

NOVEMBER 2021

E-NEWS

OF THE DIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS,
DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE

SPECIAL CLIMATE & COP26 EDITION

PRAYER FOR COP26

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

Creator God, giver of life, you sustain the earth
and direct the nations. In this time of climate crisis,
grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation
and the cries of the poor.

Challenge us to change our lifestyles.
Guide our leaders to take courageous action.
Enable your church to be a beacon of hope.

And foster within us a renewed vision
of your purposes for your world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by and for whom all things were made.

Amen



Welcome!

Welcome to this special Climate and COP-26 edition of the monthly newsletter of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's edition!

See below for COP26 coverage from the Scottish Episcopal Church, messages from Bishop Ian and the Convener of our Diocesan Climate Change Group, and many activities happening throughout our Diocese!

Watch for updates on the Diocesan Climate Change web page:
<https://standrews.anglican.org/climate-change-group/>

We welcome any suggestions and comments from you at media@standrews.anglican.org

Further information can be found on our website at <https://standrews.anglican.org>

You can also download a printable version of this month's E-News by [clicking here](#).

Please find a printable E-News poster for your church [here](#).

COP26 HUB

Visit [this SEC page](#) for news and online worship from the Scottish Episcopal Church during the meeting of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), being held in Glasgow through 12th November.



Go and Do Likewise

We are in a race against time to save the planet. We know that millions of people are already suffering the effects of climate change. Forests and farms are turning into desert. In time there will be real food shortages, rising sea levels, mass migration of peoples. We know that this is part of a greater biodiversity crisis. In the last half century, about 50% of the world's animals have been lost. Of all the mammals left on Earth, only 4% are wild mammals, 36% are humans, and 60% are livestock. 70% of all birds on the planet are now poultry. Insects have declined by 75%, yet 3/4 of the crops we grow rely on insect pollination.

We have known about this looming crisis for decades, and for decades we have continued to assume that it is someone else's problem. We have joined the ranks of consumers, collectively taken millions of plane flights and driven billions of miles burning fossil fuels. We have demanded cheaper food cultivated in unsustainable ways. We've thrown away billions of tons of plastic.

This has to change, which means *we* have to change. The climate crisis is a political and scientific crisis, but it is also a spiritual crisis. A distinguished scientist recently said, "I used to think that the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that 30 years of good science would address these problems. But I was wrong. The top environment problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and they need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists do not know how to do that."

But we people of faith do know how to do that. This is the greatest spiritual challenge humanity has ever faced. And we have the tools and the understanding to go right to the heart of it. Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbour. Be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it.

Our faith tells us we are here as tenants not owners, as stewards not exploiters, as creatures not users, of Creation. We have seen ourselves as co-creators with God; now we need also to see ourselves as co-creatures instead. So when we talk about loving our neighbour, we could remember that Creation is also our neighbour.

Asked 'who is my neighbour?', Jesus told a well-known parable. It was the Samaritan who stopped, had compassion, and made a difference, who was Good. For us now, it is all Creation that needs our compassion. As Jesus says at the end of the parable, "Go and do likewise."

Bishop Ian

From the Climate Change Group Convener

I have had the privilege of being asked to be Convenor of the Diocesan Climate Change Group which was set up earlier this year. I said yes! Two years ago, I would have to say I was not particularly well versed on climate change issues – not a great claim to fame but like many other busy people, it had not really gotten to the top of my agenda. However, as member of the SEC's Church in Society Committee which looks at secular issues impacting on the church and vice versa, I found myself preparing a motion to take to General Synod 2020 to agree that the SEC should establish a target of achieving carbon net zero by 2030. Of course, I was not writing this motion alone. There was a team of people with expertise, enthusiasm, and long experience of working on this area. And that is where I am now with the Diocesan Climate Change Group – with a group of people who have that passion to help us with our mission to care for God's creation and to mitigate all the harms that we have dished out on the planet. Some have been acting on climate change for some time and others, like me, not so long. But all have a desire to make a difference from a range of perspectives. Being carbon neutral by 2030 is a challenging, ambitious



target but a necessary one. I am Rector of St John's, Forfar and know the realities of forging ahead with this, the financial implications, the (personal) energy needed to get everyone onboard and indeed the stamina that we will need over the next nine years to accomplish the target. But our sisters and brothers around the world need us to rise to this challenge. All creation is relying on us to change our ways and heal our planet. As a church we can be a beacon of hope that encourages others as we work on this task to save our gift of creation.

