



Creation Care Small Groups Leaders Guidance

Thank you for stepping forward to lead a small group study in our Creation Care series. We are excited about these small group sessions to consider God's creation of the universe, our physical environment as a reflection of his glory, made from his love for us and for our joy. We want to create time and space for people to deepen their understanding and share reactions to climate change.

We will consider topics such as:

- God's heart for his creation in relation to us
- How we respond to the climate emergency as part of our discipleship and worship
- Aligning the theology and practice of caring for all people at the centre of our faith
- How we can be better stewards of God's creation by developing sustainable habits rather than destructive ones
- How we can keep our eyes fixed on the God of justice and share the integral nature of Jesus and the Gospel in answer to this crisis

The Creation Care series aims to provide foundational understanding for personal responses to the climate crisis through prayer and action. We will learn new and additional ways that we can positively impact creation keeping Jesus at the centre. In addition, small group members will be encouraged to share and consider ideas for short, medium and longer-term actions that they can take to care for creation and inspire others at home and work to do the same. We will also contemplate ideas for how we may choose to respond as a church both now and into the future.

The science behind the climate crisis and COP26

Creation Care series is timely as it follows the recent release of the latest [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report \(IPCC\)](#). The report, compiled by 234 scientists from 66 countries, reiterates how human actions are responsible for global temperature increases and the extreme weather events because of climate change. The report iterates the danger of irreversibility and gives a stark warning that we must act now, at scale with significant decisive reductions in emissions if we are to slow down the trajectory.

Our series also coincides with the lead up to COP26- the 2021 UN climate change conference in November. This COP, the 26th annual summit, is hosted in Glasgow with the UK acting as President.



Global leaders will discuss priorities for tackling climate change and review the Paris Agreement commitments for a 1.5-degree limit to warming. COP26 is especially critical as it is the final decade that we have an opportunity to impact rising temperatures by 2030 - the time to act is now. The decisions made by more than 190 global Government leaders, corporate leaders and Non-Government Organisations to include Christian voices are more relevant this time than ever before – it is our last chance. These links offer more details; [What is a COP? - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(ukcop26.org\)](#), [Paris Agreement](#) and the 2030 United Nations [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Our Creation Care series entwines science-based information and theology enabling us to be focussed in our prayers for global leaders as they prepare for major decisions and preparations for negotiations at COP26 which will enable us to achieve the carbon reduction goals that are required for 2030.

The dynamics of your small group

Existing knowledge about and experiences of the global climate crisis and its impacts on creation will vary across the group membership. Depending on your group, you will need to consider this range and lead the groups sensitively in this context. Likewise, this contemporary topic may attract members that are not yet Christians or early in their Christian journey so there will be lots to consider and lots of opportunity for vibrant discussion and prayer. Encourage each person in the group to participate in the session inviting the less expressive members to be heard as equally as the more confident participants. Our aim is for the group to feel like a safe place to be held emotionally for every member of the group regardless of age, gender, race and ethnicity. Please ensure to invite diversity into your group as you promote the sessions.

The small group study develops our thoughts and understandings followed in the Sunday message series; our study themes will run a week later than the sermons. We want to allow small group leaders to have flexibility as they lead their study sessions and enable all group members to join the discussion without having to purchase and read the whole Saying Yes to Life book. Therefore, we are drawing on a variety of resources provided by Tearfund, other Christian scientists and experts as well as the key messages from the book and Sunday message series. Using our suggested guidelines, you can design and create your own small group study and cherry pick which resources you want to use. Each week the guidance and resources will support the Sunday message topics in the form of suggested videos, recommended Bible readings and discussion questions about the theme.



Session preparation and structure

The 8-week sermon series commences with an overview from Ruth Valerio, Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund. Ruth's book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio is helpful supportive reading as each chapter focuses on a different aspect of creation. This background reading will support you in the leadership journey of this deep rich topic.

The Sunday message series will follow a weekly journey through the seven days of creation. The concluding session will either include or point us to a recording from Pete Greg preaching at a Tearfund climate themed service for climate justice, in time for COP26.

As always good preparation for your sessions is key and to make that easier we have provided a suggested structure that can be used each week. Ask God for his guidance as you prepare your content and questions, and listen to his wisdom in terms of how we can make space for the Holy Spirit to listen, hear, reflect, pray and be compassionate. For example, it is at your discretion if you ask your members to watch the videos in advance of the meeting or share one of them during the meeting. Most of the videos are no more than 12 minutes long.

The suggested closing prayers align to our weekly topics. However as always it is at leaders' discretion to invite and include personal prayer requests that are not linked to climate change but are on group members hearts to share. What are the areas for gratitude and blessing to balance our asks to God?

Finally, we have provided a list of actions each week for participants' consideration and additional resources for any leaders or members that are keen to go into more in depth study during or after the series.



This unique moment in history is all about breaking boundaries. We know we have already broken, or are about to break, many of the planetary boundaries that keep us safe.

Christina Figueres



INTRO
week

Small Group Preparation week



Our first week will be an introduction to the overarching themes in the Creation Care series. In these first two weeks this is a time to gather an understanding of our baseline knowledge within the group and get to know each other, as we introduce the core theme of God as the creator and why we need to care for creation now more than ever.

Resources

Sunday message focus: Ruth Valerio **The sovereignty of God, our creator.**

Saying Yes to Life book Introduction: Ruth helps us focus on God as the creator who brought everything into being. Creation is rooted in the Trinity: God the creator, Jesus 'by whom all things were made' and the Spirit who brings things to fulfilment.

Recommended video choices:

1. Katharine Heyhoe: [Film one: What the Bible says about the natural world - Tearfund](#)
2. Tenants Session 1 – [What is creation for? How is Jesus at the centre of creation?](#)
3. Tenants Session 2 - [What is the problem? Why is this a Christian issue?](#)

Useful Bible verses: Psalm 24: 1, Genesis 1: 1-2, John 1: 1-4, Leviticus 25: 1-7, Colossians 1: 15-20

Useful Review: [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)

Potential meeting structure

Depending on your group this may be used as personal preparation or as part of a group gathering.

Suggested opening questions

- Group introductions and ice breaker (only for those meeting in small groups this week) – sample question: what is your favourite music or song to listen to in the car or on your headphones when on a walk?
- What is our existing knowledge on the climate crisis and the discussions pending at COP26 in November?
- How do you feel about climate change today – does it concern you, or frighten you or are you a little sceptical?
- What are you hoping to take away from the creation care series?



Leaders Note: Please use this week to 'feel the pulse' of your group, to make a note of the objectives of the members for this course and provide this feedback to the team after the session if you think they need advice on how or where these are covered in the course.

Bible reading: For the first week leaders may want to read the chosen verses for the session to the group and for future sessions agree in advance which group members will read, offering all volunteers an opportunity.

