

Resources

Lat Blaylock info for RE around Climate Change and COP26 from Facebook

1. COP26 and RE. Some teachers disagree with the pursuit of relevance in RE. But I think religions all have a vision of nature and the place of humanity on Earth, and often share a global ethic of connection. How we need it now. For the next two weeks, I am going to post activities that any teacher could use to explore climate change and justice issues with pupils. I hope you like them - and use one. First, a fill-in PDF about Christianity, creation and environment. suitable for 5-9YO's I think.
https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Free%20Resources/Christianity%20Stewardship%20KS1%20.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2ueQ0lOwecOkFz_iN9QcFwhBPjfmfEP8mRtnoOb29j8z6T_IHnGVWks9U
2. COP26 and RE. Today, I have a simple activity for 7-16s (it really does work that widely) - a thinking frame for reflections on a photo of Pope Francis meeting Greta Thunberg, Good Friday 2019. You could intro this as a lesson about how faith communities must do their part, but the pupils will take it away. That is 2 ideas about the Christians so far, but on Monday I'll post something different. Do your part, teachers: give our young people space to think. A planet to save...

8. An atheist might think...

2. The main message of the picture to me is...

7. What a Christian might think about the picture is...

1a. I noticed...

1b. My imaginative title for this image is...

3. The people who need to notice this include...

9. I think a politician might say...

4. I'm not sure about...

10. My own best ideas about the image are...

5. Looking at this, I realised that...

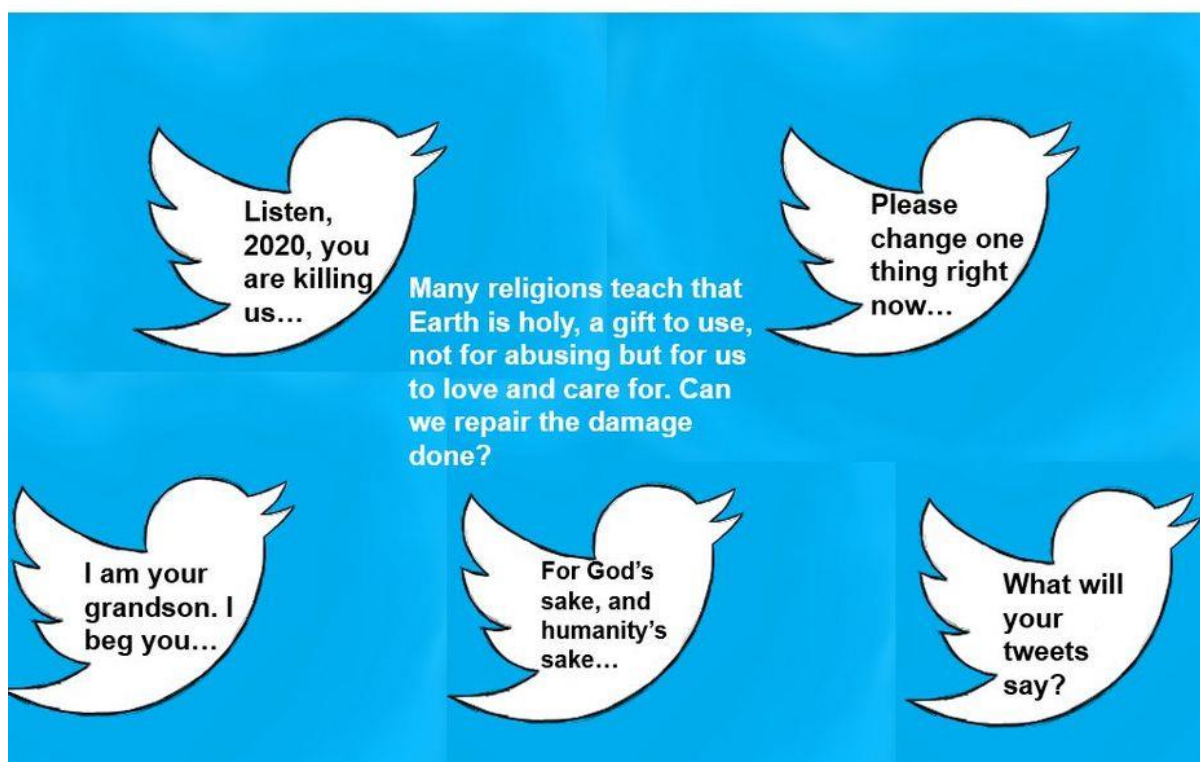
6. This made me think more deeply about...

5 Observations, 5 Reflections

3. RE and COP26. Idea Three. I am hoping all teachers of RE might do thinking with their classes about the roles of religions and beliefs in relation to climate, nature and environmental 'salvation' This simple activity, 5 'tweets from the future', asks pupils what they think the future would say to us right now. You can copy the photos to demo this and invite pupils to do their own in pairs. Demo PPT on NATRE site too, from RE Today Sep 2020.

Tweets from the future; prayers, warnings, wishes

Ask pupils to think about the messages our descendants will send us from 50 or 100 years ahead. What would they say to use about what we can do for God's good earth?



