



HOPE FOR ALL CREATION

A theological response to
the environmental crises

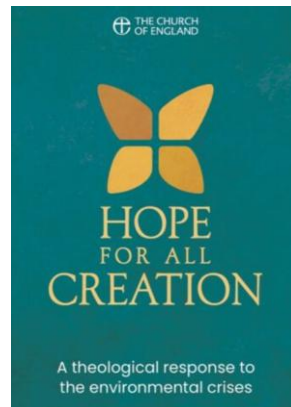
Introduction:

- Responding to the Crises: 2015 Statement of Anglican Bishops
- ...increasingly strong and more frequent extreme weather events; changes in seasonal weather patterns; rising levels of seawater; acidification of seawater and depleted fishing grounds; the devastating impacts of pollution; deforestation, and destructive mining and energy extraction and transportation practices.
- Building on Anglican tradition
- Rev Gilbert White, Octavia Hill, John Keeble
- Successive Reports
- ...Anglicans to recognise the interdependence of all life on Earth, repent of an extractive view of nature as something to be exploited and embrace one of relationship and stewardship, and make the safeguarding of creation and the sustaining and renewing of life on Earth central to our lives as a missional imperative

Part One: See

Part Two: Reflect

Part three: Respond



Earth – diverse, interconnected and in crisis

The Earth and all living things are God's creation. God continually sustains, orders and provides for them.



In the Christian faith, the Earth and all its life, together with the whole cosmos, is understood as being the triune God's beloved creation. Ps 104:11-17, Ps 139:14

But now

We now live in the Anthropocene

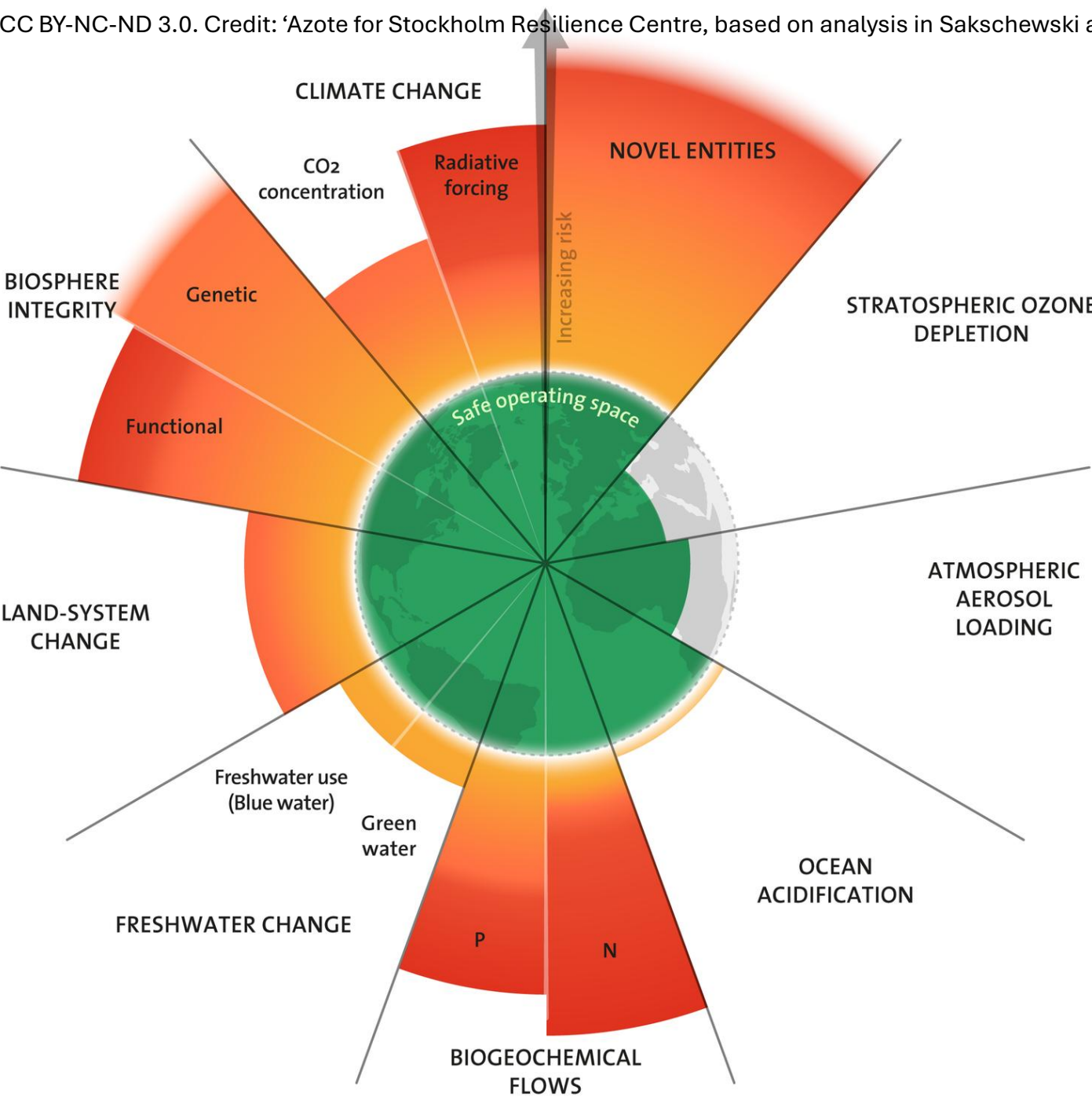
the period during which humanity is the dominant force acting on the climate and natural systems

