

# Eco Church

## Hold a Climate Sunday

Churches are being encouraged to create a Climate Sunday as a way of giving a voice to local commitments to combat climate change.

You can hold your own Climate Sunday any time during a one-year period starting on 6th September (the first Sunday in the annual season of Creationtide) but, as Bishop Nicholas explains, the key is to set aside one Sunday to place the focus on the environment:

“Although our focus has been shifted from climate change in recent months by the challenges of responding to COVID-19, the climate crisis has not gone away, and the driest May since records began is a timely reminder of this.

"Climate Sunday will be a brilliant resource to help Church of England parishes understand and respond to the climate crisis.

"As we work out the actions we need to take to cut our carbon emissions every year to reach net zero emissions by 2030, Climate Sunday will motivate, encourage and inspire our churches to keep going on this journey.”

During their local Climate Sunday, we invite each church to do one or more of 3 things:

1. Climate service:  
Hold a climate-focussed 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 greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Call:  
Join other churches and wider society in 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 in adopting a step change in action at COP26.

There will also be a national Climate Sunday event on Sunday 5th September 2021, to share church commitments and pray for bold action and courageous leadership at COP26.

Free resources to suit every tradition and style of worship are being provided by the organisers, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland who have the support of a coalition of charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, A Rocha UK, and Operation Noah.

Chief Executive of A Rocha UK and chair of the coalition, Andy Atkins said:

“With the climate crisis accelerating and the UK due to host the COP26 climate talks in November 2021 in Glasgow, we believe the time has come for all churches across the UK to pray about and act on the climate crisis, as we have done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of UK churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their normal discipleship and mission; and to make a very significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at the COP26 conference.”

Director of Global Advocacy at Tearfund, Dr Ruth Valerio, author of *Saying Yes to Life: The Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book*, said:

"The current crisis has changed the way we see the world. It has reminded us of the fragility of life, exposed the gap between rich and poor, and revealed the damage we've done to the wider creation. But it has also helped us love our neighbours and brought communities together.

"Climate Sunday is a great opportunity to respond to these societal shifts; to pause and reimagine what life could be like; to commit to living differently ourselves and to call on the UK government to rebuild our economy in a way that tackles the climate emergency and builds a better world for everyone."