/j6tvS9UEuVA> 'God is watching us!' that was inspired by this event, sang by young singer Jessie-Lou Harvie who decided

to link up with Justice and Peace Scotland to produce a music video marking the occasion in *Glasgow*.

Let's share our hope and optimism with those on whom you have influence and together we will work our way through some of the possibilities, mindful that this is an ongoing learning curve, a continuous commitment.

Let us pray for the success of *COP26* and *Global Healing*. We believe we are called to be STEWARDS of *God's Earth* which gives us a responsibility. For us, I think this responsibility is enough.