1. **The Churches in Britain & the Climate-Environment Emergency
2) The 7 (11) Churches in Settle, (CTISAD) N Yorks**

Briefing by Judith Allinson for talk to Action on Climate Emergency, Settle 8 Feb 2020

1. *This is a very fast moving situation (that in itself, is heartening)*
2. *There is not space to mention everything.
If people want to add things feel free to contact me:* *Judith@greenchristian.org.uk*

**Theology: (in my view)**

1. God created the world – we should look after it, and maintain its biodiversity to honour God (whatever our different appreciations of God)
2. We want to do what is good and right for the sake of God/Jesus. (or even our own integrity) Looking after the planet for future generations is a “good” thing to do
3. There are various aspects of theology that can be quoted from the bible, and books have been written.
4. **The Churches in Britain and the Climate-Environment Emergency**

I think you will be impressed to hear what is going on. I hope can then tell or ask your local church or Christian neighbours and others about it.

**Environment-Christian organisations:**

**Green Christian** (formed 1982)

A membership organisation for Christians (of all denominations) who care about the environment. It provides resources, enables networking and mutual encouragement. Campaigns and activities arise as a result of this. These activities may be carried out at an individual or local church level. I edit the website. [greenchristian.org.uk/whats-on/](https://greenchristian.org.uk/whats-on/)

**A Rocha** (formed about 1982)

Initially supported a nature reserve in Portugal called A Rocha. Then it had a project on the reserve in Southall. Now it has partner organisations in many different countries, e.g. A Rocha Ghana. It has other activities a bit like Green Christian. It currently manages the Eco Church project [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/](https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/)

**Operation Noah**

Launched 2003: The Churches’ Climate Change campaign. It started as a Green Christian project. It encourages churches to disinvest from fossil fuels [operationnoah.org/](https://operationnoah.org/)

**Christian Climate Action**

This is a group. It is not a charity. Many of the people in it have been campaigning for years using conventional methods but only getting a tiny response. Some of the people were making nonviolent direct action protests before Extinction Rebellion Started. It is like a Christian branch of Extinction Rebellion. The Leeds branch of Christian Climate Action has meetings Saint Georges Church,LS1 3BR on 17th, 28th Feb and an Ash Wednesday walk/vigil/protest on 26 Feb Meet Millennium Square (Outside the Museum) 10 am. https://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/campaigning

**Statement:**

[**Laudato Si: On care for our common home**](http://columban.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf) 2015

This is a book written by Pope Francis (Letter with 246 paragraphs and 182 pages). It has enabled Catholic environment activists so show the rest of their church how important the environment is. [bit.ly/LaudatoSiRead](http://bit.ly/LaudatoSiRead)

**Big established Christian charities / church agencies**

These get funding due to collections and work in all the churches: i.e. nearly everyone in the churches support them for all the work they do, whatever they do, not just environmentalists

**Christian Aid: (protestant) – CAFOD (Catholic) - TEARFUND (evangelical protestant)**

These have had several environment and debt and tax projects and campaigns. Their workers see how climate change - droughts, sea-level rise, storms - is making the poor people poorer. They see how tax systems are failing to collect the money to be used for good governance – hospitals, education, conservation etc.

Churches Together in Settle raised over £3309 for Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week from people in Settle and Giggleswick &Langcliffe. Thank you. (We welcome more collectors for this May)

**Christian Aid** has a new project for 2020 being launched in March: “[Demand a New Deal for Climate Justice](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/climate-justice-petition)” with five points they are asking the government and society to implement. [bit.ly/XAidClimateJustice](http://bit.ly/XAidClimateJustice)

More organisations:

**Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI):**This is a small organisation enabling the different denominations to work together.

**EIN - Environment Issues Network**. This sub-group of CTBI meets three times a year: Delegates come from the major denominations and from the Christian Environment Charities. Thus the organisations can share what is going on. At the last meeting it was decided to employ a person to organise a “Creation Sunday” in Nov leading up to COP 26

[**ECEN**](https://www.ecen.org/): European Christian Environment Network: This has conferences for people from all over Europe once every two years. The next one is in Germany in August

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1. **The 7 Churches in Settle (plus 4 more in surrounding villages) - Green Activities.**

Churches Together in Settle and District: [www.ctisad.org.uk](http://www.ctisad.org.uk)

 **Carbon footprint.**

The Leeds Anglican Diocese has paid for an Excel Tool to be made so that churches can calculate their carbon footprint. We have used it at St John’s Methodist. – Here is the graph produced – ask me about it. They have made a simpler version now.

**Green Journey**:

Green energy procurement consulting firm. The Leeds Anglican Diocese had arrangement with it to organise electricity and gas companies to get “greener” fuel. It has been spread to other denominations now. If you look at the [Green Journey video on Vimeo 2:02](https://greenjourney.org/about.html) min into the video you can see someone at Langcliffe Church being interviewed three years ago. [greenjourney.org/about.html](https://greenjourney.org/about.html)

**Eco Explorers**

We ran this for two 3 morning sessions last summer at Tom Lord’s Lower Winskill. We have indoor afternoon sessions once every three months: Children’s (and adults’) nature activities with a short celebration, then picnic lunch. The next indoor one will be 23 Feb or 1 March. (Still deciding – any preference?)

**Settle Justice and Peace Group.**

This started out as a subcommittee ofChurches Together in Settle and meets monthly. It organises Open Speaker Meetings some months such as next Wednesday when we have Daniel Willis is coming from Global Justice Now to speak on “International Development for Britain: Back to the Bad old Days". (It will be in the Quaker Meeting House) Last year several of you came when we had Mike Berners Lee talking on “No Planet B.” <https://justicepeacesettle.wordpress.com/>

**Eco Church** (Bronze, silver and gold) and **Simply Living (Catholic)** are awards that churches can apply for**.**

**St John’s Methodist** has gained a Bronze Eco Church Award very recently. (We will make publicity about it once the plaque has arrived). We had to fill in an online form looking at four sets of questions - regarding buildings, worship and teaching; buildings; community and global engagement; and lifestyle (We did not do the land section because we now own very little). Some sections we did not score so well so over last year we worked on those - e.g we had four services linked to care of the environment last September.

If we want a silver ward we will have to do more things.

**St Mary and Michael Catholic Church** have been working 2 years towards the Simply Living Award and two people are coming to do the assessment this week. Maggie is going to tell you about it. <http://www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk/livesimply>

**The Friends Meeting House** is very green and gained the Christian Ecology Link Millennium Certificate in 1999. They would qualify for an Eco Church award now –maybe even silver – without trying.

It would be really good if the two Anglican churches would apply for the Eco Church Award. The Leeds Diocese is really keen to become an “Eco Diocese” and for that they need to have 5 per cent of the Churches with an Eco Church Award.

I visited the **Settle Christian Fellowship** two weeks ago for a coffee morning and was most impressed with the way Pastor Tony has made some panels to insulate the windows out of corrugated transparent PVC type sheeting. They can be lifted out ever so easily to clean behind them if necessary.

**THE DENOMINATIONS at national level.**

The different denominations have different projects. There is not space to cover them here. But since it is topical I will mention that The Anglican Church. It has declared it will get itself carbon neutral by 2045, but this this Wed 12 Feb at Synod in the morning there is a motion to revise this to 2030**.**

[**www.ctisad.org.uk**](http://www.ctisad.org.uk)