Optional video discussion questions:

- The physical does matter to God. To what extent is this statement true and how does God show this?
- Do we tend to think of creation as something 'other' than us? If so, what damage can this way of thinking cause and what are the potential impacts on people?
- What could we do to move from being egocentric (considering ourselves to be at the top of the pile with the rest of nature beneath) or ecocentric (considering humans to be no more important than every other living thing) to being theocentric (considering humans to have a special role to care for and protect all things)?
- This decade is a critical decade to create impact from actions and achieve the carbon reduction required for the Paris Agreement targets and UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). As Christians how can we impact in a unique way? Do we feel a sense of responsibility?
- Have we in the past focussed on the God of Salvation and forgotten or taken for granted the importance of the God of creation?

Reflection and Prayer: Closing the session by offering the members time to reflect on their impressions from the discussion and where they are in terms of their personal sustainability journey. Ask for any specific prayer requests before closing in prayer.

Weekly action and ambition: This week the recommended action is to focus and commit regular personal and group prayer on the climate emergency leaders influencing key global actions and preparing for COP26. To also pray and ask for guidance on how to use your unique gifts and purpose towards caring for creation.

You may want to look at:

- [Pray and Fast for the Climate](#)
- Tearfund also has lots of resources and guides to support [Prayer for the climate - Tearfund](#)
- Or make a pledge to pray here [Climate Prayer Chain - Christian Aid](#)



Never has science around the world been so abundant to meet the challenges that we have.

Emmanuel Macron, President of France



week **1**

Let there be light



As followers of Christ, this week we will be thinking about how we can be beacons of light in the darkness of the climate crisis conversations. We will consider how the messages we share can bring hope and optimism. We will also think about how we can be more responsible with our energy use at home, at work and at church.

Resources

Sunday message - Sept 26th: We are carriers of the light – let us be the light in the darkness.

Saying Yes to Life book Chapter 1 Let there be light: Ruth draws on the significance of 'light'. How it plays a role in the foundation of life, giving energy for growth and sustaining life. Ruth also looks at facts about light within creation and shows how light is a powerful symbol throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament God's presence as light acts as guidance in the darkness to show his people the way and how to follow him. In the New Testament light is used to symbolise the presence of God, culminating in Jesus declaring '*I am the light of the world*' (John 8:12) and '*the radiance of God's glory*' (Hebrews 1:3).

Access to light and electricity is hugely important to our lives however there are still 840 million people living in the world with no access to electricity. While we need to ensure that access to energy is increased in developing nations, it is also critical to build on the knowledge we now have that fossil-based fuels are huge carbon emission emitters and seek more renewable solutions. To reduce the carbon impact on God's creation we need to meet the global targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. The impact of human use of fossil fuels for energy ultimately pushes people back into poverty through global crop yields losses. Temperature rises are also causing the disappearance of all of our coral reefs. Just a few critical reasons why we need to solve the challenge of moving to increased renewable energy sources as quickly as possible.

Bible Verses: Genesis 1: 1-5, John 1: 1-5, Psalm 27: 1, Psalm 33: 5, 20-22, 6-9, Ephesians 5: 8-9 Paul calls us to '*live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness and truth*'.

Recommended video choices:

1. Ruth Valerio in conversation with Christina Figueres - [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#)
2. Katharine Heyhoe Film two: [Climate change is a poverty issue - Tearfund](#)
3. Katharine Heyhoe Film six: [Grateful for fossil fuels but time to move on - Tearfund](#)
4. Tenants Session 3 - [Do not fear - what can I do? Ruth Valerio](#)



Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- Group introductions and ice breaker (if this is your first time meeting)
- How are we feeling after the introduction week for the series? Optimistic about the opportunity for change or maybe a little nervous about the impact of doing nothing?
- Do you have friends or family living in a country that is significantly impacted by climate change already? How has this impacted their community?

Bible Reading: Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above, working around the group for readers.

Optional video discussion questions

- Has the review and study of Genesis 1 so far and the context of study affected your understanding of the first biblical account of creation?
- 'Climate change is not only an environmental issue. Climate change is a poverty issue. It's a hunger issue. It's an issue of inequality and injustice. It's a human issue. And that's why we care.' Is this how you think of climate change or have you seen it as more of an environmental issue?
- Katharine offers the simple but effective example of climate change being a hole in a bucket – if we don't patch the hole then the resources we dedicate on other needs such as education or farming will be wasted and will not be able to impact poverty. How does this make you feel?
- The impacts of climate change may feel a distant issue for you in terms of time or geography. We are relatively fortunate in the UK to have minimal impact to date. However, we do hear and read about impacts such as wildfires, typhoons and drought in other areas of the globe. We are considered climate privileged in the UK, we know that the climate crisis is disproportionate and access to energy and light is also inconsistent. How do you feel as we consider this polarity? Maybe this is new for us to reflect on? Can we learn more?
- We may take light for granted - how would we feel about living with restricted light or energy?
- Fossil fuels have brought enormous benefits and influenced issues such as freedom from slavery, emancipation of women and child labour, employment opportunities, freedom of movement, global trade, enhanced health and lifespans, reduced poverty and more. As we offer gratitude to God for these advances how can we tackle the enormity of change in our energy sources?
- Have you made positive changes or are you researching changes to reduce your energy consumption or change the energy source that you would be happy to share?
- Katherine talks about constructive conversations happening over topics that we can share as Christians. Can you think of ways that you can connect with others on this topic linking climate care to care for God's creation?



Reflection and Prayer: Ask for any specific prayers. You may like to include or commence with the Celtic Prayer mentioned by Ruth in her book (page 9), by priest and chaplain Tess Ward:

The Celtic Wheel of the Year: Celtic and Christian seasonal prayers p38.

*Blessed be you the Light of Life,
Source of the sacred flame within each of us,
Light which the darkness cannot put out.
I rise up with you this day.
I rest with you this night.*



The shift to a cleaner energy economy won't happen overnight, and it will require tough choices along the way. But the debate is settled. Climate change is a fact.

Barack Obama

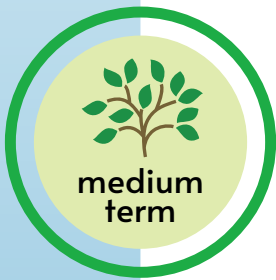
Actions and ambitions planner

– What can I do to impact energy use?



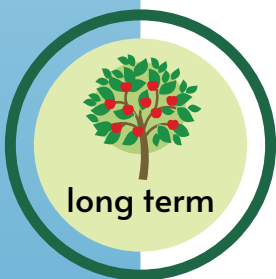
Short Term – I can do this tomorrow!

- ✓ Pray for God to open our eyes and shine his light into places where we can bring his light both in our homes and in the world
- ✓ Make a list of 5 ways to save energy at home such as:
 - ✓ Only use the tumble dryer in emergency
 - ✓ Only use the washing machine for full loads
 - ✓ Put jumpers on before the central heating
 - ✓ Make good use of the oven whilst it is on – use the shelf below to bake that bread now rather than turn it on again an hour later!
 - ✓ Influence simple change at work - switch off devices that you usually leave on standby such a monitors or switching to more efficient light bulbs
- ✓ Learn more – try these other videos from Katharine Heyhoe [Developing countries need fossil fuels to reach the standard of living we enjoy, right?](#) or [Is Carbon Dioxide Really a Pollutant? Global Weirding](#)



Medium Term – I can look at this in the next 3 months!

