



Welcome to the February 2019 edition of the Together Liverpool newsletter.

## Editorial

A [tax on fast fashion](#), the [student climate strikes](#), [#TheLastStraw](#), [Veganuary](#), the [warnings of Sir David Attenborough](#) – our news is littered with our attempts, concerns, hopes and fears for the future of our planet. Yet, so many of us find it hard to engage with this dimension of social justice.

Indeed, as I was researching for this newsletter I found myself constantly trying to relate what I was reading to how it would affect me, and MY life. Selfishly questioning could I afford the extra time, effort or little more added to the weekly shop to care about those on the other side of the world suffering the very immediate effects of climate change?

Editing this edition has highlighted, disturbed, and I hope uprooted, some of these tendencies. I pray it has something for everyone: challenging us to make small individual changes to our habits this Lent (and beyond), informing us about impactful campaigns our churches, charities and community groups can engage with and directing us to resources to support us as we wrestle with questions about faith and the environment.

As usual we suggest [ten practical ways to respond to this newsletter](#) - we'd love to hear how you get on using the hashtag [#DoTenThings](#) or email us on [newsletter@togetherliverpool.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@togetherliverpool.org.uk)

Dr. Naomi Maynard – Together Liverpool newsletter editor

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**Key Theme: Environmental Justice**

# Going for Gold: The Diocese's fresh commitment to a more sustainable future



Introduced below, Phil Leigh, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, reflects on how the UN's Sustainable Development Goals are entwined with the Diocese of Liverpool's quest to become an Eco Diocese.

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) provide a route to a more sustainable future for all. They interconnect to address issues like poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The ambition is to reach each of these targets by 2030. The Anglican Communion has a longstanding framework called the [five marks of mission](#), which when taken together, these interlinked statements reflect the ambitions of the SDGs.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

In the Diocese of Liverpool we are setting out to raise the profile of the sometimes forgotten 5th mark of mission, by encouraging churches and congregations to address environmental issues in their churches, and hopefully signing up to become [Eco Churches](#).

[Read the full article here](#)

[Contact Phil Leigh](#)



Learn more about our work in the  
community

Visit our website

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## The Faith & Climate Network: How did it begin? Can I get involved?

# FAITH & CLIMATE NETWORK MERSEYSIDE

Annie Merry, CEO of Faiths4Change, explains how [The Faith & Climate Network](#) began in Merseyside:

Inspired by Cool Wirral (Climate Change Strategy) and the common ground of caring for our world shared by all world faith communities, Faiths4Change, partners including Wirral Council, and 40 representatives from different faith communities came together for an Interfaith week event in 2017 'World Faiths, Climate Change & Community Influence' to share, explore and consider local faith based actions on climate change.

People attending agreed that opportunities to explore faith rooted ideas and actions around climate change needed to be developed. As a result, Faiths4Change began to coordinate the Faith & Climate Network (FCN), with a range of faith & secular partners. During 2018 Interfaith Week, we held a partnership event focused on Energy at the Wirral Deen Centre, Birkenhead, over 50 people from different world faiths & secular organisations attended.

Some have met to form a stakeholders group and to plan an active Waste/Resources event in May 2019 as part of the [Liverpool City Region Year of Environment](#). The FCN connects with Eco Churches, Live Simply and local environmental groups too, recognising that we can mitigate climate change locally together.

Read more about the Network and how you can get involved by clicking on the link below.

Read the full article here

## Why I'm done trying to persuade people on ecology & mission: Reflections from a Christian activist



In this thought-provoking piece of creative writing, Isaac Stovell – a [Church Army researcher](#) environmental activist - reflects on how his faith led to his arrest as part of the mass protests organised by the [Extinction Rebellion](#) in November last year.

If you're unconvinced that we, as Christians, have a duty of care to Earth, your theology is cowardly.

If you're unconvinced that we, as humans, are facing a genuine crisis of survival, your head is in the sand.

If you're uncomfortable reading this – good! These were realities which as I came to realise them drove me into prolonged and profoundly isolating confusion and despair.

I found myself an unheeded prophet on the margins of the oh-so-safe culture of evangelicalism, and a mistrusted religious buzzkill among the only people I could find who seemingly cared enough about such issues – environmental activists.

God taught me a great deal through this. In particular about how patiently trusting the Word and actually responding to it with radical obedience can be a somewhat discordant effort.

Long story short, it led me to [voluntarily being arrested on Lambeth Bridge on November 17th last year](#) - as I saw it, following a more-

or-less [direct order](#) from [my organisation's president Rowan Williams](#).

You don't know how peaceful a prison cell can be to a troubled soul.

## Fossil Free Churches?



The [Bright Now](#) campaign, launched in 2013, is making a special plea this Easter, encouraging more churches of every denomination to [join the Easter Tuesday Declaration for fossil free churches](#).

The campaign, run by [Operation Noah](#), a charity working with the Church to inspire action on climate change, outlines four steps for local churches to get involved:

1. Make a public commitment to divest from fossil fuels.
2. Write to national/regional Church investors to communicate your decision.
3. Move to a 100% renewable energy supplier.
4. Move your investments and/or switch to a fossil-free bank account.

