

God's European Climate Keepers Outreach

GECKO



Gibraltar Archdeaconry

ECO NEWS

December 2025

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Gecko



**We want to hear your
news, projects and
problems!
Please share.**

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ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Christmas decorations, Tavira, Algarve

A message from the Editor, Tricia Wells

Dear Readers,

This Christmas, let's celebrate the birth of Christ by honouring his Creation with sustainable practices, a message of hope, and a commitment to love for one another and for the planet.

We can embody Christ's teachings by making wise choices in our purchases, reducing waste, recycling, and supporting eco-friendly ventures. This will ensure that our Christmas joy doesn't come at the expense of God's world. Check out in this issue various hints for an 'Eco' Christmas, and consider giving the gift of a tree (or even a coppice!) this Christmas.

Let this Christmas season be a reflection of God's love, extending compassion not only to our neighbours but also to the Earth we share. Let's strive within our chaplaincies to make 2026 a year full of hope and action in our stewardship of Creation.

Chris and I wish you a Christmas abundant with love and laughter, and one that honours the environment we cherish. Thank you for your dedication to promoting eco-conscious values within our Archdeaconry and for supporting and contributing to GECKO.

Happy Christmas everybody

Tricia

CHRISTMAS, CREATION & COP30

Rev. Dr. Dave Bookless



During Advent and Christmas, we celebrate God entering our messed-up world in Jesus, announcing God's Kingdom of freedom, forgiveness and justice. This Advent also sees COP30, the latest global climate conference, hosted by Brazil. So, what does it mean for Jesus to be born into a world of ecological collapse, with climate disasters causing immense suffering and deepening existing injustices, with desperate migrants, and politicians dragging their feet, in plain denial or lining their pockets?

I suggest we focus on who Jesus is, what he's done, and who he calls us to be. Jesus is Creator: "through

him all things were made" (John 1:3). He knows the suffering of creation. Every melting glacier, dying coral reef, migrant boatload is intensely experienced by Jesus. Secondly, Jesus is God incarnate: "the word became flesh and made his dwelling amongst us" (John 1:14). That word 'flesh' (*sarx* in Greek) deliberately includes not only people but animal flesh. It tells us that, in Jesus, the Creator became a creature. At Christmas, God identifies with a wounded creation, entering it to transform it. Thirdly, Jesus came to rescue not only people but his beautiful yet damaged creation: "For God did not send his Son into the world (*kosmos* in Greek) to condemn the world, but to save the world (*kosmos*) through him" (John 3:17). The Christmas story is truly 'Joy to the World' because the creator entered our broken world so it might be "liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God" (Romans 8:21).

As Christ-followers, we are 'the children of God', adopted and called to participate in creation's liberation. Amidst suffering and violence, we are called to shine through simpler lifestyles and compassionate action, serving and pointing to the Light of the World. We are also called to speak up on behalf of victims of injustice – human and nonhuman – and speak out to those in power. In all this, we are never to lose sight of the fact that we can't save the planet, but that God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, is creator, sustainer and saviour of the whole creation. During Advent and Christmas, we celebrate God entering our created world in Jesus and we look forward to his second coming, when creation will finally be set free, redeemed and renewed. So, may I wish you a green and happy Christmas!

About Dave Bookless

Dave is Director of Theology for A Rocha International, where he works to embed creation care into international Christian organisations, theological institutions, and mission movements. His past roles with A Rocha include being an International Trustee and the co-founder of A Rocha UK (with his wife Anne). He has a PhD from Cambridge University on biblical theology and biodiversity conservation, and has contributed to many books and articles, available in six languages. Born and raised in India, Dave has a love for Indian food, Indian culture and Indian Christianity. Dave is also a qualified bird-ringer and loves birding, islands, running and mountains. David has spoken at our Synod and worked with Change for the World to make our Plastics Video back in the Pandemic days.



CHANGE THE WORLD: DONATE A TREE

Chris Wells, Reader St Vincent's Chaplaincy, Algarve

Our Planet Earth is in a perilous position!