- ✓ Reduce car usage, save petrol and money by driving more slowly, walking and cycling more for shorter distances. Asking a work colleague to car share and enjoy the company!
- ✓ Fast from driving on the next Kerith fasting week
- ✓ Investigate a renewable energy supplier for your home energy – it may surprise you how easy it is. There are some helpful objective guides online such as [Tearfund - Big Clean Switch](#) and [How To Choose The Best Energy Company - Which?](#)
- ✓ Commit to learning more – check out the resources on saying-yes-resources
- ✓ Contact the local MP about the local actions taken or planned to reduce emissions
- ✓ Consider giving to a Christian charity that is engaged in helping the world's poorest to avoid consequences of climate change such as Tearfund or Christian Aid
- ✓ Get involved in the Climate Coalition www.theclimatecoalition.org
- ✓ Purchase the L is for Lifestyle book by Ruth Valerio to discover ways of living that do not cost the earth
- ✓ Review your list of 5 ways to save energy and replace any that you have fulfilled with new ways



Longer Term – This needs more prayer and planning...

- ✓ Start researching about moving to an electric car next time you change your car – cost, charging points at home and at work
- ✓ Research solar panels for your home to provide your own energy
- ✓ Research switching to an air source heat pump next time you change your boiler
- ✓ Consider less flying or stopping flying altogether – could you take the train or sail on your next holiday? Can you work colleagues continue with more online meetings rather than face to face?



week **2**

Let the waters be separated



In this session we look at the impacts of climate change on water supply and the quality of water. We consider our respect for and relationship with water to meet physical and emotional needs.

Resources

Sunday message: Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Bible and was created as a good thing for all. Although due to sin it is tarnished, we can be part of its redemption.

Saying Yes to Life book Chapter 2: Also focusses on the role of water as a powerful symbol throughout the Bible and especially as a symbol for purification in the form of baptism where the old life is washed away. Ruth also draws attention to the essential element of water in our lives. A vital and precious commodity, life sustaining for all forms: humanity, wildlife, trees, plants and crops. However, our global pollution is affecting freshwater ecosystems and impacting all forms of life. The chapter considers issues of water quality and quantity, sanitation, health, access to water, flooding and droughts and how churches can make a difference.

The chapter shares the statistics that currently 60% of the global population, or 4.5 billion people, live in water stressed areas. Supply does not meet demand. This statistic is set to worsen as populations increase and demand for water increases even faster for rising consumption, energy, agricultural and urbanisation needs. Lack of water impacts hygiene, health, education, employment, dignity and ultimately poverty. Developing countries are impacted more severely and women suffer disproportionately to men. The climate crisis compounds water supplies through rising temperatures and weather patterns such as floods, cyclones, typhoons and droughts.

Bible Verses: Genesis 1: 6-8, Psalm 42: 1-2, Psalm 65: 9-13, Ezekiel 36: 25-27, John 4: 10-15

Recommended video choices:

1. Ruth interviews Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#)
2. Katharine Heyhoe Film seven: [Climate change is a threat multiplier - Tearfund](#)



week **2**

Let the waters be separated



Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- Any good news stories in terms of actions taken already or plans made since we have started the creation care series?
- Are we finding this topic tricky and how can we help each other?

Bible Reading; Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above.

Optional video discussion questions

- Spending time near or in water can significantly improve our mental health and wellbeing. Do you feel better when you are near water? Where is your favourite place by the water and how do you spend your time there?
- Water is part of God's provision for his creation. Also, Jesus reminds us that God can send rain on whom he likes, both righteous and unrighteous (Matthew 5:45) but can also withhold rain as we see in times of drought. Have we lost that sense that rain is a provision from God? Do we respect water as God's gift to us or do we sin by wasting and polluting it?
- How can we protect water provision better as a church and in our own lives?
- Do you ever feel a sense of drowning emotionally – possibly overwhelmed? How do we respond to this?
- In Isaiah 55:1-2 God calls those of us who are thirsty to 'come to the waters...and delight in the richest of fare' How do you think we are called to act to quench our thirst and prevent others from 'thirsting'? How thirsty for God are we individually, locally, globally?
- Why do you think tackling climate change is not a priority for many Christians and do you think you can do more to change that?
- What do you imagine it is like for the poorest people in the world who are already facing the consequences of climate change daily with issues such as flooding, cholera or drought?

Reflection and Prayer: As we close and express our gratitude to Jesus, the water of life, let us also ask him to fill us afresh with his Spirit and water the creative seeds in each of us as we commit ourselves to caring for God's creation.

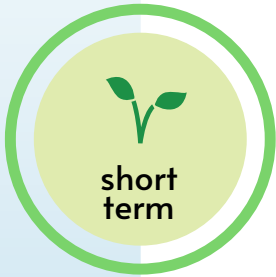


Climate change does not respect borders; it does not respect who you are – rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity.

Ban Ki-moon

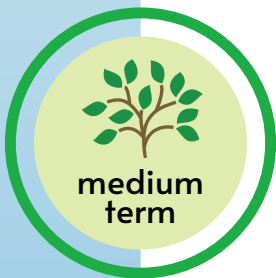
Actions and ambitions planner

- How can I show more gratitude for water?



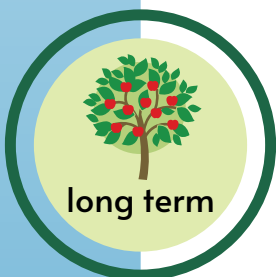
Short Term – I can do this today!

- ✓ Make a note of every time you use water today, ask all the family to join. Review the list and seek easy steps you can take to reduce the quantity of water you use individually and as a family
- ✓ Each time you use water – turn on a tap, flush the toilet, etc pray for those who do not have easy access to clean water
- ✓ Become aware of your 'virtual water' usage www.waterfootprint.org
- ✓ Steam your vegetables over an existing saucepan on the cooker rather than use another pan of water. They will taste better too!
- ✓ Shower more, bath less and time your shower - do you really need to sing all those songs before you even start washing?
- ✓ Leave a bucket or two out to catch rainwater for the garden
- ✓ You will love this one – clean your car less – think of even more exciting things you could do with the time or use the money you spent at a car wash to give to water related charity



Medium Term – I will start on this next week and work on it!

- ✓ Transition to more eco-friendly cleaning products that are made using less water
- ✓ Check out charities that are working to improve clean water supply to the world's most needy such as Unicef, WaterAid, Toilet Twinning (www.toilettwinning.org) you may want to make a one-off or a regular donation
- ✓ Consider a water butt at home to preserve the rainwater for garden use
- ✓ Think about reducing meat consumption and/or dairy consumption – huge amounts of water are needed for sustaining the animals that we eat. Meat free Mondays are a great way to start.



