

Nine ways of living gently on the Earth:-

Why Christians must act on environmental issues:

“Living in a way that honours rather than threatens the planet is living out what it means to be made in the image of God. ... What we face today is nothing less than a choice about how genuinely human we want to be.” (Dr Rowan Williams)

“Our responsibility is to cultivate and care for the Earth in accordance with God’s command (Gen 2:15). We are called not only to respect the natural environment, but also to show respect for, and solidarity with, all the members of our human family. These two dimensions are closely related.” (Pope Francis)

“To hurt the Earth is a sin.” (Patriarch Bartholomew 1)

“We should care for God’s Creation – not out of fear about what is going to happen, but out of love ... So Christians should be at the forefront of the environmental cause and movement because in our care for Creation we reflect our love of the Creator.” (Revd Nicky Gumbel, Pioneer of the Alpha course)

What to do next:

Share these ideas by putting the centre pages of this leaflet on your church noticeboard, or on your fridge at home.

Visit our website and click on “Green Action” to access our ecocell programme. Here you will find additional information, prayers, poems, stories and group activities to discuss with a group of friends. Hopefully this will inspire you to take the first steps to live more gently on the Earth. **ecocell’s “Journeys in carbon-free discipleship”** will help you go further on the pathway to sustainability.

Visit www.greenchristian.org.uk for plenty of other ideas on actions for individuals and for Church communities.

Visit www.quaker.org.uk/climate-impact-calculators to work out your own ecological footprint.

The Church of England’s ‘Shrinking the Footprint’ programme has an on-line energy audit for churches at www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint

Green your own local church with Eco Church. Visit www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk

Nine Ways of living gently on the Earth



Environmental problems can make us wonder “what on earth can I do?” But living in a way that respects what God has made is part of our joyful discipleship and, by inspiring others to join us, we can begin to change the world.

Inside this leaflet are nine ways to live more gently, on the Earth. Why not tick the things that you already do and choose one or two things to work on each month?

Join Green Christian

Send £30 cheque or £25 Standing Order (low income £12), £40 joint/family/corporate, or a donation for church membership (recommended amount £40) to: Green Christian Membership, Flat 1, 31 St James Terrace, Buxton SK17 6HS.

Cheques payable to Green Christian.



www.greenchristian.org.uk
info@greenchristian.org.uk
0345 459 8460
10 Kiln Gardens, Hartley Wintney RG27 8RG.

Company No. 2445198, Charity No. 328744
Green Christian is a registered trading name of
Christian Ecology Link. ©2017 Green Christian



1. Stand up for the planet:

- get to know your MP,
- write letters, sign an online petition,
- go on a protest.

2. Get connected:

- seek out like-minded people in your local area or online, to encourage one another.

3. Practise gratitude and generosity:

- simplify, be liberated by needing less.

4. Be creative:

- reinvent second hand goods from charity shops,
- improvise, make things,
- try swishing – clothes swap!



Ordinary Christians,
Extraordinary Times

www.greenchristian.org.uk

5. Reconnect with the natural world:

- get wet -- dig the earth,
- grow herbs on your window sill,
- save and cherish water,
- take an interest in wildflowers, bees, butterflies, fish, birds and rocks,
- include the Earth in all Church liturgies,
- plant trees for special occasions such as baptisms or weddings.

6. Use your LOAF!

Locally produced,
Organically grown,
Animal friendly,
Fairly traded.

- support local shops,
- try to buy British fruit and veg in season,
- grow some of your own food,
- eat less meat and dairy,
- buy free range eggs and meat and sustainably caught fish (MSC),
- suggest communal church meals follow the LOAF principles.

7. Travel light:

- walk, cycle, take the bus, tram or train, if possible, and use local shops, notice the beauty on your doorstep,
- organise a lift share scheme for your church,
- **don't fly**: a transatlantic passenger blows their annual fair share of carbon in one go. If you must fly, offset (e.g. with climatestewards.org, or £5 per 1000 miles.)
- most European travel is possible by train: www.seat61.com for more information.

8. Explore this island:

- get in touch with the seasons,
- seek out local adventures,
- enjoy the journey and limit your driving

9. Go fossil free and reduce use:

- change your electricity provider or campaign for your university, council or church to disinvest,
- insulate your home,
- wear an extra layer, and turn the thermostat down 1 or 2 degrees,
- use hot water bottle, or an extra blanket, instead of heating the whole house at night,
- if buying new appliances go for AAA rated,
- place your desk by a window,
- generate your own electricity.