

‘A Rocha’ is an organisation that combines hands-on practical conservation work with a deeply rooted biblical faith. As the Parish of the Resurrection Eco Church group, we have just been awarded our ‘A Rocha’ Bronze Award’ as we have endeavoured to be more ecologically aware throughout the whole Parish. **So please join us in prayer for Climate Justice as we help fill the year with prayer for a World where everyone can flourish!**

The Anglican Communion’s fifth mark of mission is this ‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth’

In November the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) with the aim of bringing leaders from across the world together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As we head towards this summit it is vital that we underpin it with prayer. To this end Christian Aid has set up a prayer chain; throughout the year people across the country and the world are committing to pray for climate justice and COP26. As a Parish we have signed up to join the prayer chain on Saturday 5 June between 10am – 12 noon and this is where you come in!

So, please feel free to just contemplate the biblical verses below, which were highlighted by Ruth Valerio at a recent Winchester Diocese Eco Evening (Ruth is a founder member of ‘A Rocha’ and now works as Director of Global Advocacy and Influencing for Tearfund, which as an organisation works through the church on the ground to tackle the root causes of poverty, respond to disasters and see people’s lives transformed) and then ask God how you should pray or feel free to use the suggestions included with the verses. Thank you and together, we can make a difference, because environmental care should be part of every Christian’s life, it tells us so very clearly in the bible…

1. **God made this world and He loves His whole creation**: Gen1:31, Ps65:9, Job 38-39, Mathew 10:29, Hebrews 1:3, Col 1:16-17 God says his world and his creation are ‘very good’. God the creator and God the saviour go hand in hand. Please pray that people have a deeper heart for this World and for open eyes to see how we can look after it better than we are.
2. **God has created us to look after all that he has made**: Gen 1:26-28, 2:15, Lev 25:1-5. God wants us to rule with service, justice, servanthood, stewardship and compassion. Please pray that as individuals and corporately we can do this
3. **God’s creation has gone wrong because of us**: Gen 3, Deut 28, and Amos 8. Ruth explained this was a direct result of human sin, injustice and oppression. Ruth gave examples of local climate crisis, when the poorer farming communities cut down trees for fuel but then their land can’t support crop propagation because of soil erosion. She gave examples of global climate crisis due to the richer industrial communities and heavy industry. Ruth talked about the poorer communities in the World that can’t afford waste management , so it either builds up or is being burnt both resulting in higher incidence of disease. She spoke of species extinction and loss of biodiversity emphasising that each species bears the fingerprints of God. And finally, she spoke of the plastic crisis where ocean creatures are drowning in plastic, there are plastic granules in our food having come down the food chain and there are plastic fibres in the air that we are breathing in. She stressed that both rich and poor communities are linked with the environment and as such, can’t be separated. Please pray into these situations or look at the newspaper cuttings for other examples of where God’s creation has gone wrong because of us and pray into those, thank you.
4. **God has a future for His whole creation**: Gen2:4, Ps19:1, Rom 1:20, Col 1:16, Rev 4, Isa 43:18-21, Rom 8:19-22, Eph 1:9-10, Rev 21-22. In conclusion, Ruth reminded us at the Eco church evening that as representatives from our Churches and Parishes that God has a plan for this World when Heaven and Earth come together. Amen and thank you for joining us in prayer as we join together with others across the World.

During her talk, Ruth gave the example of the last Climate talks in Paris and explained that Faith communities came together to pray that the countries involved in the talks would have agreement. These groups prayed before and throughout the week of the talks and Praise God that for the first time, there was agreement on the main issues. Tearfund and Christian Aid have resources to help ‘pray for the climate’ in advance and during this year’s November climate talks in Glasgow if you would like more information.

**For further Information and Resources to encourage environmental care:**

**Parish Web Site** for ideas/ecological tips/pointers and prayers and also to contact the POTR Eco Church Team**:** http://www.potr-alton.co.uk

**Christian Aid:** <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

**Tearfund:** see ‘resource section’ on their site for prayers and action www.[tearfund.org](http://tearfund.org)

**Ruth Valerio’s talk can be found by following this link**: https://www.winchester.anglican.org/the-environment/