Rev Elaine C Garman
*Convenor,
Diocesan Climate Change Group*

'a group of people who have that passion to help us with our mission to care for God's creation'

Climate initiatives from around the Diocese

Creationtide in Kirriemuir

*FROM THE VESTRY AT
ST MARY'S, KIRRIEMUIR*

St Mary's, Kirriemuir tried out the focus of Creationtide during September and into October finishing with, as many churches did, Harvest Thanksgiving on the 3rd of October. The church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest service, a fitting end to this special season. Having recently completed the environmental audit with Eco Congregation Scotland and having started working on our action plan we decided to think about our food further and take a trip next door! St Mary's owns a piece of ground adjacent to the church and this is rented out to *Sustainable Kirriemuir* at a low price: <https://www.sustainablekirriemuir.co.uk/grow-food/st-marys-field/>.

After the service a group of us met with a member of the Sustainable Kirrie team who is particularly passionate about the community food growing project at St Mary's Field. We learned about all their work over the year, and the plans for the year ahead. Food for thought as we think about our own impact on the environment and our journey to achieving carbon neutral by 2030.

St Mary's Vestry



Climate initiatives from around the Diocese

Calling Out in Prayers for the planet

24-hr Ecumenical Prayer Vigil for COP26

at Saint Andrew's, St Andrews

As part of a weekend of activities focused on the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26), the St Andrews Churches' Eco-Network sponsored a number of activities over the weekend of 23rd/24th October. The contribution by Saint Andrew's was a 24-hour ecumenical prayer vigil in the church from 10.00 am on 23rd October to 10.00 am 24th October. The Vigil included contributions from members of Hope Park-Martyrs and Holy Trinity (Church of Scotland), St Leonard's Parish Church and St Andrews Baptist Church plus members of the Eco-Strand of 'Just Love', a Christian student group, and artists from the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts at the university.

The Vigil took the form of a series of prayer stations variously reflecting upon God as Creator; prayers noting what humankind has done with God's creation (lamentation, confession, asking for forgiveness); intercessions for the COP26 meeting (leaders, delegates, lobbyists) and groups and communities already impacted by climate change; intergenerational prayers (the elderly and children); prayers expressing hope for a "creation restored by love".

Some stations remain up through the duration of COP26, and were accessible to those attending the St Andrews East Area Council Gathering.

Alan Werritty and Karen McClain Kiefer



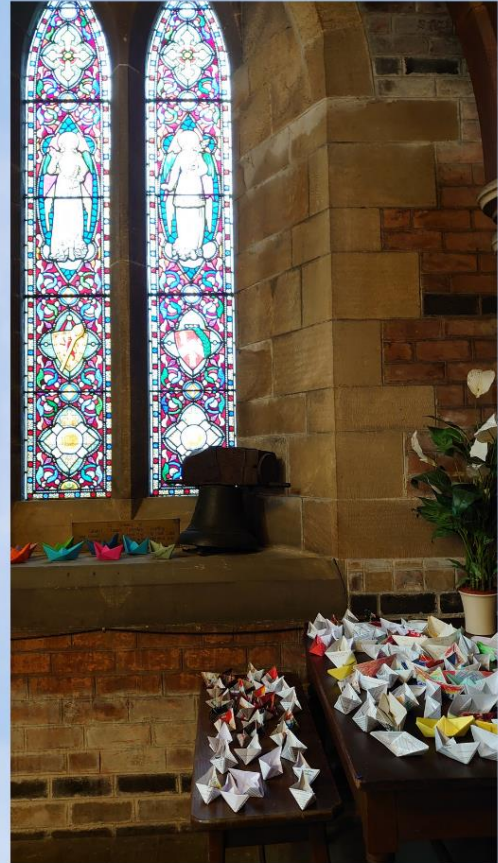
Climate initiatives from around the Diocese