Burning fossil fuels has led to increasing Carbon Dioxide levels and Global Warming, threatening food and water sources, peace, health, life and biodiversity. This Christmas, join in an initiative to constructively take back control, planting trees to help restore our Planet Earth and care for God's Amazing Creation.

30% of the Earth's land surface is covered by trees, some 4 billion hectares [Half the trees](#) that once covered the planet since the start of civilization have been lost, mostly to the expansion of agriculture. Between 2014 and 2018, old-growth tropical forests were destroyed at an average annual rate of [860,000 hectares](#); tropical deforestation has accelerated by 44% in the last decade. This means [huge carbon emissions](#).

<https://www.thethirdpole.net/en/nature/lessons-from-rush-for-reforestation-projects/>

In addition, there has been a severe problem with drought throughout Europe and particularly in Iberia in the last five years. In addition to the obvious problems this brings to humans and to farming, it also reduces our ability to fight forest fires, and promotes flooding and loss of topsoil. Thankfully, 2025 had more normal rainfall, but we remain in uncertain times.

One of the best things anyone can do for the planet is to plant a tree, or a bush or even a flower

If you can do that this Christmas, you will help care for creation, but if it's difficult, we've come up with a way for you to support a Christian initiative, throughout the Diocese in Europe, to help. In Pincho in the Western Algarve, in the St Vincents Chaplaincy, we have put aside 16 Hectares (forty acres) of land to reforest. This project will be carried out in conjunction with A Rocha Portugal, overseen and monitored by them, so that we can chart the process and benefits, particularly in wildlife, biodiversity and nature, as the venture rolls out.

This is a very exciting project. Firstly, A Rocha Portugal, and the Catholic, Lusitanian and other Portuguese speaking churches, have launched an Eco Church project, an embryonic form of Eco-Church UK.



Our reforestation land

Secondly, Marcial Felgueiras, the National Director of A Rocha Portugal, has selected our Reforestation Project as the first one to be supported! He writes

"This project has several aims:

- *Get the churches in Portugal to understand the command to care for the earth as part of their Christian discipleship*
- *Help the churches in Portugal to engage with society in a transformation process which fosters:*
 1. *Nature conservation and promotion of biodiversity*
 2. *Protect forests from fire and the land for the erosion that always takes place after a fire*
 3. *Adapt the land for Climate Change scenario, with prolonged dry summers and shortage of rainfall*
- *Develop a pilot project of a forestation unit, which will demonstrate all the above and to inspire other churches to have hands on projects honouring God's name and caring for God's earth"*

Over the last three years, we have carried out preliminary work, a biodiversity assessment (Cruzinha

A Rocha) and an exploration of optimal tree types, as well as a feasibility study of clearing and planting.



Marcial and his A Rocha team assessing wildlife, birds, mammals and moths



Clearing the land

Now we are clearing the land and rotavating, and the first 1000 seedlings are on order! (but not paid for yet, so a bit more prayer!!)

This is a long-term initiative, we hope to plant 1000 trees a year for the next eight years, so the overall project on completion will have planted some eight thousand trees, creating a natural forestry area where wildlife can flourish and trees can grow as a Carbon Offset project which can be supported by both Anglican and Portuguese-speaking church congregations. So, if you ever feel bad about your carbon footprint, or would like to offset some airmiles from a holiday, this could be a great opportunity to support a Christian initiative.

If sufficient support is received, we hope to have an area for Christians to visit in future, seating, even an overnight stay lodge so that people can gather in peace and reflect on nature and God's creation.

We are relying on Prayer, and on our Christian Friends, to help us make the project happen, and initial support looks good!



A drone view of the land to be planted



CHANGE THE WORLD – GIVE A TREE AS A GIFT

GLOBAL WARMING IS ALREADY HAPPENING, so we ask you to consider:

- ❖ Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels are at a historical high.
- ❖ The heat trapping effect contributes to Global Warming.
- ❖ In Iberia, many trees have been lost to clearing, and even some recently to drought.
- ❖ Trees play a vital role in maintaining our planet's health

Our reforestation project in the Algarve, a joint initiative between St Vincent's Anglican Chaplaincy and A Rocha Portugal, is planting indigenous trees.