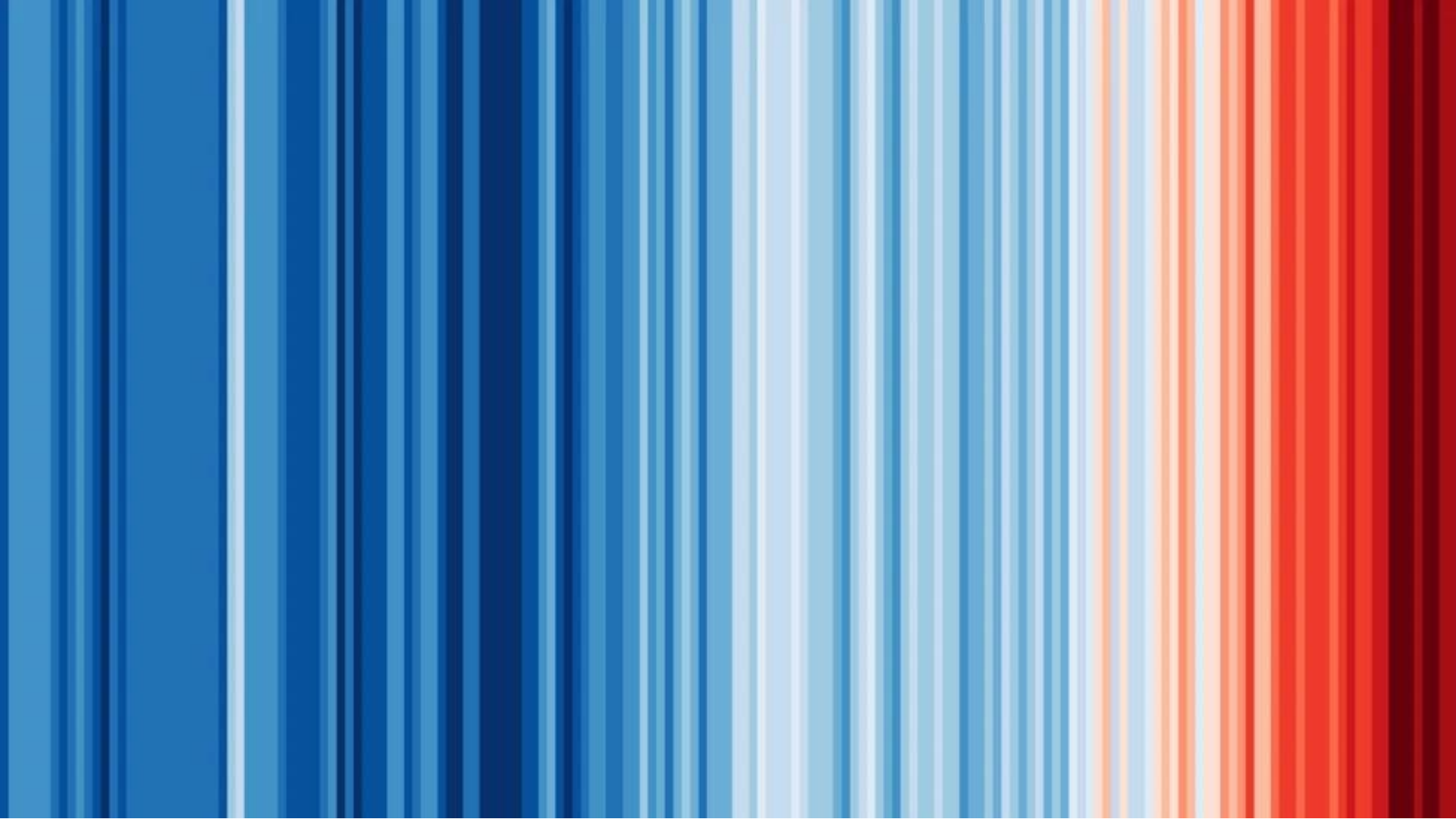


Planetary Boundaries:

9 interconnected
processes that are
critical to the
stability and
resilience of the
Earth systems.







