

Chester Diocesan News



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

#EverydayFaith across the Diocese of Chester | November 2021



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Planet Earth

Our beautiful home



Revd Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach

In the run up to COP26 schools and churches of the diocese were sent a video explaining the significance of the conference and encouraging those watching to take their personal responsibility for the earth and our environment seriously. The challenge to the children is a challenge to all of us.

Everything you see in this world was created by God. But you knew that already, didn't you? But did you know that after he created the world and everything in it, he wanted someone to take charge and look after it. Do you know who he asked?

That's right. You. And me. All of us in fact. Even the Queen has a part to play in looking after the world.

But sadly, we haven't always done a very good job, and the lovely goodness that God created on Earth, has, over time, been damaged.

We see it on the news, don't we? About how our world is overheating, how the sea is rising, and the natural world dying.

It can sometimes feel like our world is under threat which can make us feel concerned and upset.

But the good news is, we can all do something about it and together we can make the world greener and cleaner again.

Thankfully, people are beginning to take action. Some people have been protesting to demand that our leaders do more to tackle the damage being done to our world.

Other people are thinking carefully about what they buy, what they wear, what they eat, and the impact these individual choices can have.

And all over the world, young people are thinking about the little

things they can do for Planet Earth, our beautiful home.

Over the next few weeks, you might hear a lot about the climate and the different ways we can protect it. One thing you might have heard about already is something called COP 26.

This is a big meeting of world leaders. Our prime minister, Boris Johnson will be there, as will other leaders from countries across the globe. They will come together to try and agree a way to protect Planet Earth from harm.

Let's pray for them as they meet and pray that they can agree a way forward and that, with God's help, they can stick to their promises.

But away from COP 26 and the big meetings of important people and the noise of the protests, let's remember this:

What you and I do to look after the planet matters just as much. God put us all in charge of the planet and it is vital that we all play our part to make the world a cleaner, greener, happier place.

Life is a precious gift from God. We have only one planet, let's look after it, and remember, the little things we do matter.

Revd Peter Froggatt

What are you doing for the planet?

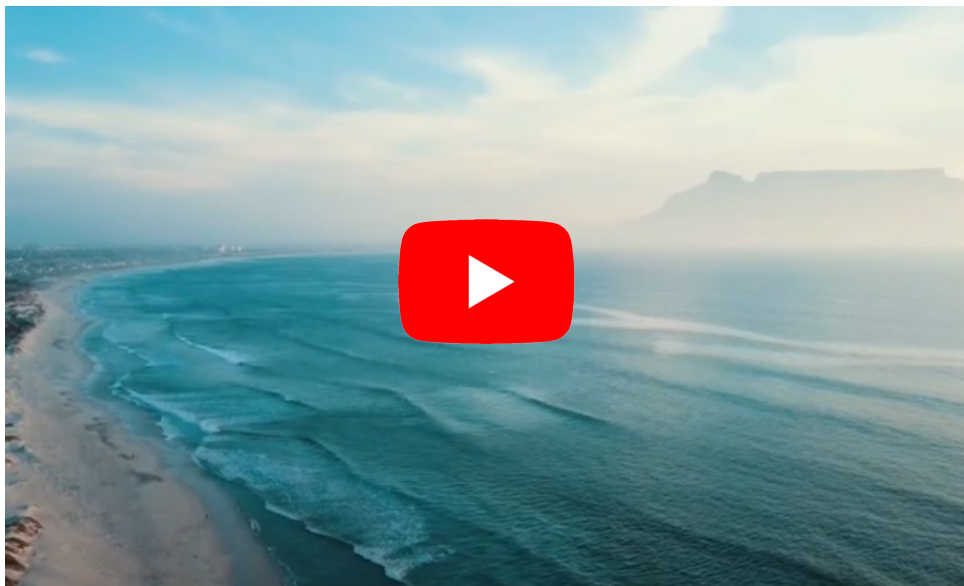
A new video resource has been sent to all Church schools to help start a conversation about the small things we can do in our everyday lives to help protect the planet from environmental damage.

The video is voiced by the Revd Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach in the Diocese of Chester, and features a number of people who each share

some of the little things they are doing to protect Planet Earth.

Whilst the video is aimed at school children, it could also be used by churches over the coming weeks and maybe a helpful resource to use as part of Sunday service on the theme of the environment and creation.

Jonny Masters, the Youth, Children and Families Missioner, has also provided some suggested follow-up activities.



