LAMBETH
CONFERENCE

# THE ENVIRONMENT

ANGLICAN
COMMUNION
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES

## MINISTRY & RESOURCES SIGNPOSTING GUIDE

**Your ‘at a glance’ guide to ministry around the Anglican Communion**

*From the Lambeth Conference*

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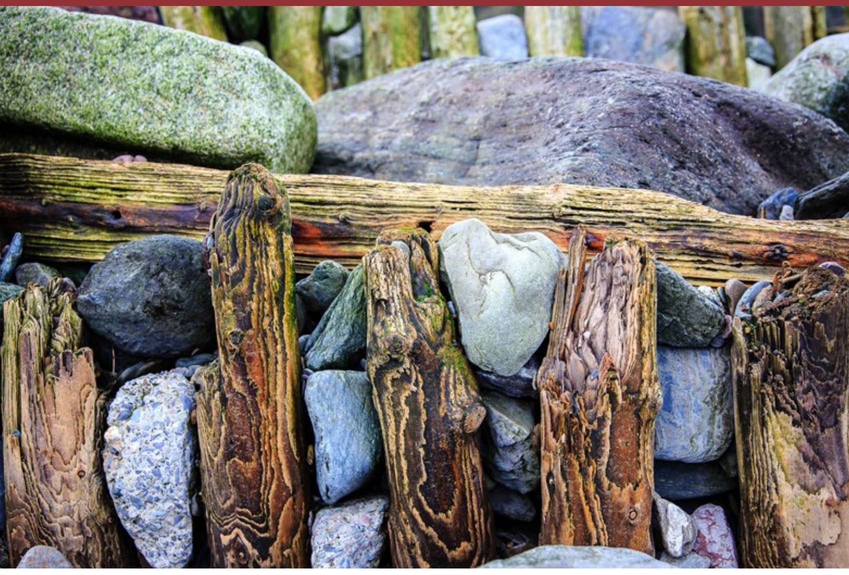
## WELCOME

Welcome to your ‘at a glance’ guide to Environment focused programmes and resources that are currently available in the Anglican Communion.



## SETTING THE SCENE

At the heart of Anglican identity are the Five Marks of Mission, which express the Anglican understanding of what it means to live faithfully and holistically in the world. They reflect Jesus’ mission to bring good news to the poor, release for the oppressed and fullness of life to all (Luke 4:18; John 10:10) and humanity’s role to “tend and keep” the earth (Genesis 2:15). Among the marks is: **“Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”**. Anglicans therefore not only take creation care seriously but also see it as one of the principal ways we share in God’s ongoing story of love in the world. This is lived out in many different ways by Anglicans across the Communion.

However, the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse. The life systems of the earth are under severe strain from the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Extreme weather events, changed rainfall patterns, droughts, floods and sea level rise are severely impacting millions of people across the world. This is evident **within the Anglican Communion** and beyond. People live with pollution and waste. Degraded natural environments and water scarcity are the norm for many.

## QUOTES

*“We believe that the problem is spiritual as well as economic, scientific and political, because the roadblock to effective action relates to basic existential issues of how human life is framed and valued: including the competing moral claims of present and future generations, human versus non-human interests, and how the lifestyle of wealthy countries is to be balanced against the basic needs of the developing world.”*

**The World is our Host, Ecobishops’ statement**

*“It is our sacred duty to protect the planet, as well as our neighbours around the world who are on the front line of climate change.”*

**Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury**

*“The [Maori] concept of kaitiakitanga*positions human beings in creation – not as supreme masters over the earth community but as interdependent members of the earth community. Perceiving ourselves as interdependent members of creation requires us to broaden our gaze beyond our anthropocentric concerns to include consideration of all living entities in everything we do.”*

*Custodianship / guardianship / protection of the environment

**Mr Wilson Chan, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia Te Hahi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tireni, ki Nga Moutere o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa**

## ACTION

### Hopes for collective action

### “Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”

### In our churches

- Bring creation care into the spiritual and worshipping life of the Church: preach, teach, pray and fast, lament the devastation of creation and celebrate its wonders. Engage with the Season of Creation. Many dioceses are linking baptisms, weddings and confirmations with tree planting. Use the many resources on offer.
- Make bold plans to achieve full sustainability in our buildings, land, transport and other properties. Reduce paper, water and electricity use, cut down on waste and avoid single-use plastic. Align any financial investments with environmentally and socially responsible standards, ensuring greater accountability and transparency. Evaluate all the goods we purchase and the services we hire with the same ethical lens.