COP26 #RiseToTheMoment Prayer Boats

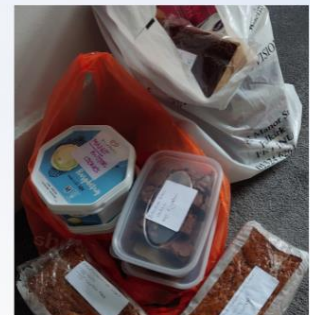
Holy Trinity, Stirling sent 123 Prayer Boats to Christian Aid to add to the fleet to support the Young Christians Climate Network (YCCN) in their relay to COP26. Watch out on social media for the final installation which will be staged somewhere in Glasgow as part of the event.

They looked good in Holy Trinity and really do show the thought that has gone into them as we contemplate that we are all "In the same storm, but in different boats."

Keep all participants, whether politicians, children, activists, people of faith, or people of none, in your prayers as COP26 takes place from end of October to 12th November.



Sustenance for pilgrims to COP



Area Councils Gather and discuss Climate Action

Bishop Ian invited each of the four Area Councils to hold a Gathering on a Saturday in October and November, given that the full Diocesan Gathering has not been able to happen since the pandemic began. The goal is for as many people as possible from every Charge to attend a Gathering in their own area. These Gatherings are a time to express that we belong together in a Church that extends beyond our own congregation and that we are called to support and encourage one another in neighbouring Charges and in the Diocese.

Presentations and discussions on *Climate Action* and *Pilgrimage* are planned, as well as conversation with Bishop Ian.

The two Fife Area Councils gathered in October (St Andrews West and St Andrews East). The Area Councils of Dunkeld and Dunblane will meet on 6th November and 13th November, respectively.

St Andrews West Area Council



On Saturday, 23rd October, St Peter's Church in Kirkcaldy hosted congregations for the St Andrew's West Area Council Gathering.

There were over 40 in attendance who shared conversation over lunch and during sessions on *Climate Action* presented by Revd Gerry Dillon and *Pilgrimage* presented by Karen McClain Kiefer, Diocesan Digital Missioner.

A lovely and lively liturgy that celebrated creation and the pilgrimage we are on together was planned by Revd David Mackenzie-Mills.



St Andrews East Area Council

Saint Andrew's, St Andrews was the host for the St Andrew's East Area Council Gathering on Saturday, 30th October. Close to 40 people attended in a similar format as their West counterpart.

Convener Revd Roy Anetts welcomed everyone and led a morning prayer service with music from Revd Steve Butler. Margaret Gray and Bea Cowan coordinated refreshments and hospitality.

Prof Alan Werritty led a detailed session on *Climate Action* which included a presentation by Prof David Cole-Hamilton on Saint Andrew's Eco Congregation initiatives, emphasising their highly successful Green Ticket Scheme. After lunch, Karen Kiefer presented again on *Plgrimage*.

Bishop Ian welcomed questions at the end of the day in a closing Q&A session followed by a final blessing. Violinist Susie Cook and Choral Director Jane Pettegree on the piano closed the Gathering with an instrumental rendition of *One More Step Along the World [We] Go*.

Throughout the day, attendees were encouraged to visit prayer stations around the church that were setup for the 24-hr COP Prayer Vigil, which was part of a weekend of events planned by the St Andrews Churches Eco Network.



Dunkeld and Dunblane Area Council Gatherings

The Dunkeld Area Council Gathering
will be held:

Saturday 6th November
10.30am to 3pm
at St Mary's, Birnam

The Dunblane Area Council Gathering
will be held:

Saturday 13th November
11am to 3pm
at St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan



We look forward to seeing you there!

COP26 Activities planned by Eco Congregations around Perth

Eco-Congregations around Perth are planning activities this week to coincide with 'the world' being in Glasgow for the COP26 discussions.

Thursday 4th November - 5.30pm

Prayers for the Planet (and the decision-makers) in the garden of the North Church, Mill Street (but inside if wet!) Usual Covid distancing and Track and Trace will apply; opportunity will be given for individual prayers to be written and hung on a 'tree'. All welcome.

Friday 5th November 11am to 3pm

We plan to have a presence somewhere around the High Street/St John's Kirk area with an information stall and the prayer tree, giving out seeds.