Long Term – New Year Resolution!

- ✓ Get writing! Time to pen that letter or email to a company or an MP to ask that they act on water
- ✓ Water is required to produce textiles. Being more responsible with the amount of new clothing you purchase, buying fewer new items. Think about saving water, emissions and money by buying second hand or just consuming less?
- ✓ Do you have a water cooler in the office, at church? Think about drinking water and raising money for [Christian Aid: Aquaid projects](#)



week 3

Let the land produce vegetation



Our session this week focusses on the blessings of God in the form of rich growth around the world enabling all his creatures to live in fullness. We look at how our actions are impacting the natural environment and temperature increases.

Resources

Sunday message: We should have no dualism where we see the physical as having less worth than the spiritual. Our role is as stewards. The world is a beautiful reflection of God but it is not God.

Saying Yes to Life book Chapter 3: Ruth focusses on the creation of the land which God declared as 'good'. Ruth likens the creativity to a beautiful piece of artwork and describes how we feel compelled to protect and look after things that we have created ourselves – our works of art that we love. God delights in growth and richness and blessed us in creation with the provision we need for the fullness of life – do we cherish and respect it as we should?

The chapter focusses on the wonder of trees and plants and their vital role in counterbalancing the impacts of climate change and mitigating the effects through the release of carbon. They are life sustaining. Consideration is given to deforestation for agricultural purposes, for farming and for beef, soy, oil and other important crops such as maize, sugar, tea and coffee. After agriculture we cut down forests for wood, products. The impact is multifaceted, destroying biodiversity, worsening climate change, disturbing water cycles and impacting local people and livelihoods through human rights abuses and increasing poverty. Contrastingly Ruth also gives attention to some great tree honouring rituals and tree protection initiatives. Trees, land and plants are very prevalent in the Bible and Ruth explores the role they play in creating identity, home and belonging and examines the deep loss experienced when people are robbed of their land.

The significance of trees is a strong focus in the Bible; from the gifts presented to Jesus, *'frankincense and myrrh are resins that come from the sap of their respective trees,'* to Jesus' life as a carpenter and his teaching parables about mustard seeds, planks of wood and fig trees. Also, the chapter explores the significance of Jesus declaring *'I am the Vine'* and the trees that accompany Jesus to the cross; from the *'palm fronds of Palm Sunday; the cursing of the fig tree; the olive trees on the Mount of Olives where Jesus spent his last night; the crown of thorns, and the myrrh offered during his death'* to finally being hung on a wooden cross.



Bible Verses: Genesis 1: 9-13, Psalm 24: 1, John 15: 1, Psalm 1, Jeremiah 17: 7-8

Recommended video choices:

1. [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#) – Ruth Valerio in conversation with Bernadette Kabonesa, Snr Research Technician, Ugandan National Agricultural Research Organisation
2. [Film three: How to persuade others to care about climate change - Tearfund](#) - Katharine Heyhoe

Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- Have we noticed that we are suddenly more alert to and aware of articles in the media about the climate crisis?
- Are we finding our views or habits changing as we learn more?
- We are looking at land, trees, plants and crops today. What is your favourite tree and why?
- Are you and your family and friends forest lovers?

Bible Reading; Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above.

Optional video discussion questions

- We consider in Genesis 1 the waters being gathered and drawn back revealing dry ground. Land and seas are brought into being as separate entities within creation. A marvellous vision appears in our mind as life emerges on land in the form of plants, trees and seeds to bear fruit and provide for us in abundance. Ruth describes how we feel compelled to protect and look after things that we have created ourselves – our works of art that we love. Do we do the same for God's creation – his land?
- How connected do you feel to the land? What helps you connect with the land more deeply?
- How often do we think about our impacts on forests as we eat diets that are high in meat, dairy and palm oil and purchase wood and paper without checking on the marking to see if it sustainably sourced?
- Were you aware of the many countries where landfill would be a luxury and yet we need to dramatically reduce our landfill in the UK? Were our eyes open to some of these polarities? Is this how God planned for us to create so much waste by over consumption and to discard our waste so easily without considering reuse first every time?
- Do we think we could take more steps in response to global waste as individuals and as a church?
- Do you think that as humans we could improve at recognising the risks and threats posed by issues that are distant physically or into the future? Examples include deforestation in the Amazon, droughts in Africa.
- How do we think colonisation has impacted our country?



- Do we feel nervous about demonstrating passion about this topic as we are in danger of coming across as offensive or patronising?
- Are there people in your life that you could share some of this information with to increase our stewardship of the land?

Reflection and Prayer: Close by reflecting on Psalm 1, asking God to root you deeply into him through the rhythms and practices of your life to bear fruits at the right time. Pray for guidance on how each of us can personally live as a better proprietor of God's creation.



This is not the time and place for dreams.
This is the time to wake up. This is a moment in
history where we need to be wide awake.

Greta Thunberg

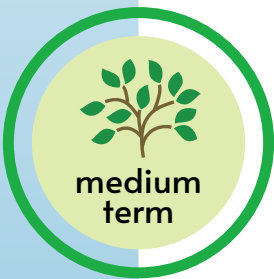
Actions and ambitions planner

– How can I love and respect the land more?



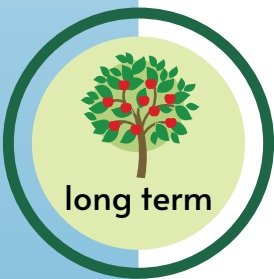
Short Term – this is easy!

- ✓ Take a walk in nature, be observant and appreciative of the trees and vegetation. Maybe count the tree species? Smell the fragrances of creation.
- ✓ Assess the plant based products used at home. Can you reduce reliance on dairy and meat products?
- ✓ Review [Palm Oil | Ethical Consumer](#) to help you understand which brands are kinder to nature
- ✓ Start assessing your waste at home – how much are you sending to landfill? Can you increase ways of reuse and upcycling, putting gifts from God in the picture?
- ✓ Give your time by joining a local litter picking project – a great opportunity to start those conversations about Jesus at the same time – explain about our creation care series
- ✓ Commit to bringing your reusable coffee cup to Kerith each time you visit



Medium Term – This needs a little more planning

- ✓ Start buying organic – maybe just one product as a starting point and then expand as your budget allows
- ✓ Increase plant based food intake to vary your diet and improve your health while helping nature
- ✓ Check out [Terracycle](#) - you will be amazed at the household items that you can recycle through local schemes
- ✓ Maybe you would like to learn about carbon offsetting projects that are run by Christians across the globe? [About Us | Climate Stewards](#)



Longer Term – needs more consideration

- ✓ Is it time to get that allotment that you have been thinking about for some time? Start researching about growing more produce for yourself and to share with friends and family.
- ✓ Commit to composting!
- ✓ Seek out ethically produced products such as Fairtrade options to ensure that the suppliers of your produce pay the workers fairly and that workers have rights
- ✓ Can you give to Tearfund's [Bin Twinning](#) initiative and donate £45 to 'twin' your bin and fund a community project that's preventing disease, poverty and protecting the land?
- ✓ Can you volunteer for conservation with an organisation such as [Volunteering Opportunities \(arocha.org.uk\)](#) or [www.rewildingbritain.org.uk](#)



week

4

Let there be lights in the vault of the sky



We look at the rhythms given to the world of light and darkness through the creation of the sun, moon, stars and vast amazingness of the universe. This leads us to consider the link between creation and redemption through Jesus. We ask ourselves in the study this week more about how we care for creation in the light of our readiness for Jesus' return and the new heaven and earth.