### In our communities

- Join in what’s already happening or lead the way. Individual actions don’t lead to transformative change, but networked actions do. Encourage young people, who are often already engaged in practical action. Amplify their voices and help them to connect their environmental activism with their faith.
- Support actions to reduce carbon emissions, achieve carbon neutrality, promote disaster risk reduction, improve waste management, conserve water and energy, develop renewable energy, provide green open spaces, conserve coastal areas, prevent deforestation and restore forests.
- Build resilience to disasters: promote disaster risk education and challenge government departments to provide the necessary services.

SUSTAIN AND RENEW
THE LIFE OF THE EARTH

## Within the Anglican Communion

- Join in the Communion Forest initiative. **The Communion Forest** was launched at the Lambeth Conference as a practical and symbolic response to the environmental crisis, and as an act of Christian hope. The Communion Forest is made up of various local reforestation activities undertaken by Anglicans across the Communion. These local activities will be geographically, culturally and environmentally appropriate, using indigenous (native) species. The "forest" will therefore look very different in different parts of the Communion and will not necessarily be a forest or even trees; it might be grassland or wetlands or take some other locally determined form, such as restoring a piece of waste land. Equally, rather than creating something new, the project might be about protecting a habitat, for example campaigning against deforestation or advocating for protected status of a particular environment. In short, anything that "safeguards the integrity of creation, or sustains or renews the life of the earth". Find out more at the **Communion Forest** website
- Connect with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations.
- Become an **eco-bishop**.

## In the world

- Use our positions of power and influence to advocate for policy changes, especially on: Nationally Determined Contributions (emissions reductions); just financing for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage; seeing the Church as strategic partners in disaster resilience and response.
- Call people to a vision of a better world, shared humanity, interconnectedness and the common good. Fire people's imaginations, inspire and lead.

## In our personal lives

- Love the earth. Connect with creation. Cultivate relationship, respect, develop an understanding of interconnection and wonder.
- *Be* the change we want to see.

# ACTION

## How is the Anglican Communion engaging with the theme? Who can support action in this area?

**Across the Communion, Anglicans are on the front line of the climate and environmental emergencies. They are not only affected by the impacts of climate change – they are also taking action to respond to its challenges:**

- Churches are often amongst the first responders when disasters hit and active in long term recovery.
- In many places, for example Burundi, Kenya and Uganda, Anglican churches are engaged in reforestation initiatives. They are taking action on pollution and waste. Churches are helping people adapt to a changing climate - in the Pacific the Anglican Church of Melanesia is helping with food security and preparing people for relocation.
- People are greening their churches – using renewable energy, adopting net zero targets, using their land for environmental projects and committing to Green Protocols. Churches are divesting from fossil fuels, investing in solar projects and other renewable energy schemes.
- They are celebrating the **Season of Creation** and World Environment Day (5th June), Praying and Fasting for the Climate, and bringing creation care into the worshipping life of the church.
- They are speaking out and calling for change. Young people are often leading the way.

As well as responding at local level, Anglicans are also connecting and sharing across the Communion:

- **The Anglican Communion Environmental Network** connects people across the Communion. Regional expressions are emerging, such as the newly established Anglican Environmental Network for Africa. There are

**Eco bishops** across the Communion who make ecological concerns a particular focus of their ministry. The Most Reverend Julio Murray, Archbishop of Central America, is the Communion's lead archbishop for the environment.

- Anglicans are sharing experiences and best practice, for example using the **Pastors and Disasters toolkit** to be equipped for disaster preparedness and response. There is an active programme to **increase resilience** to disasters across the Communion and there is a climate resilience community of practice.
- The **Anglican Alliance** provides a convening platform after disasters, coordinating responses across the Communion.
- The Anglican Communion has a **Presence at the United Nations** and is accredited to the UN Environment Assembly, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, enabling Anglican **voices** and **experiences** to be shared in these pre-eminent global decision-making spaces.
- A number of resolutions on the environment and climate change have been adopted by the **Anglican Consultative Council** and **Lambeth Conferences**.