Read [The Bright Now step-by-step guide to divestment](#) and encourage your church leaders to pledge commitment on Easter Tuesday.

[Read the guide](#)

## Living Lent



**Creating a climate of change.**

**Feel overwhelmed by the challenges facing our climate?  
Unsure how you, as an individual, can make a difference?  
Then join the [Living Lent](#) community and be encouraged along  
the journey.**

The Living Lent community, hosted by the [Joint Public Issues Team](#), are inviting us to journey through Lent together this year. This online community and resource hub set out practical ways we can make small yet impactful changes to our lifestyle, building new habits this Lent. They also provide [lectionary resources](#) to encourage churches to pursue climate action this lent.

Living Lent challenges us to make one of these six commitments this Lent:

1. [Give up single use plastics](#)
2. [Go meat free](#) or free from all animal products
3. [Find alternative modes of transport](#)
4. [Give up electricity for an hour a day](#)
5. Reduce your food transport impact by [‘living locally’](#)
6. [Buy nothing new](#)

Let us know which you choose and how you get on!

[Contact Us](#)

[Post on our Twitter page](#)

[Post on our Facebook page](#)

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from Together Liverpool**

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## Useful Resources and Services

### Faith and our climate: Where can I find out more?



Interested in finding out more about environmental justice and how it connects to faith? Here are three organisations exploring these questions.

[A Rocha UK](#) work for the protection and restoration of the natural world. Their resources-filled website is aimed at churches and individuals exploring how their faith connects with issues surrounding the environment. Key UK based projects include Eco Church and Wild Christian.

[Green Christian](#) is a community of inter-denominational Christians seeking to help others understand and relate responsibilities towards creation to their faith. Their resources include a thought-provoking magazine, a prayer guide and worship material.

[Faiths4Change](#) seeks to bring together faith communities in the North West of England to explore connections between the health and wellbeing of people and the environment. Their current projects include Pop Up Clothes Swap Boutiques and the creation of CommuniTrees across Rochdale.

### Joy in Enough Confession

# Joy in Enough

**Joy in Enough is a campaign for a fair and sustainable economy, challenging Christians to imagine and work towards an economy that supports human flourishing within the planetary boundaries.**

They have developed a [Joy in Enough Confession](#) to be used this Lent, reflecting on our complicity in consumerism and climate change. Joy in Enough hope the confession will be used by individuals, in churches, in public spaces and on local radio stations this Easter.

Their website also contains resources and papers reflecting on how Christians can respond to issues of sustainability, equality and economics.

[Visit the website](#)

**Understanding climate justice  
through theatre: Bible study  
resources**



# RIDING THEATRE COMPANY LIGHTS



The Riding Lights Theatre Company has produced [seven short films and notes](#) for small group discussions about climate justice.

These resources explore topics such as 'why rich people might feel guilty about the impact of climate change on the poor', and the effects of corporate greed. They call us to reject apathy and become an activist for climate justice.

[View the resources](#)

## Upcoming Events

### 14th March: Fostering & Adoption Information Evening



[homeforgood.org.uk/events](https://homeforgood.org.uk/events)

Interested in Fostering or Adoption?



 Thursday  
14 March 2019

 Frontline Church,  
Liverpool, L15 3HA

 8pm  
to 9:30pm

[More information about this event](#)

## 4th April: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping - Who Cares?



The Community Foundation for Merseyside are hosting an event on homelessness and rough sleeping aimed at the Liverpool City Region private sector on Thursday 4th April.

The event, which is free to attend, will take place at the Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and Saint Nicholas) from 9.30am-12.30pm.

[Register for this event](#)

## Do Ten Things

***#DoTenThings***

Ten ways to respond to today's newsletter:

1. Undertake one of [Living Lent's](#) six commitments this Lent
2. Ask your church leaders how you can help with your church's journey to becoming an [Eco Church](#)
3. Join the [Faith & Climate Network Facebook Group](#)
4. Read the [Bright Now step-by-step guide to divestment](#)
5. Explore questions about faith and the environment through the resources on the [A Rocha UK](#), [Green Christian](#) and [Faiths4Change](#) websites
6. Organise an act of prophetic protest centred around a public reading of the [Joy in Enough Confession](#)
7. Read [Operation Noah's statement](#) on Extinction Rebellion – could you get involved?
8. Watch the [Riding Lights Theatre Company's films](#) about climate justice
9. Advertise [Home for Good's adoption event](#) at your place of work, church or community group
10. Tell someone working in the private sector about the Community Foundation for Merseyside's [Homelessness and Rough sleeping event](#)

Let us know how you are getting on via social media using:  
[#DoTenThings](#)

Do you need more  
information about advice  
services in your area?

Contact Us

Stay updated until the next newsletter!  
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**Facebook** page and visit our **website** for  
more information



Together Liverpool, St James House, 20 St James Road, Liverpool,  
Merseyside, L1 7BY

Tel: 0151 705 2163 or 07826 554889

Company No: 08190148

Registered Charity No: 1151977

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