

## March 2022: Save the world

I'm guessing that by now it would hardly be possible to be unaware of what scientists have been telling us for decades; that our planet's health is in a desperate state due to human activity. Indeed, scientists tell us that human civilisation, even human survival, now depends on us making the right changes very, very quickly.

At the end of October, as part of the local response to the COP26 Conference in Glasgow, people of faith from all across the Hope Valley gathered in Hope to share what faith has to say about our global climate and biodiversity crisis. Everybody there was already taking individual action – looking at how we use energy, what we eat, how we travel – but everyone was also aware of our need and our responsibility to do more, much more. In the words of Pete Grieg, speaking in the COP26 service from the charity Tearfund, the very first thing God asked humanity to do, in Genesis 2, was to share in his care for his creation; the original Hebrew says to 'tend and serve the land'. For Christians, Pete Grieg says, climate activism should be a fundamental part of being a Christian. For all of us, whatever our faith or none, I believe it should matter to us that the climate and biodiversity crisis is affecting the poorest in the world soonest and most severely, both across the globe and in our own nation. And I believe it should also matter to us that this crisis seriously threatens the well-being of our children and grandchildren.

One outcome from the meeting in October was a commitment, as people of faith, to encourage one another and to share ideas and action as we all try to be good news for God's creation, trying to reduce our environmental impact. A meeting at the end of February shared information about the Ecochurch project, a self-assessed scheme that provides free online surveys and resources to help churches and faith groups demonstrate that the gospel is good news for all God's earth, making care for creation part of worship, part of caring for buildings and land, part of engaging with local and wider communities and part of the lifestyle of the congregation. If you share this vision, and would like to help your local place of worship to become more environmentally aware and to make a difference, we would love to hear from you, whether you consider yourself a person of faith or not.

And, whatever your faith or none, my prayer is that together we can all be good news for all of creation in Hope Valley and beyond.

Yours in Christ,  
Louise Petheram  
[rev.louise.p@gmail.com](mailto:rev.louise.p@gmail.com) 01433 621918

If you would like to sign up to receive the regular newsletters from churches and Christian groups across Hope Valley, please go to  
<https://mailchi.mp/f29b1286b3df/2t1gk3uwy2>  
or email me and I can sign you up.