## INSPIRATION

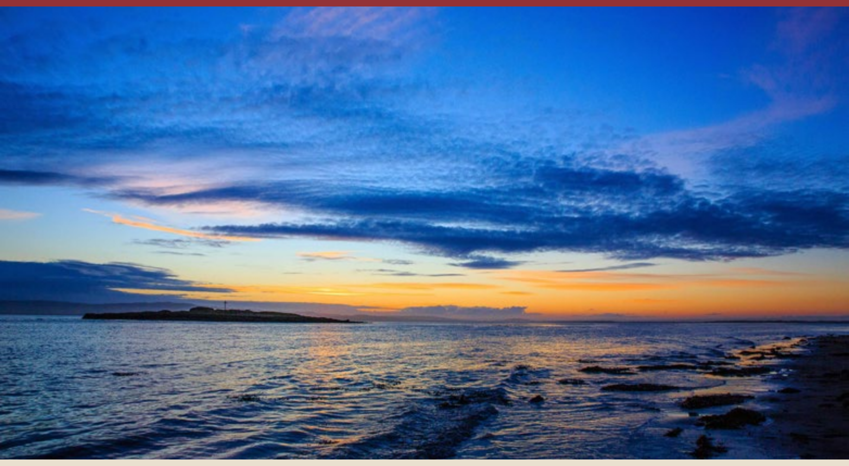
### Anglican youth in Tonga

In 2017, the young people of All Saints Anglican Church in Tonga underwent training on Community Integrated Vulnerability Assessments offered by the University of the South Pacific. The training used a toolkit that includes geo-satellite imaging to map vulnerable areas in a community. Shortly afterwards, the youth were called on to implement their learning when Tropical Cyclone Gita hit Tonga in February 2018.

The young people carried out a pre-cyclone vulnerability assessment, through which they identified who was most vulnerable to the approaching storm. They collected $300 with which they bought essential supplies for ten widows and elderly people in the community. After the cyclone, the young people assessed the damage and quickly went about cleaning up their community. They also drafted a report, which they submitted to overseas partners. Appeals by the partners resulted in two containers' worth of building materials, tools and sufficient emergency supplies for some 40 families in four parishes of the Episcopal Unit of Tonga.

Such was the impact of this journey that in 2018 the general synod of the Anglican church in Tonga adopted a motion calling for a framework to enhance the resilience of the church towards climate change and disasters. This included the creation of a climate change commissioner for the church, whose priorities include theological education and advocacy on climate change, disaster preparedness, resilience, partnership, the issue of climate displacement, and, ironically in an ocean setting, access to water.

The resilience and disaster response skills of the Anglican church in Tonga have been invaluable in helping the communities respond to the devastation of the 2022 volcanic eruption and tsunami inundation.



## RESOURCES

- The **Anglican Communion Environmental Network** has a host of **resources** and useful links. **Sign up** for their regular newsletter and **follow Green Anglicans** on Facebook.
- Read the **Lambeth Call on Environment and Sustainable Development**, as shared by the bishops of the Lambeth Conference in 2022.
- Be inspired by stories of change on the **Communion Forest** website.
- The **Climate Emergency hub** on the Anglican Alliance has many resources and stories, including: information

about climate change, impacts of climate change across the Anglican Communion and examples of local level responses to climate change across the Communion.