In addition, on the hour, every hour there will be a short time of prayer in the Kirk of St John's.

Climate, COP26, Creationtide and Harvest Moments around our Diocese



Holy Trinity Dunfermline Scottish Episcopal Church
holytrinitychurch.org.uk

WE WELCOME YOU

Regular Services
Sunday 11.00am | Thursday 10.15am

The service includes: singing, prayer & at times a special time to get involved!

Facebook: Holy Trinity Dunfermline | YouTube: Holy Trinity Dunfermline | Instagram: Holy Trinity Dunfermline | Twitter: Holy Trinity Dunfermline | Tel: 01383 732 654



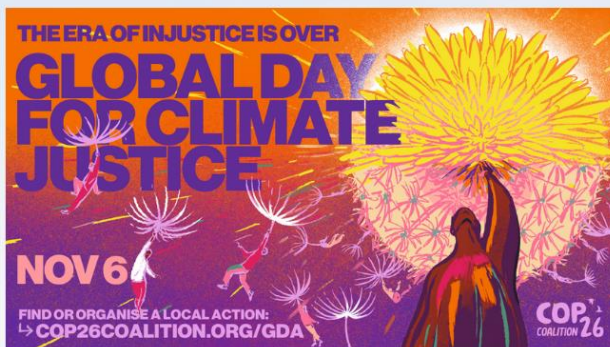
Global Day for Climate Justice

The COP26 Coalition is organising a Global Day of Action (GDA) on Saturday 6th November, during the middle weekend of COP26.

It is at this halfway point during the talks, when we usually start to see the intensity of the negotiations shift up a gear and maximum pressure is needed to keep the level of ambition up. By getting people and voices out on the streets, those wielding the power will feel that pressure.

There are 3 main ways to get involved:

- 1) March together in Glasgow.
- 2) Join a march at one of the other locations across the UK.
- 3) Join the virtual World Climate March.



The theme for Scottish Interfaith Week 2021 is

Together for Our Planet.

This year's theme ties in with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021) which is excitingly being held in Glasgow in November. Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with the conference, taking place from Sunday 31st October to Sunday 7th November.

We believe climate action is important for people of all backgrounds, faiths and cultures to get involved in and that the work being done to spread climate awareness is key to the survival of our planet.

SIFW brings people together whilst promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. We encourage everyone to participate and the SIFW team are always happy to help you with your ideas and through promoting your event.

Scottish Episcopal Church at the Multi-Faith COP26 Vigil

Our Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Reverend Mark Strange, participated in the Multi-faith vigil on Sunday, 31st October before the opening of COP26 in Glasgow.

Please pray for COP26 delegates and a greater commitment among all nations to properly care for creation.



You can watch the video of the vigil from [this SEC web page](#).