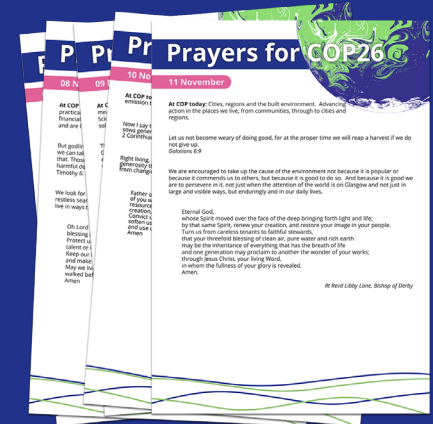
[View the video here](#)

Net zero services

Here in the Diocese of Chester, parishes are encouraged to hold a net zero service. Resources are available to help parishes to measure the carbon footprint of their service, including travel emissions, heating, lighting and electricity. With all eyes fixed on the COP26 conference in Glasgow, which began on 31 October, this is a timely opportunity to focus on what holding a net zero service might entail.

COP 26 Prayers

COP26 is a hugely significant challenge for those who shape national and international policies. But it is also a challenge to us, in our commitment to God and our care for his creation. These prayers are designed to help us to pray through the 13 days of COP26, to help us bring our concerns and desires to God, the one who hears us when we cry to him. [Download the prayers here](#)



COP 26 Exhibition



[More Information here](#)

Date: 06 November
Time: 10am - 5pm
Location: Chester Cathedral
There will be free talks from experts in the field of Transport, Land Use and adaptation, Waste and Carbon Capture with panel discussions including your MPs about the big sustainability questions facing society.

Church launches consultation on plans to get to net zero carbon in just nine years

The Church of England is to consult dioceses, cathedrals, national institutions, parishes, schools, and other interested parties on a proposed routemap to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, as papers are published for November's inaugural meeting of a new General Synod.

The draft routemap, published among today's General Synod papers, suggests how all parts of the Church of England can make changes together to achieve the ambitious target set by General Synod in 2020 to be net zero carbon 20 years ahead of the Government's targets.

It includes recommendations for building maintenance, heating and the availability of specialist advice for each setting alongside how the central Church and dioceses can offer support.

The newly elected Synod will be formally inaugurated on Tuesday November 16 at the start of a two-day meeting.

Items on the agenda include a debate on the wealth gap in the UK and discussions about Church matters including the recent review of governance and the development of a new vision and strategy for the

Church of England in the 2020s and beyond.

That includes an ambitious goal to double the number of children and young people in churches.

The recent elections attracted a record number of candidates (with 956 standing for the Houses of Clergy and Laity combined) and returned a majority of new members - 60 per cent of those elected.

The meeting at Church House Westminster will be the first full group of sessions held in person since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Making possible Synod's 'ambitious target' of net-zero by 2030

The draft net zero carbon routemap has been written by a sub-committee of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, chaired by the Bishop of Selby, Dr John Thomson, with advice from across the Church and charities.

Anyone can respond to the consultation online before the closing date of 28 February 2022, with responses particularly requested from Dioceses and Cathedrals.

[More information here](#)



Motorbike ride-out pays tribute to the fallen

On 24 October, the Revd Lynn Boyle joined 100 bikers on a ride-out from St Paul's, Compstall to mark the centenary of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Each motorbike carried the name of a soldier who died in battle since World War 1 with the lead bike carrying the name of Danny Winters who was 28 years old when he died in Afghanistan in 2009.

Lynn gave a prayer and a blessing prior to setting off to Marple Memorial park.

Upon arriving at their destination, the bikers placed poppies on the Wall of Remembrance, where the bikers paid their tributes.

"The streets were lined with people and so was the park," said Lynn. "It was a huge privilege to be a part of this event to commemorate the Pop-

py Appeal and to honour the sacrifices of our service men and women. To take part in the ride on a Harley was just a brilliant added bonus!"

The event was covered by the BBC and was televised on BBC North West Tonight on the same evening.



Revd Lynn Boyle revs up

Events



Being There: Ministering to Bereavement

09 Nov - 14 Dec 2021 - Online

An opportunity to join a learning community as we minister to the bereaved. Readers and Pastoral Workers can attend this course as part of the preparation for undertaking funeral ministry. [More](#)



Creation Care Course

18 November 2021 - Online

We will hear about various options for climate change mitigation and adaptation that we can take as individuals, as parishes and as a Christian community. [More](#)



Making the most of RE lessons and assemblies

19 November 2021 - Foxhill

If you work with your local primary school(s), or would like to, this day is for you – clergy, children and families leaders and volunteers will all benefit from this day. [More](#)



Leaders of Young Generations Christmas Meal

03 December 2021 - Foxhill

Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas with other Leaders of Young Generations. Everyone who works with children or young people in churches are welcome. [More](#)



Retreat day Still, Small Voice

13 December 2021 - Foxhill

A day to recognise the peace that Christmas should bring rather than the strain and stress that it often does. The theme of the day is 'Treading Boldly in the Master's Steps'. [More](#)