We are recording the changes made, including improved biodiversity and opportunities for increased bird life. What's more, it is possible to visit the project, either helping with it or just relaxing in appreciation of nature and God's wonderful Creation.

The recipient of a gifted tree will get an e-card with details, and both you and they will get a yearly update on the project.

Your gift of a tree will grow over time, absorb CO₂, provide a habitat for wildlife and contribute to the fight against climate change.

1 tree 5€

5 trees 20€

Coppice of 15 trees 50 €

***This Christmas, please consider eco giving
– a gift for our loved ones' futures***



To purchase a tree(s) simply scan the QR code with your phone app and follow instructions for payment into St Vincent's Anglican Chaplaincy account. You will receive an email acknowledgement.

Email tricia.d.wells@gmail.com with name and email of recipient and they will receive an e-card.

20 IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

Tricia Wells (Chaplaincy Warden and LEO, St Vincent's Chaplaincy, Algarve)



The holiday season is a time of joy, love, and togetherness. This Christmas, add a touch of 'green' to your celebrations. Embracing eco-friendly traditions can not only make your festivities more sustainable but also contribute to a healthier planet. Let's explore 20 heartwarming and sustainable Christmas ideas that you can adopt this year.

1. Upcycled Decorations

Start the season right by creating festive decorations from upcycled materials. Turn old jars into twinkling candle holders or transform worn-out sweaters into cozy, DIY ornaments. Upcycling reduces waste and adds a personal touch to your holiday decor.

2. Nature-Inspired Ornaments

Bring the outdoors in by crafting ornaments from natural materials like pinecones, twigs, and dried citrus slices. This not only adds a rustic charm to your tree but also reduces the demand for mass-produced, less environmentally friendly decorations.

3. Gift Wrapping with a Purpose

Ditch the traditional wrapping paper and opt for reusable alternatives. Use fabric, scarves, or even old maps to wrap your gifts creatively. This reduces waste and adds an extra layer of thoughtfulness to your presents.

4. Zero-Waste Gift-Giving

Consider giving experiences, consumables, or gifts with minimal packaging to reduce waste. Think about gifting a cooking class, a spa day, or a subscription to a sustainable product service. Your loved ones will appreciate the thought and the minimal environmental impact.

5. Sustainable Shopping

Support local artisans, farmers, and eco-friendly brands when purchasing gifts. Choose products made from sustainable materials, and consider the impact of your purchases on the environment. Small, intentional choices can make a significant difference.

6. Energy-Efficient Lighting

Opt for energy-efficient LED Christmas lights instead of traditional incandescent ones. LED lights consume less energy and have a longer lifespan. For outdoor decorations, consider using solar-powered lights to reduce energy consumption further.

7. Green Greetings

Ditch the traditional paper cards and opt for electronic or plantable alternatives. Many companies offer eco-friendly cards embedded with seeds that recipients can plant. These sustainable Christmas card ideas send warm wishes and add a beautiful touch of nature to the recipient's surroundings. Choose green greetings for a festive season that's kind to both loved ones and the planet.

8. Volunteer for a Cause

Embrace the true spirit of Christmas by volunteering for local charities or environmental organizations. Give back to your community and make a positive impact during the holiday season.

9. Mindful Feasting

Plan a sustainable feast by choosing locally sourced, organic ingredients. Consider reducing meat consumption or opting for a plant-based meal. This not only supports local farmers but also lowers your carbon footprint.

10. Tree Alternatives

If you're looking for a sustainable twist, consider alternatives to traditional Christmas trees. A potted plant, a reusable wooden tree, or even a tree made from recycled materials can be both festive and eco-friendly.

11. Second-hand Shopping Spree

Explore thrift stores or online platforms for second-hand holiday attire. Embrace the thrill of the hunt as you discover unique, vintage pieces while reducing the demand for new clothing production.

12. Homemade Treats and Beverages

Instead of store-bought snacks and drinks, try your hand at making homemade treats and beverages. Not only does this reduce packaging waste, but it also allows you to customize recipes to suit your preferences.