Resources

Sunday message: The world is not going to be destroyed when Jesus comes again but renewed, bringing an eschatological approach to help us understand our role today in caring for creation.

Saying Yes to Life book Chapter 4: This chapter explores the vastness of the cosmos created by God, earth being such a tiny piece of the universe. Ruth examines biblical references to stars – including at the birth of Jesus, how the stars sing God's praises; how creation testifies to God and praises him. The chapter also gives a helpful overview of eschatology and biblical foundations which support the importance and value of our time spent now caring for creation. Furthermore, Ruth refers to the song that Graham Kendrick wrote, "From Heaven You Came" (The Servant King) and how 'hands that flung stars into space' are the hands that 'to cruel nails surrendered', as an example of linking between creation and redemption, reminding us that the Saviour Jesus Christ – the one who in the closing words of the Bible is called 'the bright Morning Star' (Rev. 22: 16) is also the Creator Son of God.

Bible verses: Genesis 1: 14-19, Acts 2: 20, Colossians 1: 19-20, Psalm 147: 4, Psalm 19: 1-6

Recommended video choices:

1. [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#) – Ruth Valerio with Professor Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer, former Master of Trinity College, Cambridge and President of the Royal Society
2. [Film five: Speaking to other Christians about climate change - Tearfund](#) - Katharine Heyhoe



Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- How are we finding the course as we reach the halfway mark?
- Have we been encouraged to carry our further research or read deeper into the topics?
- Are we responding differently to the topic of sustainability in our lives at home and at work since we started this small group study and preach series? If so, how?

Bible Reading; Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above.

Video Discussion and questions

- The rhythms of day, night and seasons provide a sense of order to our lives. How do we feel when these patterns are disrupted e.g. severe out of season weather events?
- How does this week's topic support our biblical understanding of a 'new heaven' and a 'new earth'? Is anyone struggling with the topic of eschatology? (Pages 99, 100 and 102 are very helpful in explaining how we are called as God's creatures to care for His creation and the links between 'new and renew'.
- How have any of us been remotivated by today's topic to care for earth today?
- As Christians we have hope (Romans 5:3-5). How does that motivate you when it comes to the global issue of climate change?
- Katharine reminds us that we should not engage with the issue of climate change out of guilt because as Christians we believe we are freed from guilt. Does guilt play a part in how you respond to climate change? How does the gospel alter this response?
- How would it look to have climate change conversations born out of love with a) other Christians and b) non-Christians?
- What stands out to you from this chapter?

Reflection and Prayer: Close by reflecting on the actions we have committed to do so far in the series and ask for support and guidance in areas that we are finding tricky.

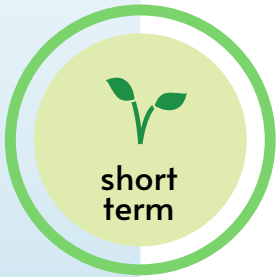


The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.

Albert Einstein

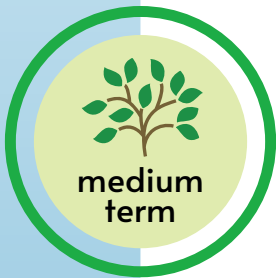
Actions and ambitions planner

– How can I bring God's plan for his creation deeper into my life?



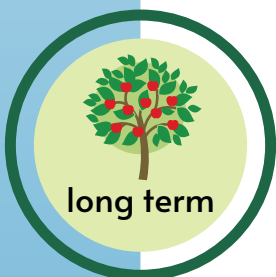
Short Term – some quick wins!

- ✓ Pray about your giving rhythm and approach; ask for guidance about how your financial resources can best support the future of creation. Maybe a more regular pattern would help your budget and planning for our care of creation?
- ✓ Consider if your budget could be more controlled? Do you feel you are spending on items that you do not really need and it is hard to stop? If so, maybe talk to the CAP team to get help and advice on how to control your money and help you avoid creating more waste. Signing up with CAP is the first step.
- ✓ Draw up a list of people you know are passionate about the environment or passionate about Christ however are not 'joining the dots'. Is it time to set up a coffee with them to open the conversation?
- ✓ Purchase that book from the resources guide that you have been meaning to do for a few weeks now – Dave Bookless's Planetwise is recommended if you want more on eschatology



Medium Term – a little more effort needed

- ✓ Do you have existing qualifications or experience in the sustainability industry? Could you give some time to the Kerith team as we consider how we take our learnings forward and embed them into our strategy after the 8 week series? If so, please contact creationcare@kerith.church
- ✓ Think about how you can bring more focus to this topic at work. If you are working for a smaller organisation that does not have the time or resource for a dedicated sustainability team then maybe a few passionate individuals can create a focus group and make it fun. Start small with a nature-based photography competition or a plant based recipe club to draw in interested members.



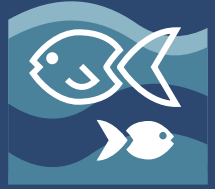
Longer Term – for me and for the church community?

- ✓ Are you on the worship team and can you integrate the breadth of creation into our worship beyond the Creation Care series?
- ✓ Understand if your money is being invested for good or for harm. Maybe start with one area such as your pension and talk to a financial advisor or your workplace pension advisor about ethical choices and green funds that you may want to consider for that pension.
- ✓ If you have wider investment pots, then maybe look at those next working through your portfolio



week **5**

Let the waters teem with living creatures and let the birds fly



We review how humanity can respond to some big issues facing us linked to the depletion of our wildlife especially sea creatures and birds.

Resources

Sunday message: God created and loves animals, our sin impacts them negatively.

Saying Yes to Life book Chapter 5: This chapter offers a theocentric view of other creatures, describing the creativity and generosity of God, God's pleasure with his works and his blessing to all his creatures to be fruitful. As a society, we experience a collective sense of grief when species that God has created become extinct and we actively campaign to protect endangered species. Ruth examines the threats posed to God's creatures in the form of habitat loss, overfishing, ocean pollution, plastic pollution and declining bird numbers from climate change. The chapter explores how churches and Christians can help, including looking at some church-based initiatives seeking to protect and conserve creation. Furthermore the chapter reflects upon scripture passages relating to living creatures and birds, specifically at doves, when they appear and how they symbolise peace. It reflects on stories that depict the ocean and fish, such as Jesus feeding the 5,000 and eating fish on the shore after the resurrection.

