



— CHRISTIAN RESOURCE FOR —

# SHOW THE LOVE

## 2021

[SHOWTHELOVE.ORG.UK](https://showthelove.org.uk)



#SHOWTHELOVE



Climate change is an urgent concern for Christians. From the book of Genesis to Revelation, a thread runs through the Bible binding creation and humanity together in a relationship of love, respect and protection.

We are called to care for the Earth and for one another, including for the poorest of the Earth most vulnerable to climate change, for the beauty and diversity of species created by our loving God, and for future generations.

Throughout scripture, countless voices praise the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and encourage us to reflect on our responsibility to be good stewards of creation. See for example: Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15; Psalm 104; Job 38-41.

“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures. All creatures look to you to give food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.”

– *Psalm 104: 24-25, 27-28, 31*

Jesus' own life offers us a model. He lived simply, not accumulating possessions, but sharing in fellowship in the gifts of creation. His teaching was woven through with images of nature, as God teaches us, through nature, about his Kingdom. Jesus' ministry was shaped by relationships of restoration, a preferential care for the poor and for children, and by the promise of a renewed creation in the Kingdom of God.







“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

– Matthew 6 v 19-21

## HOW DOES THIS TEACHING FROM JESUS SPEAK TO US ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TODAY?

As we wonder at and give thanks for the beauty of creation, we are called to act for its preservation, for justice, and for all the people of the Earth, including future generations.

Climate change is already impacting the poorest communities on Earth, through rising sea levels, drought, extreme weather events, and wildfires, in which the poorest people in all societies are always the most vulnerable. And our natural world is affected too as species across the planet are threatened by climate change with up to 50% of species headed for extinction by the middle of this century.

In the UK we are also seeing the impacts - from record-breaking temperatures in February and a heatwave in July, to torrential downpours causing flash flooding, and iconic landscapes like Saddleworth Moor burning.

Because creation is the gift of our loving God, as Christians we are called to act on climate change, to change our own lifestyles and through prayer and action, to ensure that the UK, along with other nations, ends its contribution to climate change.

This February, during our church services, let's give thanks for creation and pray together for urgent action on climate change, at individual, church, community, national and international levels, and encourage one another to grasp the solutions to climate change - both in our own lives, and through encouraging our leaders to take climate action.





*A prayer based on Psalm 102:25*

‘In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.’

Loving God, thank you for the gift of creation.  
As we experience each day, may we take time to wonder and give you thanks. From each sunrise to every sunset, in every season, and with every breath, may we celebrate our home in creation, and the glorious gift of life.

As the climate changes through our lifestyles, give us compassion to care deeply that people are suffering now, from drought, flood, wildfires and terrible storms. Give us the imagination to see that many species, and future generations are in peril and may never know the beauty and diversity of creation that we enjoy.

Give us passion to act now, to pray for the changes needed within our communities, our churches, our nation, and among the nations, for climate change to be brought under control.

Guide us Lord, and guide our leaders, to act as you would have us act.

May our prayers and our actions flow from our love for your creation, in all its beauty and diversity, a longing for justice for the poor, and our commitment to all future generations of your children on this Earth.

Amen.







## The Climate Coalition is the national umbrella body working on climate change, bringing together over 140 organisations, representing 22 million people across the UK.

We are all invited this February to Show The Love for God's creation by talking about climate change, praying for the Earth, making changes in our own lives, and calling upon our political leaders to act.

The past year has been a year like no other. The devastating impacts of the pandemic have impacted us all, and made us value what we love more than ever. We know our best chance at rebuilding goes hand in hand with tackling the climate crisis. We need our leaders to protect everything we love and deliver a healthy, green and fair recovery.

Later this year, the UK will host the United Nations climate summit - COP26. This is our opportunity to lead the world into a cleaner, greener future, but first we need to invest in the solutions to the climate crisis at home.

When we raise our voices together, we are a force for change that is impossible to ignore. The rest of this pack is full of ideas on how to take part in Show the Love and take action to protect the people, place and lives we love from climate change.

### Ways to #ShowTheLove

Ever since the start of Show The Love, communities across the UK have demonstrated year-on-year that beautiful things are possible when people work together. Things may look a bit different this year, but you can still show the love! Here are some ways you can get involved:

#### **COMMIT TO PRAY FOR OUR WORLD**

Invite everyone in the congregation to show their love for God's creation this February by committing to pray for our world and all those whose lives are currently impacted by climate change, and for guidance for our leaders as they make decisions to end the country's contribution to climate change.