13. DIY Advent Calendar

Create a personalized advent calendar using reusable materials. Fill it with thoughtful notes, small gifts, or daily challenges that promote sustainability. This adds a touch of anticipation and reduces the need for disposable calendars.

14. Sustainable Beauty Products

Embrace a green approach to your holiday beauty routine by opting for sustainable and eco-friendly beauty products. Choose makeup and items from brands that prioritize environmentally conscious packaging, cruelty-free practices, and natural ingredients. This tradition enhances your festive look and supports a more sustainable beauty industry.

15. Waste-Free Party Planning

Host eco-friendly gatherings by using reusable tableware, napkins, and decorations. Encourage guests to bring their own reusable containers for leftovers, minimizing post-celebration waste.

16. Nature Walk Traditions

Incorporate a family nature walk into your holiday traditions. Enjoy the winter scenery, collect natural decorations, and breathe in the crisp air. It's a simple yet meaningful way to connect with loved ones and nature during the festive season.

17. Eco-Friendly Soaps and Sanitizers

Make hand cleaning a green ritual by opting for [eco-friendly soaps](#) and sanitizers. Choose products that come in [recyclable packaging](#), use natural ingredients, and are free from harmful chemicals. Consider placing refillable soap dispensers in key locations to [reduce single-use plastic waste](#). This tradition promotes both cleanliness and environmental responsibility, ensuring a hygienic and eco-conscious holiday season.

18. Reflect and Set Green Goals

Take time to reflect on your environmental impact during the holidays. Set goals for the coming year to further reduce waste, [embrace sustainable living](#), and continue the eco-friendly traditions you've established.

19. Potluck Dinners

Host a potluck-style Christmas dinner, encouraging guests to bring their favourite homemade dishes. This reduces the workload on the host, minimizes food waste, and fosters a sense of community.

20. Zero-Waste Meal Cleanup

After the Christmas feast, opt for zero-waste meal cleanup. Use reusable plates, utensils, and napkins to minimize single-use items. Set up recycling and compost bins to properly dispose of waste, keeping your post-celebration cleanup eco-friendly.

MORE ECO IDEAS FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Fiona Goode (LEO St James, Fuerteventura)

To mark each day in Advent -

- Reverse Advent Calendar - put an item of non-perishable food in a box each day in Advent, then on Christmas Eve, give the box to a foodbank.
- Do the same as above but instead make a box of cleaning products, including toilet rolls, women's sanitary items, shampoo, soap etc which aren't often donated.
- Declutter Advent Calendar - select an item of clothing (in good condition) which you've not worn since before last Advent each day, and give them to a charity shop/clothing bank on Christmas Eve.

Instead of giving presents/cards, look for a charity which 'gifts - on' -

- Send a cow, now Ripple Effect charity - who work alongside families in rural Africa, so they can grow more food, earn a living, and break the cycle of poverty
- Concern Worldwide - send a gift of chickens, goats, school kits - your purchase can support their work to end extreme poverty by supporting families in 26 of the world's poorest countries.

(NB I'm not advocating these particular charities, these are just a couple of examples - other charities do similar things)

Eco friendly/greener Christmas -

- Instead of buying a tree, decorate a large plant from the garden, e.g. Agave
- Instead of buying new, can you reuse, recycle, repair this Christmas?
- If you use wrapping paper, make sure it's recyclable - many wrapping papers aren't just made of paper. Instead, they're coated in a plastic film (to make it sturdier) or have shiny adhesive elements, glitter, or bright dyes.
- Better than using wrapping paper, use gift bags which can be kept and reused again.



Eco Advent Calendar

WHY IS LIGHT POLLUTION BAD FOR MOTHS?

Douglas Boyes (Butterfly Conservation)

Heather Shiell (Estoril, Lisbon) found this article recently and thought it might be of interest. We are encouraged to change to LED lights but is there another side to the coin?



With **light pollution increasing each year**, moths and other nocturnal insects are increasingly under threat. Let's delve into the dangers of light pollution for moths.