Online Worship during COP26

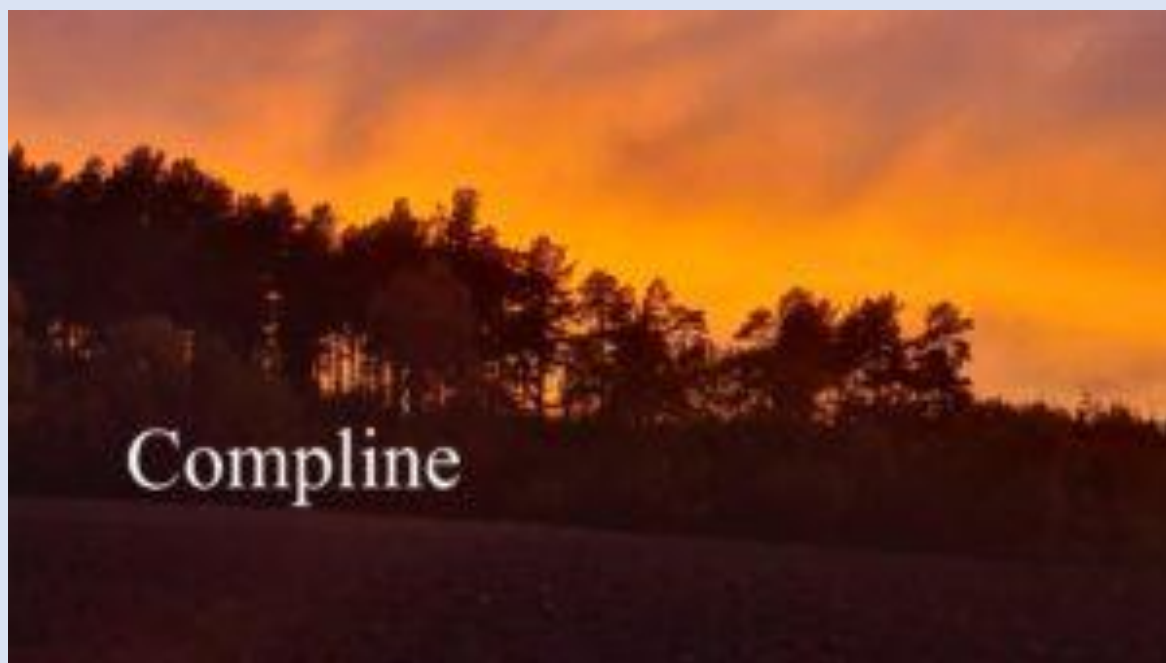
During the period of COP26 there will be a number of services that will be broadcast by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The normal Sunday worship will continue with worship from our Diocese on Sunday 7th November (see below).

Additionally, every evening at 8pm during COP26, there will be a short service of Night Prayer, or Compline, from Glasgow.

The services will be held via Zoom and live streamed on the SEC channels, including the SEC Facebook page and [Youtube](#).

You can find details and links for the the next online worship service [here](#).



Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26

Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world. We share a belief in a hopeful future, as well as an obligation to be responsible in caring for our common home, the Earth.

We recognise the opportunities that COP26 brings in addressing the urgent need for action in limiting the effects of climate change and the critical importance of decisions made in this conference to take forward the agreement made in Paris in 2015.

People have exploited the planet, causing climate change. We recognise that the burden of loss and damage falls most heavily on people living in poverty, especially women and children.

We acknowledge the commitments made through the Lambeth Declaration in 2015. Now, because of the gravity of our situation, the impact of climate change around the world, and the inequality of its effects we seek to strengthen those commitments.

We commit to respond to this challenge by:

- Reflecting deeply in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same.
- Making transformational change in our own lives and in the lives of our communities through individual and collective action.
- Being advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.

We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity. We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

We look to governments to work together and with others to create a positive vision for 2050 where addressing climate change is not just an opportunity to stop burning fossil fuels, but also: to achieve cleaner air and water; to reduce food wastage; to ensure a just and equitable sharing of the earth's resources; and to protect the habitats we share with all other life on whose health we also depend.

Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations. To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26.

Glasgow Multifaith Declaration 20/09/2021

The Minister & Office-Bearers of Glasgow Cathedral (St. Mungo's or High Kirk of Glasgow)
and Glasgow Churches Together in partnership with the churches
across Scotland and the United Kingdom, the Conference of European Churches
and the World Council of Churches invite you to an Ecumenical Service of Worship
to be held in Glasgow Cathedral, Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0QZ
on Sunday, the 7th of November 2021 @ 4pm on the occasion of the gathering of the
Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.



RSVP: cop26office@glasgowchurches.org.uk
by Tuesday, 5th October 2021



Other News and Events around our Diocese



Online Worship from the Scottish Episcopal Church



The Scottish Episcopal Church broadcasts the Eucharist service every week at 11am through [YouTube](#), enabling people to worship in fellowship. The service will be held in private, in line with SEC guidelines but all are welcome to access the service online. The liturgy is also available to download from the Scottish Episcopal Church website. Many worshippers from our diocese have found the services deeply spiritual and up lifting.

Clergy and vestries are working hard to ensure that all guidance is followed and the safety of congregations is maintained.

Online services will continue and we ask for all those who are working to ensure that worship both in churches and online can continue to be remembered in your prayers.

