

THE ELIM MOVEMENT & THE CLIMATE CRISIS

INTRODUCTION

The challenge of climate change is no longer a distant threat; it has become a destructive, daily reality for millions in our world. But what is it, why does it matter, and what can we do about it?



WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Earth's surface is warming, and as a result, average conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — are being impacted. Climate change refers to these fluctuations and the resulting shifts in weather patterns.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Climate change presents significant global, local and church challenges.



GLOBAL CHALLENGES

As of July 2021, the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is the highest it has been in human history.

Right now, 800 million people across the world are vulnerable to climate change impacts such as droughts, floods, heat waves, extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

The poorest 3.5 billion people are responsible for just 10% of emissions, but are already facing the worst of the climate crisis' crushing consequences.

UK/IRELAND CHALLENGES

Measurable increases in rainfall mean that 5.2 million homes in England alone are currently at risk of flooding.

The UK average sea level has risen by 16cm since 1900, and will continue to do so for centuries due to time lags in the climate system.

The chances of experiencing hot summers like in 2018 have doubled in recent decades. By 2050, it is projected that every other summer will be a heatwave.



A CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

What would happen if the Church became a prophetic voice for creation care?

As Pentecostals, we believe that the Church is called to speak into the culture and have a profound impact on society. We are divinely appointed custodians of creation, and it is our responsibility to look after it well (Genesis 2:15; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 50:10-11).

God's people are uniquely positioned to bring a voice of hope in times of uncertainty and upheaval. We can show the world that not only do Christians care about the climate crisis, we are committed to taking meaningful action to combat the climate emergency.

WHAT CAN I DO?

It could be easy to look at an issue as large and pressing as a global climate crisis and become overwhelmed. But when God's people come together with passion, power and purpose, we can bring about remarkable change.



WHERE SHOULD I START?

The UK is hosting this year's United Nations climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow on 31st October to 12th November 2021. COP26 is the 26th meeting of the most influential global leaders on the issue.

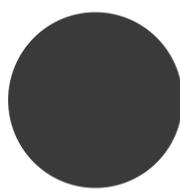
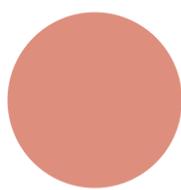
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This event has the potential to be the most monumental gathering on climate change so far. So, in the run up to COP26, we invite you to encourage your congregation to engage with resource below: **Climate Change: Take Up The Challenge**. It outlines simple, practical and meaningful ways you and your church can:

- ... become informed
- ... catch the vision
- ... use your voice
- ... and take up the challenge!



CLIMATE CHANGE: TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE



READ SOMETHING

Become more informed about the global and local risks of climate change by referring to the links below:

World

https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/files/action-resources/the-world-rebooted/climate_factsheet.pdf

UK

<https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/>

Ireland

https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/climate-change/Research_Report_346.pdf



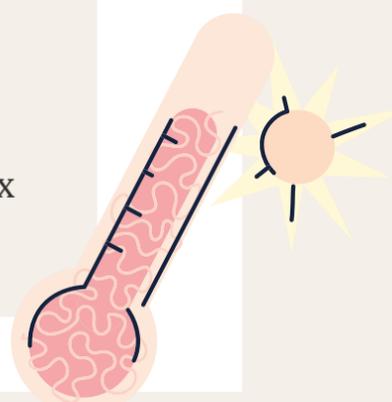
HEAR SOMETHING

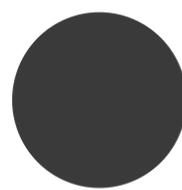
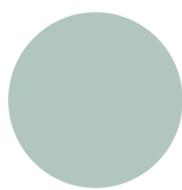
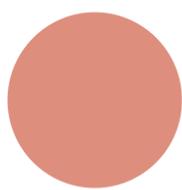
Is climate action really a God-given responsibility? Should human culpability for the climate crisis be regretted or denied? Listen to evangelical experts discuss these and other common questions below:

Dr Katharine Hayhoe is an internationally renowned climate scientist and professor of political science at Texas Tech University. She makes a compelling case for why climate change should matter to every Christian.

Dr Sandra Richter is Robert H. Gundry Chair of Biblical Studies at Westmont College and a member of the Committee for Biblical Translation for the NIV. In this clip she discusses the biblical foundations for creation care.

Revd Dave Bookless is Director of Theology for A Rocha International, which is an international Christian organisation engaging in scientific research, environmental education and community-based conservation projects across six continents.

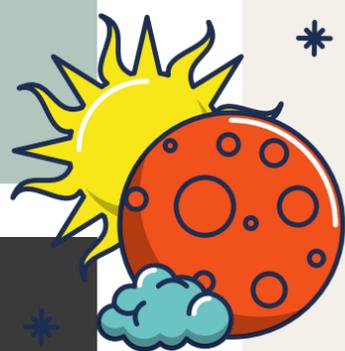




WATCH SOMETHING

The people who have contributed least to the climate emergency are suffering most. Watch some of the experiences of those worst affected by climate change below:

- [1. My neighbour is thirsty](#)
- [2. Why the poor are dying of climate change](#)
- [3. Surviving the storms: climate displacement in Bangladesh](#)
- [4. Everything is black now: devastating fires in Turkey](#)



DO SOMETHING

When we want to make a change, it can be difficult to know where to make a start, or how to keep going. Here are some ideas to help you get going:

- The [Climate Emergency Toolkit](#) provides Christian organisations with simple but powerful actions that have widespread impact.
- You might like to hold a church service centred around these issues. The [Climate Sunday](#) website provides some helpful programme ideas.
- [Calculate your own carbon footprint](#) and see where you can begin to make changes to tackle climate change at a personal level.
- Write to the Prime Minister: join us in signing the [Climate Coalition's Declaration](#), calling on the UK Government to lead the world in delivering a healthier, greener, fairer recovery, which limits warming to 1.5°C.