Bible verses: Genesis 1: 20-25, Jeremiah 4: 23-25, Isaiah 40: 28-31, Matthew 23: 37

Recommended video choices:

1. [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#) – Ruth Valerio in conversation with Professor Meric Srokosz from the National Oceanography Centre.
2. [Film four: What we can do as a church - Tearfund](#) – Katharine Heyhoe
3. [Blue Planet II Plastic Pollution Awareness 2018 - short version](#) – David Attenborough

Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- If you have children, how are they getting on with this topic at church and at school?
- How has the series opened discussions at home with our children or among younger friends and family?
- For the young adults in the group – how do you feel about the topics and discussions so far?
- How are we doing taking our reusable coffee cups to church and when we meet friends for coffee in town?



week 5

Let the waters teem with living creatures
and let the birds fly



Bible Reading; Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above.

Optional video discussion questions

- How do you feel about climate and human action on sea life? Did David Attenborough's Blue Planet II series impact you and conversations as we saw the way plastic waste and climate change have devastated life in the oceans?
- What personal experiences have you had when you have seen creation teeming with nature? Reflect on those and take time and thank God for them.
- Do you have a favourite sea or ocean location that you like to go or one you have been to where you can be at one with nature and feel very connected to God's creation? What may God want to say to you about this place and its protection?
- In the book Ruth refers to the worship song; Hillsong's Oceans (Where my feet may fail) based on Peter putting his trust in Jesus as he steps out of the boat. The song resonates with our journeys of faith that we have taken so far and continue to take. How can we ask God to continue taking us into the deeper waters where we have no choice but to trust Jesus?
- How can we respond to the unfolding crisis in our seas and oceans?
- If you were to lead a service at church on climate change how would you approach it? How would you encourage more members to act in community to talk more about climate change and to take action to tackle climate change?

Reflection and Prayer: Close by reflecting on how we can support our youth teams and the younger members of our families and church to learn more about caring for God's creatures in the sky and the seas.

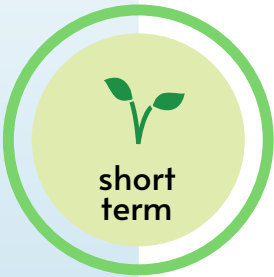


There is no question that climate change is happening; the only arguable point is what part humans are playing in it.

David Attenborough

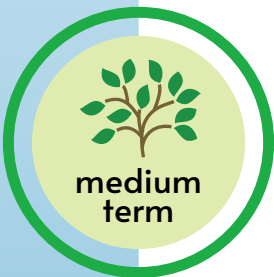
Actions and ambitions planner

– How can I support the teeming of living creatures in the sea and sky?



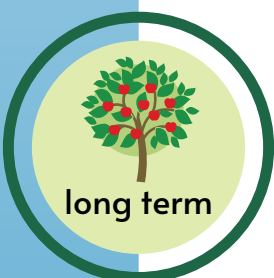
Short Term – 'To Do' List

- ✓ Pray and ask God to fill you with compassion and vision for your personal life changes
- ✓ Find the home waste audit you did a couple of weeks ago – how much was single use plastic? List items that create plastic waste and rethink purchasing decisions to reduce or avoid them in future e.g. eliminating plastic dispensers, switching to soap from handwash.
- ✓ Set up an inter-generational conversation between friends and family who lived on wartime rations and before plastic was relied upon to understand 'how they created much less waste?'
- ✓ Sign the [Rubbish Campaign petition - Tearfund](#)
- ✓ Talk to the wider family about how to have a single use plastic (SUP) free Christmas
- ✓ Is the fish and seafood that you purchase responsibly sourced? Look for fish that has the Marine Stewardship Councils blue fish label, to certify sustainable fisheries.



Medium Term – 'To Do Later' List

- ✓ Read [The burning issue of the plastic crisis - Tearfund](#)
- ✓ Join or set up a beach clean-up.
West Wight – a regular event as part of the worship activities?
- ✓ Ask your supermarket about stocking more responsibly sourced fish with the MSC blue label
- ✓ Buy less single use plastic - check on the package for recycling options before you purchase
- ✓ Invest in reusable beeswax food covers to replace cling film
- ✓ In case you missed this in Week 4; check out [Terracycle](#) for local or free return schemes
- ✓ Look at ways to make your garden more bird friendly!
- ✓ Find projects to track and protect endangered plants and bird species.
Maybe set up the [Zooniverse](#) app on your smartphone



Longer Term – 'To think about' List

- ✓ Pray and ask God to fill you with vision and prophetic words for ways for Kerith as community to get more deeply involved in the care for creation
- ✓ Enhance your knowledge of climate change and justice or poverty reduction, e.g. sign up to The Guardian newspaper's weekly environment email or to regular newsletters from A Rocha or the World Bank website for up to date information



week 6

Let the land produce living creatures and let us make humankind in our image



This week we consider how humanity is the species chosen by God to bear his image and we are tasked with respecting and caring for each other and wider creation. How we differ from animals and wildlife and the importance of biodiversity and the preservation of each and distinct species.

We understand that some foods generate more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than others. Animal based food makes up two-thirds of all agricultural GHG emissions and use more than three-quarters of agricultural land. Plant based foods have a much lower environmental impact. Simple changes to diets and enjoying more plant based foods is of substantial benefit to emission reduction.

Resources

Sunday message: We are God's image bearers; how should that impact our behaviour? Our image comes with a responsibility, caring for the animal kingdom and humanity across the globe.

Saying Yes to Life book Chapter 6: Ruth reflects on humankind sharing the earth with other creatures and how we carry out discipleship within the context of caring for creation, reminding us that God's covenant is with all living creatures. We need other humans but we also need other creatures. The chapter illuminates the many references to animals woven through the Bible and the times when animals recognise the power of God and submit to him as their creator as well as times when animals are used in storytelling to describe our relationship to God. Jesus even refers to himself as a sacrificial lamb. Some time is spent looking at practical lifestyle changes we can make to care for the earth considering species extinction, farming, food and what it means to eat in 'holiness'. Thoughtlessness and selfishness have made us all complicit in losing species at an unparalleled rate, however the good news is that we can act and bring change and hope.

Bible verses: Genesis 1: 24-31, Psalm 8: 6, Psalm 139: 14, Exodus 15: 1-18, 1 Cor 11: 17-22

Recommended video choices:

1. [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#) – Ruth Valerio in conversation with Archbishop Justin Welby
2. [Film eight: There can be a better future - Tearfund](#) – Katharine Heyhoe
3. [How the pandemic impacts climate change](#) – Katharine Heyhoe



week 6

Let the land produce living creatures and let us make humankind in our image



Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- What are our favourite animals?
- How many of us have pets and how do they impact our lives?
- How many of us are already vegetarian as a lifestyle choice?

Bible Reading; Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above.