4. COP26 and RE: Idea 4. I'm wanting to urge all teachers of RE to make space for religion & natural world study in the COP26 days. If you are currently working on Hindu dharma with pupils aged 9-13 or so, then this might interest them. Hindu communities have a long and proud history of expressing devotion to the Earth. You can click on this image and save it to use for study with them. Ask them to suggest which of the 4 items will have most impact. If we all followed best practice from Hindu life, would that help save the earth? I think so.

4 Concepts in Hindu tradition: how can these ideas help Hindus today in saving the earth

Ahimsa / Harmlessness. This is a central idea in much Hindu ethics. The word means 'No Harm' or 'No Violence' and is applied to thoughts, words and deeds. Hindu environmentalists use the concept of Ahimsa as a starting point, and try to work out: how should we live to do no harm to the earth? It makes a difference to what we eat, burn, use and renew.

Bhumi Devi: Mother Earth is one form of the goddess in Hindu 'theologies'. Her murti (image, statue) is often represented as a woman with four hands who carries a pomegranate, a bowl of water, a dish of healing herbs and some vegetables. These items symbolise our interdependence with the natural world. Bhumi Puja is an act of worship devoted to Bhumi Devi, often performed when a building is started as a way of asking Mother Earth's forgiveness for digging into her. She is pictured seated on a square platform, supported by four elephants. What does this image imply about how we choose to live?

Vegetarianism. Eating meat involves killing, so if you want to live without harm, then you must be vegetarian. India, the world's biggest Hindu population by far, is the 'most vegetarian' country on earth. About 40% never eat meat, and many more eat meat only occasionally. Of course, if meat is not eaten, there is no need for butchers to slaughter animals, and much more land is free for growing crops. The gains are striking.

Cow protection
Devotees of the god Krishna picture the god with a cow. Milk, butter and other products from the living cow make life possible in vegetarian Hindu communities. There are homes for retired cows in many Indian states. The cow is revered as a symbol and expression of the goodness of nature.
Much more information at the International Society for Cow Protection: <http://iscowp.org/what-is-cow-protection/>

COP26 RE idea 5: In RE Today mag last year we used some photo-art by Nikolay Lamm - he generously gave permission. Here is one example of how London looks after sea level rises. In RE you might use the picture and consider if it connects to the Noachide promise of the Almighty not to flood the earth - or is this raising questions of pure human responsibility? Such a striking picture.



COP26 RE: Idea 5. This comes from the 'Green Religions' RE Today mag. A lesson idea using a poem 'If the earth were only...' Click to save the image of the page to your device and use it with your classes, aged about 7-12 I reckon. There is a much more elaborate PPT for all of you who are in NATRE on the Sep 2020 Mag web area - you'll need your password.

Instant RE

If the Earth were only a metre in diameter ...

Read this poem (is it a poem?) aloud with your class, and then look at Amelia's responses to it. She is 12.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, flooding a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk round it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools.

People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas.

The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water.

The people would declare it as sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt.

The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and the people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be.

People would love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it.

If only the world were only a few feet in diameter ...

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, poem by Joe Miller (1993) Originally published by Greenwich PR Ltd. ISBN 978 0862130546

Stimulus 8: "If the Earth was only"

- What are the main ideas the writer wants to get across? The main ideas that the writer wants to get across are that if we could see the Earth from a different perspective, then we would respect it, care for it with all our strength. That is the complete opposite to what we are currently doing, we are destroying it.
- Which lines do you think make most sense? Have most impact? The line that makes the most sense is, "The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt." This is so as it explains plainly what would be happening and what is not happening currently. The line that has the most impact is, "People would love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it." This is so as it really makes you think of how badly we are hurting our planet and it makes you emotional.
- What do you like and dislike about it? I like about it the honesty and truth that is conveyed in the poem and how it uses emotive language so well. It is a poem that really makes you think about your actions. I dislike about it that is rather short, if it were longer, we could've gained more knowledge as more description and information would've been inside the poem itself for us to explore.
- What significant messages come from this text for you? Significant messages that come from this text to me are just because we can't properly see the Earth and we don't understand its self worth, it doesn't mean that we can't look after it to our full extent, that is exactly what we should be doing. We should respect our Earth and care for it. If this is not fulfilled, then future generations will not get the opportunity to experience its wonderful beauty. Just like Doubting Thomas didn't believe when he heard that Jesus had risen, we need to believe about our climate crisis, even if we can't see the full extent of it firsthand yet. We cannot adhere to the false claims of this disaster; we need to take our own children's future into our own hands before it is too late. Anyway, it is not the political leaders and adults lives that this will affect; it will be ours.

Prayer for our fragile Earth:

Dear God,
I pray that we may understand and accommodate for the needs of our Earth. That we may care more about the environment and securing a safe happy future, rather than making money and becoming successful. Let us remember that it was originally you who made our planet and that we may take the time and effort to look after and preserve it. I pray that we may not become selfish and give in the evil that one destroying our Earth day by day. Thank you for making creation and help us take care of it. Amen.