Reading Stripes:

Professor Ed Hawkins at Reading University.

The stripes for the whole world between 1850 and 2024,
in which the blue shades represent cooler temperatures and the red warmer temperatures

Distribution of mammals on Earth

Our World
in Data

Mammal biomass is measured in tonnes of carbon, and is shown for the year 2015. Each square corresponds to 1% of global mammal biomass.

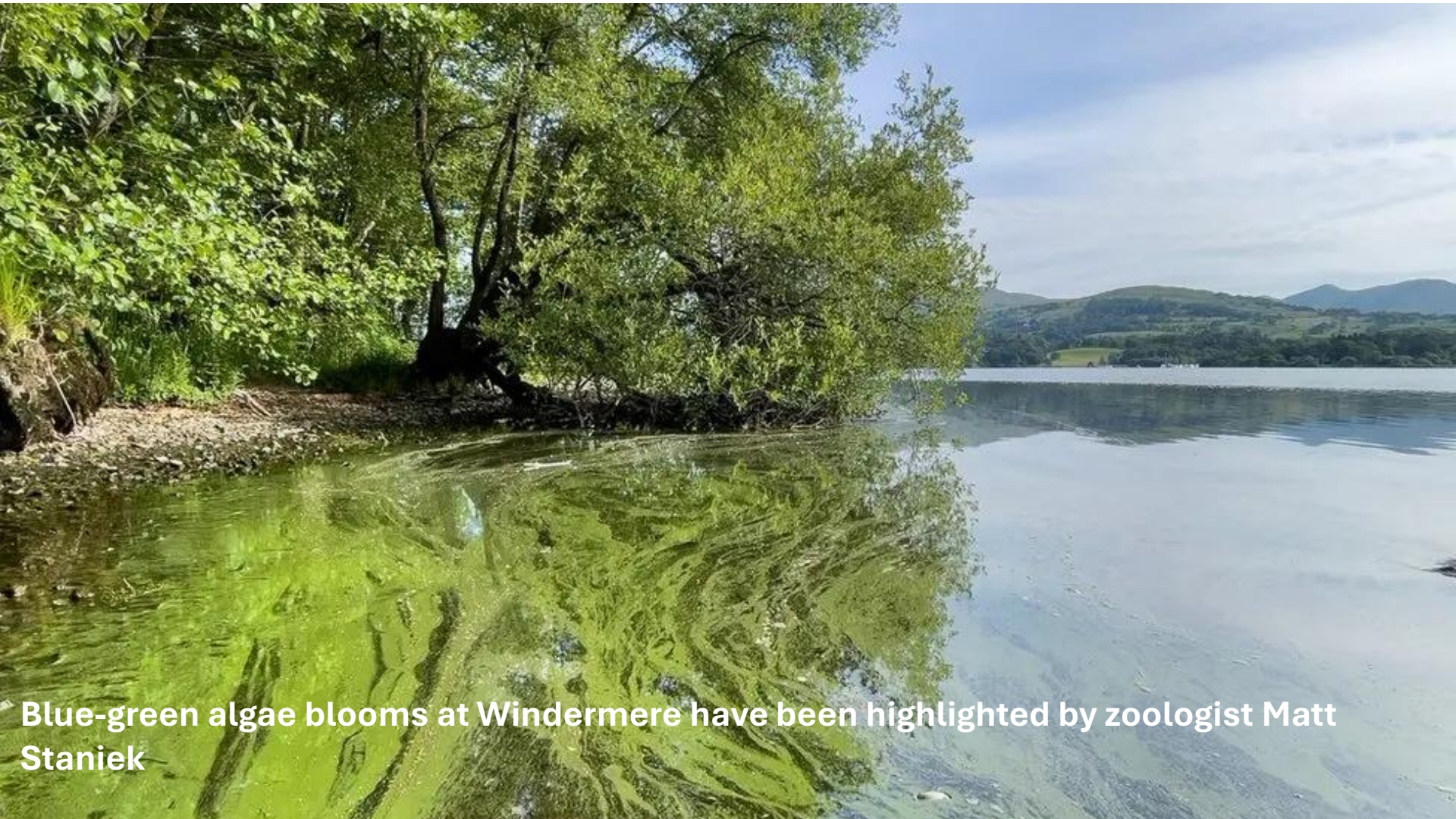


Third boundary: land-system change



Fourth boundary: freshwater change

Fifth boundary: biogeochemical flows



Blue-green algae blooms at Windermere have been highlighted by zoologist Matt Staniek

Sixth boundary: ocean acidification



Seventh boundary: novel entities



Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. Hosea 4.3

Turning to face creation



O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

PSALM 104.26

An interconnected creation sustained by God

All creatures and all elements of creation have a direct relationship to their Creator and matter to God in their own right. Human beings are part of this interdependent creation.