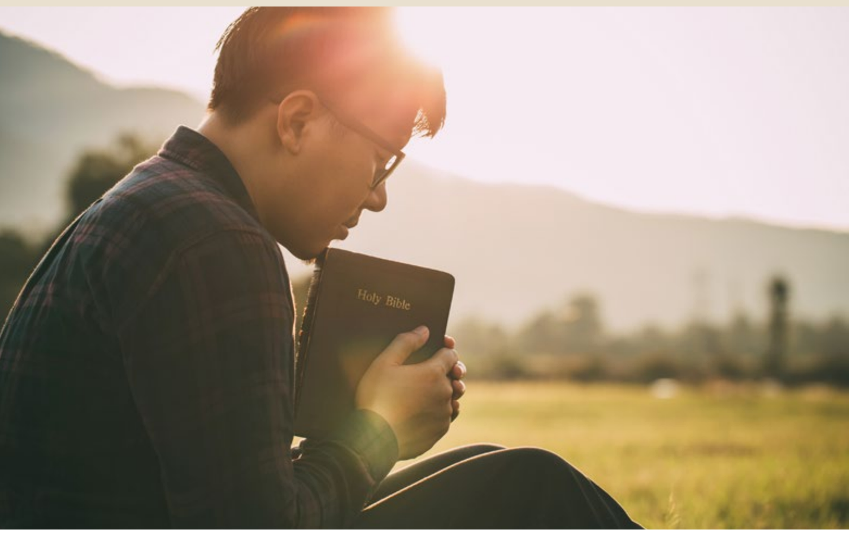
- The **Anglican Indigenous Network's** videos **Prophetic Indigenous Voices on the Planetary Crisis** are stunning, with contributions from Aotearoa & Polynesia, Africa, Amazonia and the Arctic.
- The Anglican Communion has 'special consultative status' with the United Nations.

  This means that the Anglican Communion is authorised to give feedback, speak out on important topics, or raise questions at United Nations meetings.

  All year-round Anglicans are advocating for change in how governments care for the environment. Once a year an Anglican delegation goes to the UN's main decision-making event on climate change: COP.

  Find out more about **Anglicans and the UN**

  Find out more about **relevant webinars**
- Download an **Ecotheology Guide** produced by TEAC. It combines a set of video presentations on ecological theology and practice, along with guidance for facilitators.
- **On Creation – a letter to the Anglican Communion** from Archbishop Emeritus Winston Halapua.
- **Families and the Climate Emergency** newsletter published jointly by the International Anglican Family Network, Anglican Communion Environment Network and Anglican Alliance, March 2020.
- **Climate Change and Gender Justice** newsletter published by the International Anglican Women's Network, June 2021.
- **Prayers and reflections** from the Anglican Alliance.
- **Content for a Do-It-Yourself Climate Webinar** from the Anglican Alliance.
- The **Season of Creation** runs from September 1st to October 4th each year. Anglicans across the world contribute to creating the resources.



## PRAYER AND REFLECTION

### Lament and confession:

- Lament what is happening to the earth: the habitats and ecosystems destroyed; the land degraded and rivers poisoned; the species lost; the rising temperatures.
- Confess our part in it: our failure to tend and protect the earth.

### Pray for all on the frontline of the environmental crises:

- For all living with the daily reality of the climate emergency – facing floods, storms, droughts, wildfires, rising sea levels – and having to cope with their many consequences.
- For all who respond to disasters, especially local churches who are often the first responders and the **Anglican agencies** across the Communion engaged in humanitarian work.
- For all who defend the earth.
- For young people, who are often severely affected by **climate anxiety**, and working for solutions to problems they did not create; alongside **young people's varying perceptions of church** action in this arena.

### Pray for change makers:

- For national, local, non-governmental and business leaders to be bold and courageous as they take the steps necessary to tackle the triple environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- For all faith leaders as they call people to a better and more compelling vision of cooperation, shared humanity, interconnectedness and the common good, calling out the false security of nationalism.

### Pray for ourselves:

- Pray for one another, that we will have the courage to face the environmental crisis; that we will listen to Indigenous voices; that we will be prepared to change; that we will act both to build resilience to disasters and to make them less likely to happen.
- Pray for all within the Anglican Communion who are striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth, whether individually, in a local community, in a diocese or province, or connecting across the whole Communion.
- Pray that we will treasure the precious gift we have as a

Communion, a connected body that is both local and global, and care for one another – and our common home – deeply.

**And pray for God's good earth and its creatures in all its wonder and intricacy.**

## NEED SUPPORT?

To keep up to date with work in the Anglican Communion on responding to the climate crisis and creation care, sign up to the ACEN newsletter here: **Sign up**

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