In the UK, moth numbers have fallen on average by 33% since the 1960s. Habitat loss and climate change are major drivers in their decline, but light pollution is an increasing threat. [Our research](#) showed that moth caterpillar numbers under LED streetlights were 52% lower in hedgerows and 43% lower on grass verges compared to those which were unlit. But how exactly does light pollution impact moths?

Most of the UK's moth species are nocturnal and fly at night. Light pollution disrupts their natural behaviour in a number of ways.

Many moths are drawn to sources of light, but artificial lights can be disorienting for them. Moths might spend a great deal of their energy getting to an artificial light, potentially taking them away from food sources or refuge. Once there, they may become confused and circle the light, which can leave them exhausted or trapped.

Artificial lights also make moths more vulnerable to nocturnal predators, like bats. Predators take advantage of their prey congregating in artificially high numbers, being more visible, disoriented or exhausted. This can lead to more moths being eaten than normal.

Exhausted or disoriented moths are also less able to carry out their usual behaviour such as feeding, breeding, or laying eggs, impacting their ability to thrive or even survive. Some moth caterpillars are also attracted to artificial light, again leaving them open to predation, taking them away from their food sources and leaving them exhausted. This could mean that day-flying species whose caterpillars are affected by artificial light are also at risk alongside nocturnal species.

Even dim artificial light in the form of skyglow can disrupt moth behaviour. Diapause induction is a process that moth caterpillars use to pause their development to wait for better conditions. For example, waiting out the cold winter months. Excess light at night interferes with the visual cues that the caterpillars use to tell what season it is, confusing this process and leading them to develop in conditions that might be less ideal. All in all, artificial

light can have a very negative impact on the health of moths and caterpillars, so minimising this wherever possible will have positive effects for wildlife.

Light pollution and artificial light may also impact the plants which many moth species rely on. Adult moths may not carry out their usual pollinating activities when drawn to artificial light, which could impact the plants their caterpillars rely on for food. [Some studies](#) also suggest that artificial light can affect the quality of the plants that caterpillars use for feeding and shelter. Changes in light conditions may alter the plants' nutritional value which may affect how well the caterpillars who eat it develop.

Not only does light pollution potentially mean fewer moths in future but also fewer birds, mammals, plants and countless other wildlife which relies on them. Light pollution threatens whole ecosystems.

To find out more about light pollution and how you can help by creating Moon Meadows, visit [Make a moon meadow](#)

This article was taken from Butterfly Conservation <http://butterfly-conservation.org/>



CREATIONTIDE 25 across the Archdeaconry

Since our August edition Creationtide was celebrated across the Archdeaconry. Here are just a few of the events and projects that have been contributed. Great ideas for next year!

Creation tree in Holy Trinity Las Palmas: Gill Ingham



This is an ongoing project—a hanging tree made from recycled materials. During Creationtide, we invited the congregation to take a material leaf and make a pledge. We plan to continue adding to this project in the future.

Animal Blessing Service, St Vincent's Algarve, St Luke's congregation: Carol Hawkins

The second Animal Blessing service was very well attended and led by our Chaplain, Carla Vincenzo Prior, followed by refreshments. Last year we had about 30 people with 20-25 dogs, one tortoise and 2 falcons. This year we more than doubled the amount of people: around 65; 50 dogs; and four falcons! We had Carlos the vet in attendance in case there were any 'mishaps'.



After the service the majority of people who attended, when thanking us for the service, explained they were 'non-religious', but all were looking forward to next year's Animal Blessing Service.

Jorge trains his falcons around Faro Airport to protect the airspace from smaller birds, and he and his falcons gave a display outside the church after the service.

We had three animal charities represented: Santa Barbara Animal Help; Foster Puppies of Portugal; and Goldra Dog Sanctuary. Each received 120€ from the retiring collection.