Video Discussion and possible questions

- Pope Francis calls this world our 'common home' – what does this say to you?
- How did the experience of COVID provide an example of caring for God's creation?
- Did any of us find 'greener' ways of living in lockdown that we have carried into our everyday lives now that we have more freedom?
- Most of us are guilty of swatting wasps, flies & mosquitoes or killing scary spiders with little thought for their place here in God's eyes. Have you thought about the range of species that we have on earth and how you care for *all* of them?
- Humankind is also made in many forms in God's image – race and cultural ethnicity being examples of some differentiators. In what ways can you reflect God's image in your own life in relation to other people and in the wider world? What does it mean to you that all peoples have been made in God's image?
- There can be no true peace without justice. How can we use God's word to light paths of justice to find peace and prosperity for all creation?
- What are the things that you most value in life and what are your personal values? How can you align to live more consistently with your values to protect those you value?
- Has this course made you reflect on your diet? What am I/my family eating and could we make changes that will impact the climate and communities?



week 6

Let the land produce living creatures and let us
make humankind in our image



Reflection and Prayer: Possible closing reflection on gratitude for the role of animals in the group's lives. How have our animals helped us to survive the isolation of lockdowns or grief? Anyone grieving for a special pet? Thank God for the abundance and critical role of biodiversity in our lives.

A prayer that you may like to share is on P163 in Saying Yes to Life, the first 2 stanzas are below:

A Prayer from France by Prisca Liotard

Lord be praised for the immensity and the beauty of your creation.

I pray with humility to be every single day more aware of the variety of species on earth and to see for their protection.

I thank you for this calling to take care of our planet that you put in many hearts, and I pray that many others will follow.

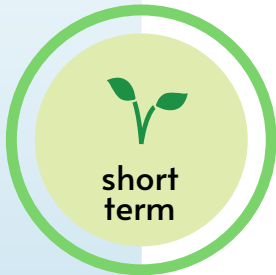


People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change.

Desmond Tutu

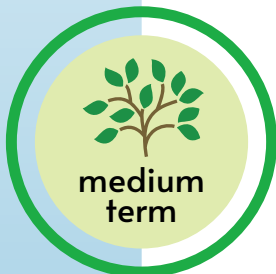
Actions and ambitions planner

– How can I care for all people inclusively and care for all creatures on the land?



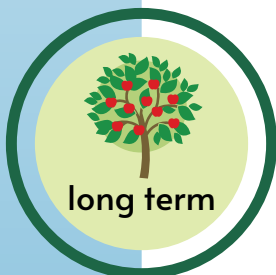
Short Term – I have got this!

- ✓ Make your garden more wildlife friendly – learn how to attract hedgehogs
- ✓ Plan things you can do for wildlife at home – plant some bee and butterfly attracting plants in your garden – even if they are for next year!
- ✓ Pray for wisdom about ways you can reflect God's image in your own life in relation to other people in the wider world
- ✓ Read the *Plant based diet; A Christian option* by Mia Smith to help you look at the theological background to the ethical questions around plant based diets. Maybe start meat free Mondays...



Medium Term – I thought I had got this but I need a little more prayer and reflection...

- ✓ Pray about how you can amend your dietary habits to look at eating less meat, and more organic and sustainably sourced produce – maybe just start with free range eggs
- ✓ Research ways of reducing use of pesticides in the garden
- ✓ Act on the climate crisis through the prayer and action to tackle injustice related to the climate emergency [Reboot – act on the climate crisis – Tearfund](#)



Longer Term – I will get to this!

- ✓ Changing diet for me is a longer term commitment however I will continue to pray for guidance and discernment in choices
- ✓ If this topic area that has really ignited your interest then perhaps familiarise yourself with the [Final Report - The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). This independent review calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. Grounded in a deep understanding of ecosystem processes and how they are affected by economic activity, the new framework presented by the Review sets out how we should account for Nature in economics and decision-making. There is an abridged version / headline message version.



week 7

The seventh day: Conclusion



There is so much to consider as we look at how we care for creation, it can feel overwhelming. The news is a constant reminder of climate related events across the globe each day as a wakeup call to us all to act fast. The language used in scientific reports is purposely strong reminding us that immediate, large scale sustained action is needed to achieve rapid reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

Just as God rested on the seventh day, we ourselves need to sometimes stand back, reflect and pray for guidance about how we can best use our resources and gifts before we act towards this purpose.

Resources

Sunday message: Jesus is our true Sabbath. Jesus will renew the Earth through his death and resurrection. We have a part to play and it does not all depend on us. This message will coincide with a Pete Greg recording with a climate themed church message for COP26. Pete's message maybe run as part of the Sunday message or we may have an additional pointer to watch his video.

Saying Yes to Life book conclusion chapter: The book's concluding chapter explores the story of creation and reflects that after having created the heavens and the earth, God rested and declared the Sabbath day as Holy. This chapter also focuses on the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus, highlighting that Christ is the fulfilment of our journey; he is the resurrection and the life. As the book considers resurrection hope, we are inspired to consider how we live as disciples of Jesus in this current age and suggests a holistic response, whereby we; **pray, act and give**. We **pray** to a God who we know listens and answers prayer, which undergirds everything we do and changes everything. Ruth challenges us to **act** and to 'make bold changes in the way we live - consuming less and consuming better' – and to consider how we engage with the physical world, that is God's work of art. We are also encouraged to **give** and to be generous to others and the world, and to use our money to change people's lives. We cannot give to every issue however we can look at the areas where God has stirred our hearts.

Bible verses: Genesis 2: 1-3, Ephesians 1: 13-14, Leviticus 25 – The Sabbath / Year of the Jubilee.



Recommended video choices:

1. Katharine Heyhoe [Film nine: It is not too late - Tearfund](#)
2. Tenants Session 4 Speak Up with Justin Thaker - [Does God do politics?](#)

Potential meeting structure

Suggested opening questions:

- How are we feeling as we end this small group series?
- Any stories of how making small steps has been beneficial at home?

Bible Reading; Choosing all or some of the verses from the suggestions above.

Video Discussion and possible questions

- We cannot 'unknow' what we now know! Has this series ignited interest and inspired passion for more knowledge and purposeful action at home and at church or are we feeling quite discouraged and overwhelmed?
- As Christians we believe that prayer makes a difference. Do you think of prayer as acting?
- Have you prayed about poverty and climate? Is it a topic that is regularly prayed about in your small group or within your groups at Kerith? Could you be the person that encourages a more regular rhythm for prayer on this topic?
- From what we have studied do you think that you could cut your personal emissions by at least three-quarters in the next nine years? How do you think we could also achieve that at Kerith and how could you help?
- The oil and gas (also known as fossil fuels) sector is one of the most polluting globally and highlighted in the recent IPCC report. Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy will impact the employment of many people globally. What can the church do to promote a just transition away from fossil fuels, which doesn't leave anyone behind?
- If we are to see greater climate related policy change then politicians need to believe that it is a priority for voters. Could you see yourself making it more of a political priority for yourself and raising it with your elected representatives through letter writing and petitioning?
- Has anyone felt inspired to get more involved in campaigning or joining [Christian Climate Action – Direct action, public witness for the climate](#) to stand together and fight for justice?