PART TWO

REFLECT

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'
GENESIS 1.28

Creation and the distinctive role of humanity

.... not the idea of selfish rule or domination, but of caring responsibility for living creatures and the planet.



We know that the whole creation has been
groaning in labour pains until now'
ROMANS 8.22

Sin disrupts the interconnectedness of creation

Sin is always understood in terms of a rupture
between humanity and God. But it must also
be understood in terms of a rupture between
humanity and the Earth.

Through its narratives and teaching, the biblical
storyline shows that sin is comprehensive in
scope – affecting not just humans, but
ecosystems, animals, climate and indeed our
'planetary health'
as a whole.



The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ISAIAH 11.6

God's plan to restore the integrity of creation

God is committed to healing these broken relationships and restoring the integrity of creation.



For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

COLOSSIANS 1.19-20

Creation is redeemed and reconciled in Jesus Christ

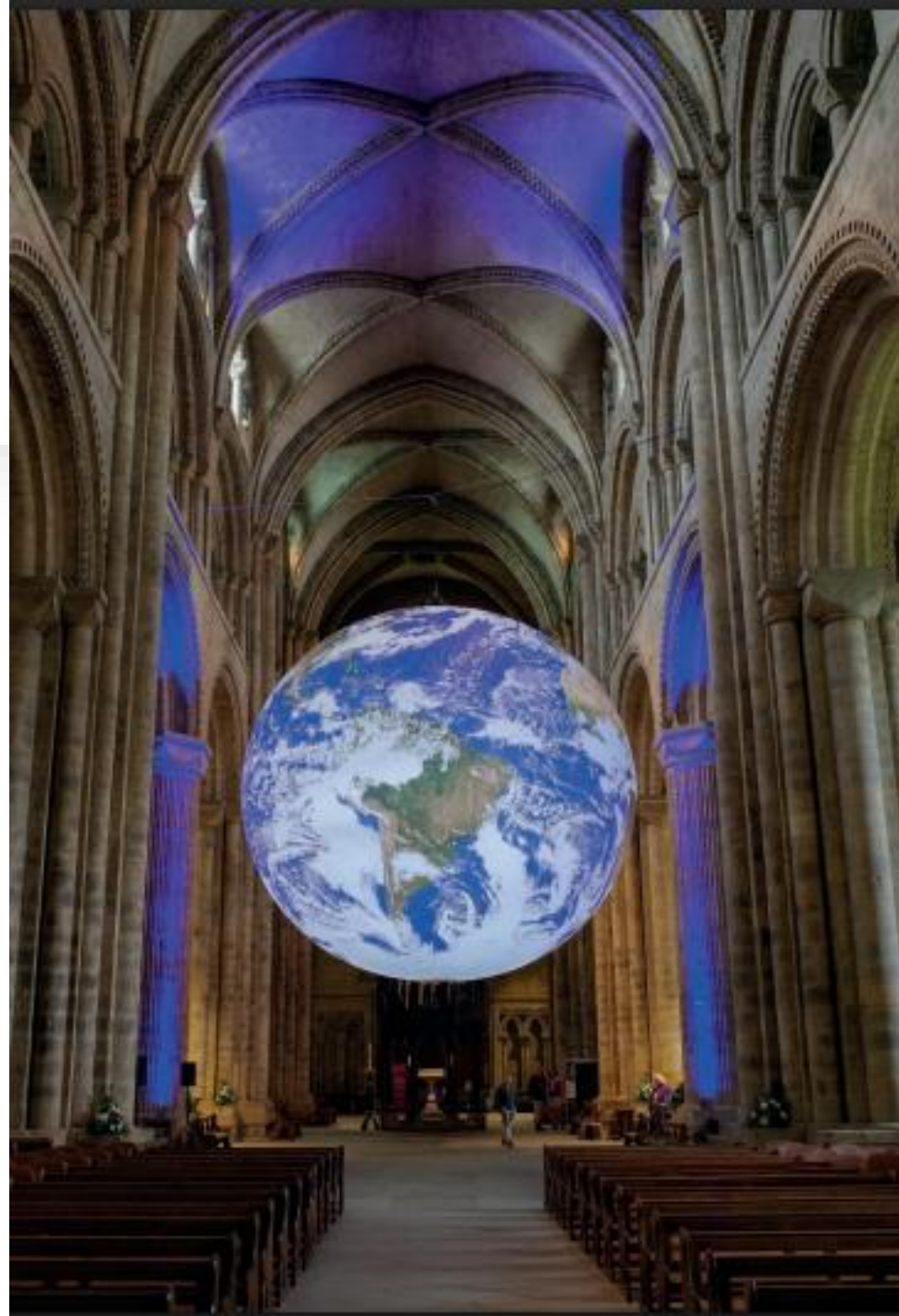
Jesus' life and mission was closely associated with the non-human world, including animals and nature.