Open air service, St Vincent's Algarve, St Luke's and Boliqueime congregations: Carol Hawkins



This service was the final Sunday of Creationtide and was held by our chaplain, Rev. Carla. It was held in an old campsite – good parking, shade, electricity and a loo – just down the road from St Luke's. The sermon was a time of discussion where groups of three or four got together to choose one of the four different Creationtide themes that had been set over the four weeks. The service was attended by 17 people and was followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Agape Creationtide meal, St Vincent's Algarve, Praia da Luz congregation: Tricia Wells

Following a successful Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, we decided to repeat it with a Creationtide theme led by our Reader, Chris Wells. It was a great opportunity for us to reflect on God's creation and the responsibility we have in caring for it. Everybody helped set up the tables, brought food, participated in the liturgy, and helped clear afterwards.

September's Children's Club lesson – *Treasuring Generosity 1 Timothy 6:6-19*: Shirleen Horley

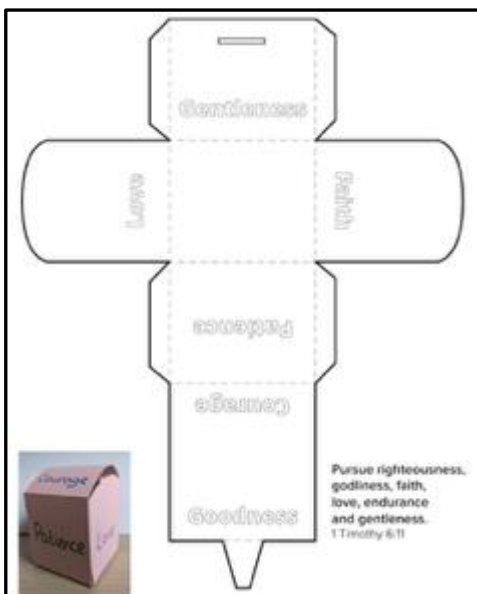
The season of Creationtide was discussed and linked to being generous with our time to care for what God has given us. We began the lesson with a service project by cleaning up the backside of the building where the Sunday Club meets. The children were given gloves and bags and timed to



see how much litter could be picked up in a mere 10 minutes. We were all surprised at how easy and quick it was to pick up the litter and dispose of it properly.

That project was a great segue into talking about what the children treasure and how those treasures make them feel. We talked about the passage in Timothy that explains we

can have a great life if we live for God and are happy with the things we have. And how being generous, even more so treasuring generosity, pleases God- especially being generous with our time, actions, words and resources to care for what God has given us and to care for each other. We spoke about the different church volunteer jobs and organisations our church supports, and we asked the children to think of ways they can be generous with others.



Activity: each child wrote or drew a prayer to ask God for help in being generous in a specific situation. They each assembled a treasure chest and placed their prayer inside.

We ended the lesson with a prayer:

"Generous God, give us generous hearts to love, gentle hands to help, and energy to care for what you have given us and for other people this week. In Jesus' name, Amen."

POETRY: on the old telephone line

Rui Lino Ramalho, A Rocha Portugal

*I went to water the orange trees
and there were the spider and the
dragonfly
dancing in a hungry web
both tired and fighting for life
and there I was
full of the god in me
wanting to put nature in order
disordering it to save the dragonfly
and receive the heroic award
for an idiotic and narcissistic
attitude*



ANYONE FOR A 'GOD PLOD'?

Barbara Gray, (LEO Anglican Church of St George and St Paul, Lisbon)



A member of our congregation at St Paul's served for many years in the Fleet Air Arm, which is part of the Royal Navy. The last thing any pilot wanted was an engine failure when taking off or landing on the deck of a ship! Unfortunately, many engines were damaged by the ingestion of debris or rubbish colloquially known as Foreign Objects.

Healthy engines were essential to the flying crew's lives and to reduce the likelihood of, at best, a very cold swim, the flight decks were regularly cleaned by members of the Ship's Company. They would slowly walk line abreast about an arm width apart and pick up every tiny scrap of rubbish. This was affectionally called a FOD PLOD.

Now, the seas and oceans are the engines of Planet Earth. Without healthy engines then life on our Planet Earth would be substantially different from what God created.

It is our Godly Duty to be effective stewards of God's creation. It is also our Godly Duty to Outreach to others in the Community.

So, to fulfil our Godly Outreach Duty we organised a GOD PLOD.

A group of people slowly walk along a beach, line abreast, picking up all the rubbish we can find. Besides helping to keep our seas cleaner it is a great, fun way to interact in a non-threatening way with other beach users!!