Reflection and Prayer: Thank God for the many dedicated scientists and professionals who dedicate their time to working in the field of climate science to bring us the data and information we need to act accordingly. Ask that we can reflect on our learnings and create effective personal strategies and collective strategies as a church and Christian community to follow in Jesus' footsteps and care for God's creation through a just transition.

You may want to share ***Pope Francis' Prayer from Laudato Si'***

*All-powerful God...bring healing to our lives,
That we may protect the world and not prey on it,
That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
At the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
To be filled with awe and contemplation,
To recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature
As we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.*

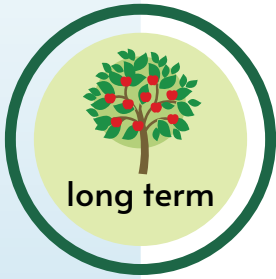


Resurrection churches, resurrection lives.
This is the calling that is on us as we look at all
that God has made and say yes to life.

Ruth Valerio

Actions and ambitions planner

– What are my longer term steps?



- ✓ Pray and consider what does creation care mean for me and my family longer term? How can we act now and keep acting?
- ✓ Pray for people facing and already in extreme poverty where the pandemic, climate change and energy transitions may or already have impacted their livelihoods and health
- ✓ We have offered suggestions about a variety of climate crisis related projects. Pray about how and which project you may want to give time or money towards.
- ✓ Keep learning and growing your mindset, regularly review the [Saying Yes To Life Resources](#) to find more resources on the topics that touched your heart and spoke to you in particular
- ✓ Maybe you have listened to this course and to God and believe now is the time for you to remove your mask, shine your personal lamp and practise vulnerability by really acting with purpose and using your voice on matters that are deeply important to you – caring for God's creation. Is this time to become an authentic thought leader in your team at work or at church and help lead people in a more sustainable direction or find allies to help you create a sustainability-based project or fundraiser?



Resources for continued learning

Factsheet:

- [Climate factsheet, \(tearfund.org\)](#)

Prayer support:

- [Prayer for the climate - Tearfund](#)
- <http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

Videos:

- [Paris Agreement](#)
- Katharine Heyhoe explains how [Developing countries need fossil fuels to reach the standard of living we enjoy, right? - YouTube](#) and [Is Carbon Dioxide Really a Pollutant? | Global Weirding - YouTube](#)
- Katharine Heyhoe on [The pandemic's effect on climate change](#)
- [BBC iPlayer - Climate Change - The Facts](#) – David Attenborough
- [BBC iPlayer - Blue Planet II - Series 1: 1. One Ocean](#) – David Attenborough
- [Blue Planet II Plastic Pollution Awareness 2018 - short version](#) – David Attenborough
- [BBC iPlayer - Extinction: The Facts](#) – David Attenborough
- Some Tearfund recommended climate themed videos:
 - 4 short videos looking at [Creation care in Haiti](#)
 - Videos from Burning Down the House: [Moved by Faith](#) and [Dear Leaders](#)
 - [Temperature increase film](#)
 - [Turning the Tide of Climate Change](#) – a case study based in Ethiopia
 - Our Country Director of Honduras being interviewed. [Full interview](#) (maybe for small groups) [shorter version](#). And a 3 min version of this is due in 2 weeks and I will send this on to you.
 - [The Restoration Story](#) (this could be clipped) about climate focus on Tanzania (gospel linked)
 - [The World has a Rubbish Problem](#)

Reports:

- [The burning issue of the plastic crisis - Tearfund](#)
- [Final Report - The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [IPCC Report August 2021 - Summary for Policymakers](#)

Useful Links and organisations:

- [What is a COP? - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(ukcop26.org\)](#)
- [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Ruth Valerio's website for Green Living](#)
- [A Rocha website for Wild Christian Living](#)
- [Tearfund Magazine on environmental justice issues](#)
- [Katherine Heyhoe website - US Climate Scientist](#)



Resources for continued learning

- <https://www.outrageandoptimism.org/> Christina Figueras, Paul Dickinson and Tom Rivett-Carnac
- [The Earthbound Report – Good lives on our one planet](#)
- [What is climate change? - Met Office](#)

Action:

- [Relay Home | YCCN](#) – Young Christians Climate Network
- [Christian Climate Action – Direct action, public witness for the climate](#)
- [Home - Extinction Rebellion UK](#)

Books:

- Ruth Valerio: *'Saying YES to life'*
- Ruth Valerio: *'L is for Lifestyle'*
- David Bookless: *Planetwise*
- Mia Smith: *Plant based diet; A Christian option*
- Christina Figueras and Tom Rivett-Carnac: *The Future we Choose*
- David Wallace-Wells: *The Uninhabitable Earth*
- Jeremy Williams: *Climate Change is Racist*
- Christians from Extinction Rebellion: *Time to Act*

WTC Theology Recommended booklist:

- Bauckham, Richard. *Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology*. Baylor University Press, 2011 - a theology book which helps make sense of the role we have in relation to the rest of creation.
- Berry, R.J., ed. *Environmental Stewardship*. T&T Clark, 2006.
- *The Care of Creation: Focusing Concern and Action*. IVP, 2000.
- Capon, Robert Farrar. *The Supper of the Lamb: A Culinary Reflection*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1989 - a hilarious, theological, celebration of food.
- Clough, David. *On Animals: Systematic Theology: 1*. T&T Clark International, 2012. Davis, Ellen. *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture*. Cambridge: CUP, 2008 - a fascinating look at how agrarian thinking and practice are present and encouraged throughout the Bible.
- Goringe, Tim. *Harvest: Food, Farming and the Churches*. SPCK, 2006 - short and to the point, a great theologian challenging the church to support local farmers and food economies
- Northcott, Michael S. *The Environment and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: CUP, 2008 - a bit more dense for those interested in ethics.
- Patel, Raj. *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System*. Portobello Books, 2013 - a scathing critique of the injustice in the global food system.
- Pollan, Michael. *Omnivores Dilemma: The Search for a Perfect Meal in a Fast-Food World*. Bloomsbury, 2009 - a fascinating look behind the scenes of the industrial food system in the US.
- Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudate Si*.



- Schmemmann, Alexander. *For the Life of the World*. St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2010 - deep theology focussed on the Eucharist and its implications for the whole creation.
- Tudge, Colin. *So Shall we Reap: What's Gone Wrong with the World's Food – and How to Fix it*. Penguin, 2004 - a non-Christian author drawing on Biblical ideas to argue that instead of acting short termistically to merely 'feed the 9 billion by 2050' in the cheapest possible ways, there are many ways we can create sustainable food economies that will nourish the world's population thousands of years from now - "the future belongs to the gourmet".
- Wirzba, Norman. *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*. Cambridge: CUP, 2007 - this book should be the 'go to' book for Christians thinking about food.
- Wright, Tom. *Surprised by Hope*. SPCK, 2008 - a brilliant book which helps us to understand the gospels' implications for all creation, including eschatology.
- Most of Wendell Berry's work. A good collection of his finest agrarian essays is called *The Art of the Commonplace*.