This commitment is revealed above all in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



The Christian faith has hope for the Earth and all life

The Christian faith is hopeful about the restoration of all things by God, including living beings and the harmony of all the Earth.



Christians are to live in light of the coming renewal of all creation

As we pray for the coming of God's reign on Earth, we should seek to live in a way that reflects God's healing purposes for all things and the petition that God's 'will be done'.

As we seek to live out this vision, we will need to draw upon the grace of God offered in word and sacrament.

Chapter 10 Image: Residents navigate inundated streets as floodwaters submerge neighborhoods following the impact of Cyclone Ditwah on December 1, 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Ct Lens/Alamy Live New



What should we do?

The story of Pentecost (Acts 2) suggests that our response should be rooted in the repentance and hope that marks Christian discipleship: repentance and lament for our destructive ways of inhabiting creation, and hope based on God's work of redeeming it.

Such penitent and hopeful discipleship will take many forms, involving us both collectively and individually – at local, national and global levels



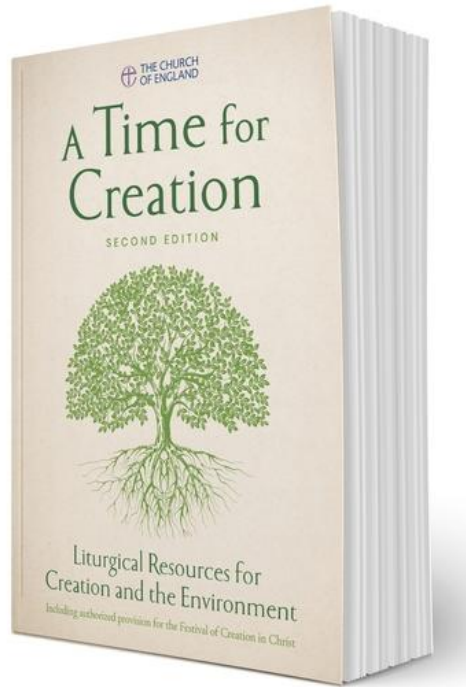
PART THREE

RESPOND

Responding Locally

What would it look like if we, as the Church of England, made a concern for God's creation integral to our worship, to everything we say in communicating our faith, and to how we live out our faith in hopeful practice?





Worship:

Season of Creation
Feast of Christ in Creation
The Agricultural Year

Spiritual Traditions

Celtic
Northumbrian

Church Buildings



**Local Communities
And Chaplaincies**

Responding nationally

Speaking and acting publicly into the environmental crisis is integral to the Church of England communicating the gospel afresh in our time.

An important aspect of this work is engaging with the political dimension of the environmental crisis. For Christians, political engagement involves prophetic speech and action.



Image: Interior view of the Action Zone inside the OVO Hydro stadium at CO26 venue in Glasgow, 9th November 2021. Iain Masterton/Alamy Live News.

Prayer

Prophetic Ministry

Public Policy

Church right to promote biodiversity, says Bishop of Norwich

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, says a Church biodiversity moves sends an important message



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Responding globally

The global nature of the environmental crisis is the strongest reminder to the Church of England today that it is part of a worldwide Church, connected with and affecting the lives of communities across the globe.

Through participation in the Anglican Communion and other international church networks, the Church of England can learn about how other parts of the world are affected by the environmental crises and play its part in working for international climate justice.



Chapter Fourteen Image: Bishops, their spouses and invited guests pray during the symbolic tree planting ceremony the Environmental and Sustainable Development day at Lambeth Palace during the 2022 Lambeth Conference in the United Kingdom. Photo: Ian Walton for The Lambeth Conference.

Conclusion

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ACTS 2.46-47