



Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

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Dear Congregational Leaders and Vestry Secretaries

Action on Climate Change by Vestries and Congregations

We write to you about action on climate change by vestries and congregations, enclosing two documents. *Action on Climate Change: A Guide for Vestries and Congregations* sets in context what was agreed by General Synod in June 2021 after agreeing in 2020 to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. We ask you, if you have not already done so, to commence work towards this goal. More support from a provincial toolkit will be forthcoming but the 'Guide' will enable you to get started or encourage you further down your net zero journey. The other document *Questions to be considered in breakout groups* collates all the comments generated at our Diocesan Synod this year along with the Diocesan Climate Change Group's initial analysis of those comments. We have already included some of these in the Diocesan action plan on achieving net zero. We appreciate all your contributions. We know that this is a challenging target, but we can make this happen by supporting and encouraging each other.

The Diocesan Climate Change Group is keen to promote the celebration of Climate Sunday which is an initiative calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021). Many will choose Sunday 5th September when there will be a Nations Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow <https://www.climatesunday.org/>. Acting on climate change is an important part of the church's mission. We do not want it to be an 'add on' to what we do but an integral part of who we are. Incorporating care for creation and action on climate change has a theological basis and it is exciting to be exploring this in our liturgy, prayers, and teaching. We have the opportunity to use the experimental liturgy for the Season of Creation (from first Sunday of September up to and including the first Sunday in October) and the Liturgy Committee is offering an introduction to this material in a video conference session on Friday 13th August, at 10am or Wednesday 18th August at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact GSO at office@scotland.anglican.org to register.

Much more information will become available over the next weeks and months. A great proportion of the content of the *'Guide'* is focussed on energy use but this is just the start as we develop a new way of living lighter on the planet. We are already encouraged by the ideas coming forward and as a Diocesan group we are committed to walking alongside folk as we deliberate, discuss, and act. We are developing resources on the Diocese's website <https://standrews.anglican.org/climate-change-group/> so please keep checking what is on there but in the meantime should you have anything you wish to raise or share with us please contact the Diocesan office.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. C. Garman". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters.

Rev Elaine C Garman

On behalf of the Diocesan Climate Change Group