We hope to make our "GOD PLODs" a regular monthly activity, and now that the tourist season is over, to hold them at the weekends so that families and children can take part as well

COP30 AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR THE WORLD

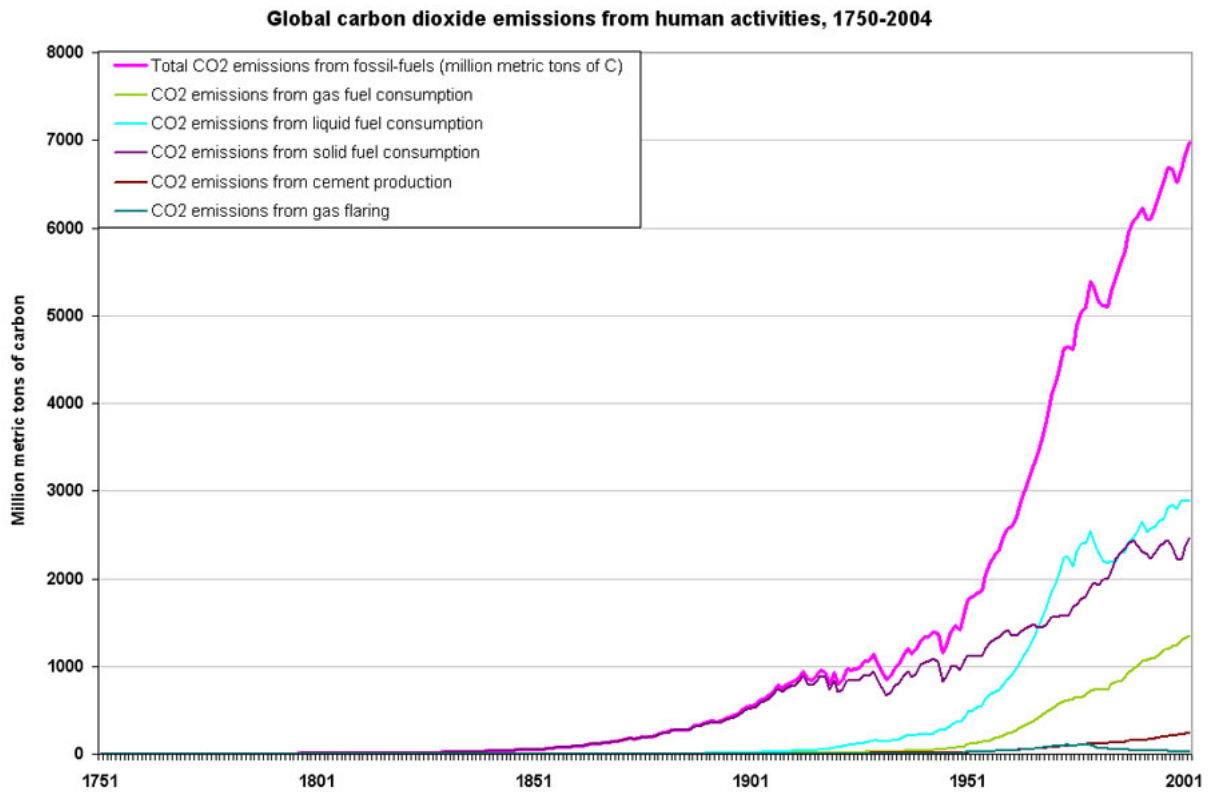
Chris Wells, Reader, St Vincent's, Algarve

Christians who care for God's Creation, and indeed most climate activists, were left bitterly disappointed at the end of the latest COP summit.

Many countries were livid when COP30 in Belém, Brazil ended on Saturday 22nd November with no mention of the fossil fuels that have heated up the atmosphere.

The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere jumped by a record amount last year, amid growing concern that forests, and other carbon "sponges", are starting to fail.

The UN organisation found atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, the main driver of climate change, had increased by a record 3.5 parts per million (ppm). Between 2011 and 2020, the average rise was 2.4ppm a year. The finding, scientists said, raised the "scary" prospect of even more global warming.