[Click here for the Sunday Eucharist online](#)

[Click here for information and to download the order of service](#)

Gathering for Young People at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Dear Friends,

The Diocese Youth Committee are holding a Youth Gathering event for Young People from across the Diocese aged from P7 - S6 at Perth Cathedral on **Saturday 20th November 10am - 3pm**. This Gathering has been co-planned by the Young People's Committee and the Young People's forum. The theme that the Young People have chosen for the Gathering is ***Belonging and Coming Together***, to mark that they are part of a wider Church family and that this is the first time that they have been able to come together as young people in the Diocese.

The Gathering will include a provided packed lunch, produced and delivered on the day by Giraffe in Perth.

The day itself will consist of Workshop Activities in the morning, followed by lunch. In the afternoon there will be a Question and Answer session with Bishop Ian ending with a worship that parents and carers are invited to, that has been put together by the Young People's Forum.

Kind regards

James Gardner
Diocesan Children and Youth Officer

Below and in [this link](#) is a poster for sharing on social media and Church noticeboards.

Please promote this event to all your Young People in your Charges, and encourage them to attend.

To register attendance at the event please share the following link
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/youth-gathering-belonging-and-coming-together-tickets-187117261767?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

St Andrews, Dunkeld,
and Dunblane

Diocesan youth gathering

With Bishop Ian

On the theme of

Belonging



Saturday 20th November 2021
From 10AM-3 PM
Lunch is provided

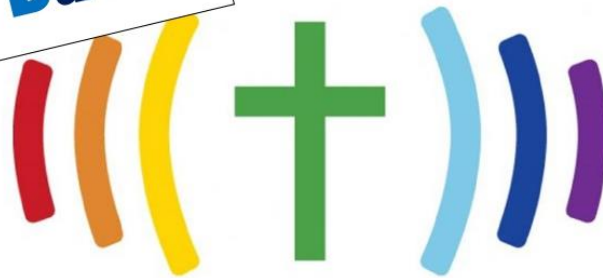


PERTHSHIRE RAINBOW



We are back!

TABLE



7.30pm Thursday 18th November 2021
Thursday 16th December, Thursday 20th January 2022

St Columba's Perth Rd. Crieff. PH7 3EB.

We are an ecumenical Christian worship community which offers
a warm welcome to people who are: **LGBTQIA+**
and their friends – all who seek an inclusive Church.

We aim to create a safe sacred space for you to explore your faith
and what it means for you.

Whoever you are, wherever you come from,
you are welcome here.

<https://strathearn-episcopal-churches.co.uk/>
Contact Revd Gennie Evans rev.gen@btinternet.com



<https://strathearn-episcopal-churches.co.uk/>

Contact Revd Gennie Evans: rev.gen@btinternet.com

Godly Play Networking Circle - 6th November 2021

A Godly Play Networking Circle is planned for **Saturday 6th November 10am-12pm at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in St Andrews.**

All area Godly Players are welcome to come for a time to chat, ask questions, and, of course, share in a story together.

We'll be in our newly unveiled Godly Play room for the story part, so space is limited.

Email or message Jessica Lang if planning on attending:
lang.jessica99@gmail.com.



More information about Godly Play can be found at <http://www.godlyplayscotland.co.uk>

A Prayer for our Climate and COP26

Creator God,

Our God
who made and can move mountains,
who created people and can touch their hearts and minds,
who declared that the world was very good and can make it to
be so again,
who has the world in his hands,
be praise and glory.

We lift before you the COP climate talks
and the future of the planet.

We are sorry for the damage that has been done,
but we come before you knowing that you are a God of mercy and
miracles.

We pray for the world leaders gathering in Glasgow,
that they would do what is right and fair.
May the common desire to protect the world enable good conversations,
positive actions and bring about unity.

We pray for those joining from countries on the frontline
of climate change
who are experiencing the worst impacts,
having contributed the least.

We pray that their voices would carry weight and power,
and that you, God, would protect their place at the negotiating table.

Lord, would you help us in the UK to host with humility, compassion,
and generosity.

You are a God for whom nothing is impossible or too late.
In the face of this climate crisis, we hold on to the hope found in you.
Hear the cries of your people, O God.

Amen.

[For diocesan events and information, click here!](#)

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[Facebook](#)

[Our website](#)

[And NOW Instagram!](#)

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Our mailing address is:
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