#### **ASK YOUR MP TO JOIN YOU IN TAKING CLIMATE ACTION**

This year, The Climate Coalition is asking us to encourage our MPs to #ShowTheLove for a cleaner, greener future. If you craft a green heart, save one for your MP and send it along with the postcard included at the end of this guide.

#### **MAKE, WEAR, SHARE GREEN HEARTS**

Make, wear and share a green heart to start conversations about climate change. Two-thirds of people care about climate change - but don't know where to start. Wearing a green heart could be a great way to start a conversation about climate action - you can find tips on how to craft a green heart in our Green Heart action pack, available at [showthelove.org.uk](https://showthelove.org.uk).

#### **CREATE A GREEN HEART DISPLAY**

Window displays have brought joy to many communities over the past year as we've spent much more time at home. Create green hearts and use them to decorate a window, noticeboard or front garden over the Valentine's Day weekend - the 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> of February - to Show The Love to your community.



## Connect with your community

Although life remains unusual, there has never been a better time to club together with your local community. This February, connect with others in your area such as churches, community groups and local faith communities. Organise an online talk about why you care about climate change, the work you are doing to tackle climate change, and explore how you can work together to help create a cleaner, greener future this year.



## Share the love on social media

If you use social media, please take a photo of yourself with a green heart, and share it online with the hashtags [#ShowTheLove](#) and [#GodsCreation](#). This way, Christians of all denominations come together as part of the national campaign online, alongside people of other faiths and none, showing our love for God's creation.





# The Time Is Now For A Cleaner, Greener World That Works For Everyone

Our declaration brings together people from all walks of life with businesses, community groups, MPs, local decision makers to send a strong and unified message that **#TheTimeIsNow** to take urgent action to protect what we love from the climate crisis.

We want to reach one million voices before the UN Climate Summit. Encourage your congregation to add their name to the declaration at [thetimeisnow.uk](http://thetimeisnow.uk), and send a postcard to your MP to ask them to commit to **#ShowTheLove** by championing climate action.

You can also sign up to the Declaration as a church.



## STEP 1

Add your name to the declaration at [thetimeisnow.uk](http://thetimeisnow.uk) - you can sign up as an individual and as a church too.



## STEP 2

Fill in the postcard and add a bit about why you've signed the declaration so your MP knows why you care about climate action.



## STEP 3

Fold your postcard, attach a crafted green heart if you've made one - don't forget to add the name of your church group!



## STEP 4

Pop the postcard in an envelope and send it your MP. You can find their constituency surgery address at [members.parliament.uk](http://members.parliament.uk) or alternatively send it to (addressed to them) to House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.



## STEP 5

Keep an eye out for their response.

### Notes to organisers and priests, ministers and church leaders:

You can download additional postcards like the one featured in the back of this pack on [showthelove.org.uk](http://showthelove.org.uk) if individuals want to print out their own and send it to their MP.

Additional resources are also available on [showthelove.org.uk](http://showthelove.org.uk) if you would like to get more involved in Show the Love, for example with craft or youth and children's activities.



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**The time is now to protect what we  
love from the climate crisis.**

thelimatecoalition.org

**#SHOWTHELOVE**

**Dear** ..... **MP**

**I want to see urgent action to protect what I  
love from the climate crisis.** I've added my voice  
to The Climate Coalition's Declaration because I  
care about...

Before the UK hosts the world at the UN Climate  
Summit in November, we need to show global  
leadership by ensuring our recovery gets us on  
track to a cleaner, greener world that works for  
everyone. **Will you #ShowTheLove by  
championing climate action this year?**

**Please show your support by:**

- Signing The Climate Coalition's Declaration for  
a Healthy, Green And Fair Tomorrow (please  
email [campaigns@thelimatecoalition.org](mailto:campaigns@thelimatecoalition.org) to  
sign)
- Sharing a photo of this green heart on Twitter  
pledging your support to protect all that we  
could lose to the climate crisis - don't forget to  
tag @thelimatecoalition and use #ShowTheLove

**Thank you,**

Name:  
Postcode:  
Email/Phone:  
Organisation/Group:

[thelimatecoalition.org](http://thelimatecoalition.org)