COP summits are annual meetings of the **Conference of the Parties** under the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) to assess progress and agree on global actions to combat climate change. During these meetings, representatives from nearly 200 countries negotiate international climate policy, review progress on climate agreements like the [Paris Agreement](#), and adopt new measures to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. The summits are crucial for setting global climate policy.

This latest one, COP 30, has been described as a “COP OUT”. [Deeply divisive](#) was the BBC’s verdict. And, If you’d like an “in depth” read, as to what happened I can recommend [Carbon brief](#).

- The world's two biggest carbon emitters, China and the US, had similar impacts on this COP but achieved them in different ways
- US President Donald Trump stayed away, but his stance strengthened his allies at the meeting
- USA and the Middle East are financially dependent on using fossil fuels, and aren’t about to stop their use.
- Saudi Arabia and other major oil producers were hostile to discussions or resolutions curbing any use of fossil fuels.
- China stayed quiet and concentrated on doing deals.
- "China kept a low political profile," says Li Shuo from the Asia Society. "And they focussed on making money in the real world."
- "Solar is the cheapest source of energy, and the long-term direction is very clear, China dominates in this sector and that puts the US in a very difficult position."
- The major fire during the proceedings that forced a temporary evacuation could have been a message from on high!

There is a growing realisation now that we’ve missed the boat on climate change, a pessimistic view that the window for preventing the worst outcomes has closed, particularly regarding the 1.5 degree C warming target. However, although we can’t stop it happening (and it is, every year- so expect warmer



summers, and wetter winters) we can continue to act to mitigate the worst effects. Solutions and knowledge exist, and the focus is now on rapid, large-scale implementation of these strategies, despite the challenges.

As Christians, it's important to consider how we manage Caring for God's Creation. It is, after all, a major part of our mission. We should pray, always, but we've been considering in our Bible studies this Advent, the use of Active Prayer. This means not just praying to win the lottery, but actually going out and buying a ticket! Or, on a more pragmatic level, not just praying for Peace but acting in a peaceful manner in our daily lives: squabbling less, ignoring the idiot that cuts in on us at the traffic lights instead of sounding our horn.

So, not only should we pray for the planet, but we should also actively do something to help it, which is why we always want to hear from all our readers what you are doing, and why, over the next year, we hope to give you many ideas as to what you can do to help.

Our main thrust in 2026 is going to be on planting trees! This is exactly the counterpoint to what was missing at COP 30. The rich nations will continue to burn up fossil fuels and emit long ago stored carbon dioxide. Planting trees absorbs some of that CO2 and lays down and replenishes more fossil fuels for the future.

Tree planting is an initiative going on all over the World. It's inexpensive, fun, and ultimately planet saving. Everyone should get involved, and do let us know how you are doing with this.

Finally, and I hope you have time to look at this over Christmas; the stunning pictures on [Atmos Earth](#) leave me in awe and say there is a role for everyone to play in the climate movement, no matter your age or profession. To illustrate this fact, they have gathered 27 voices from across climate, culture, academia and politics to [ask for their solutions to ensure a better future](#). Click on either link, and enjoy! Happy Christmas!

ECO FUN





Creator of all, we give you thanks for the beauty of your creation at Christmas and all year round. We praise you for the life that fills our earth, from the smallest plant to the largest ocean.

Forgive us for our carelessness, for the pollution we have caused, and for our indifference to the future of this planet. Give us a renewed spirit of reverence and gratitude, and help us to live as stewards, not owners, of your precious world.

As we welcome the birth of Christ, help us to embody His gift of peace on Earth. Instil in us the courage to make choices that honour and protect your creation, to live more simply, and to be voices for lasting change.

May we, through our actions, become instruments of a new creation, sowing beauty and balance rather than destruction. In the name of Jesus, the Word through whom all things were made, we pray. Amen.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition. It would be great to hear from other chaplaincies about their Eco events and activities. Please keep your articles coming!

Happy Christmas!

The next newsletter will be released mid-March so please let the Editor have articles for inclusion by Friday 13th March.

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