Your pupils could tackle the same questions that Amelia used, and finish by writing a prayer or meditation about our planet. Use Amelia's Prayer for our fragile Earth. Here is another example by 8-year-old Stan:

This work is supported by a PowerPoint sequence in the RE Today members area for you to use with your classes.
www.natre.org.uk/retoday-re-sources/

Tanuja Tulsi Seva Shukla

Thank you **Lat Blaylock** here is a very long video on Ahimsa featuring speakers from a vast array of backgrounds. You could stop at any point to hear more about individual and Dharmic perspectives.

<https://www.facebook.com/godharmic/videos/3307497759375073/>

The COP26 Vigil on 31st October 2021 was an incredible moment of unity between people of all faiths and none for the planet.

You can watch the Vigil again on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9wDI36mJms>

Sara Wells



Hi **Debbie Anne**I manage **Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity - PCFCD** and we have speakers from a wide range of Faiths and Cultures trained to provide sessions to students of all ages. We offer face to face sessions locally and can also offer online sessions. Please give me a ring on 01752 254438 or email me info@pcfcd.co.uk if you would like to discuss further. Sara

Link to Bristol RE Conference 28th January 2022 – How interesting are you?

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-re-conference-2022-how-interesting-are-you-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-re-conference-2022-how-interesting-are-you-tickets-181808854177?ref=eios&fbclid=IwAR2xrm9tTqPrZljx_3Nl6HEqFwD12ODA9sSkIePlxgQABmav8z7pqa1kD40)

[181808854177?ref=eios&fbclid=IwAR2xrm9tTqPrZljx_3Nl6HEqFwD12ODA9sSkIePlxgQABmav8z7pqa1kD40](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-re-conference-2022-how-interesting-are-you-tickets-181808854177?ref=eios&fbclid=IwAR2xrm9tTqPrZljx_3Nl6HEqFwD12ODA9sSkIePlxgQABmav8z7pqa1kD40)



Archbishop of York Youth Trust – Young Leader Awards - Community Matters eBook - We have also recently released a new eBook that I thought you and your team might be interested in.

Community Matters: Helping Young People Lead With Character in a Post-Covid World is a series of reflections focussing on the increasing need for the prioritisation of character education.

Download the eBook for free: www.abyyt.com/projects/community-matters-ebook

An Introduction to Godly Play UK: taking childhood spirituality seriously – Saturday 13 November, 10:00–14:30 at Ruishton Village Hall near Taunton. Led by Katherine Lyddon, South West Godly Play Trainer and hosted by the Creech, Ruishton & Thornfalcon churches. £20 pp. More info/book a place at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-godly-play-tickets-190571302897>

Humanism - A few weeks ago, we teamed up with our patron Stephen Fry to explore humanist ideas about some of life's biggest questions. And we're excited to say that now all four of our new *That's humanism!* videos are available to [watch online](#).

From the start, our aim with [this campaign](#) was to reach many of the millions of non-religious people who share humanist values, but who haven't heard the term 'humanist' before. In our experience, this describes so many people!

CHRISTMAS/ADVENT

Mission Aviation Fellowship - MAF Free Advent Calendar <https://www.maf-uk.org/product/maf-advent-calendar>

ABYYT Free Advent resources on Community <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/projects/community-matters-at-christmas>

New resources from the Bath and Wells Diocese Go Team and friends

Advent Around the World is a collaboration between Send a Cow, Movement and the diocese Go Team. A resource for young people that not only journeys through the account of the birth of Jesus found in Luke's gospel but gives a global perspective too. A flexible resource for use by church youth groups and households with older children during Advent 2021. Read more:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/advent-around-the-world-a-resource-for-young-people-.php>

The 4 group sessions are free to download from Bath & Wells website:

<https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/60638a2c87045/content/pages/documents/advent-around-the-world-youth-resource.pdf>

Videos can also be watched on Send a Cow's Youtube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZTqICvf1I&list=PLMljatCmrYEWeltrYM_trxKweYbQC37AY

Follow on Instagram/Twitter during Advent @goteamadvisers @sendacow #AdventAroundTheWorld

Christingle resources from The Children's Society

Promo video: [How taking part in Christingle event helps to change children's lives - YouTube](#)

Resources available from the Christingle shop: <https://shop.childrensociety.org.uk/christingle.html>

Muddy Church Christingle: <https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/copy-of-christingle>

Christmas in a Box from Bristol Schools Connection

Downloadable resource: <https://www.bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk/christmas-in-a-box/>

Youtube channel for videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFllcKnK5396OhZzf1oZ1wg>

Resources from the Go Team

- It's Christmas! Bible Chat Mat
- 12 Ideas for Advent & Christmas (2020)
- All Thing Advent & Christmas (2018)
- The Jesse Tree
- All Seasons Exploring Outdoors

All free to download and use/adapt from our website:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/resources-and-ideas-for-children-and-young-people/>

And a couple of inspiring videos as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our communities...

The Spark – spoken word video by our own Eliza Pelling from Watchet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RueNNcpujC0&t=3s>

Share the Light – a new Christmas video for 2021 from CPO (in the style of the John Lewis ads):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhk1GK2CTlc&t=12s>