



Our global connections

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the Universe” ⁽¹⁾ John Muir wrote in 1911. The idea that our lives are connected to those of the rest of humanity rings as true today as it did then, but perhaps when we consider climate change there is an urgency in the need for us to remember this.

How we choose to live our lives has a direct impact on the lives of other people. The way we choose to travel, the food we eat, the way we heat our homes, our continuing demands for goods and services and the way we deal with the waste produced all have a direct impact on other people.

Certainly the worst of the changes in weather patterns can be seen in other areas of the world producing severe storms and conversely severe droughts leading to famines and other humanitarian crises:

- Pollution of water courses and air as other countries attempt to recycle our rubbish affect the health of many people.
- Effects of global warming on our oceans and on plants and animals threaten the web of life.

Inequalities can be seen too in the ability of countries to respond to the Covid 19 pandemic, with less affluent countries struggling to provide basic healthcare, sanitation and access to food.

In this month where leaders from across the globe converge on Glasgow for COP26 to consider how best to address the issue of climate change and agree a way forward working together, how will we respond to ensure a fairer world for current and future generations?



Conversation Starters:

How do you feel when you hear about the effects of climate change on the planet and the effects it has on people's lives?

As Scotland comes to the forefront of international attention, what message would you like the leaders to take home to their country about what is happening in this country?

Is it easy to adopt the kinds of changes that experts suggest we need to if we are to reduce our impact on the world's climate? What makes these easy/ tricky to do? (eg: eating less meat, reducing waste, insulating our homes, using public transport, changing the kinds of energy we use, buying Fairtrade goods)

Do you feel differently about any of these changes in the light of the pandemic? How have the views and behaviour of other people changed?

⁽¹⁾My first Summer in the Sierra.



Some ideas for actions for the young at heart (And not so young)

Make a display on the theme- “Everything is connected” -

Visit a COP26-related event. (See Eco-Congregation [upcoming events](#) page for details)

Choose 5 different foods and map their journey from producer to your plate. What is the impact of these different foods on the planet, and on people? Could you source any of these foods locally or grow them yourselves?

Look for Fairtrade goods when you shop. If you aren't already perhaps you could consider becoming a fairtrade congregation.

Find out more about other charities such as Christian Aid, SCIAF and Tearfund and the work they are doing. Could you find ways to support their work?



Bible References

Matthew 25 31-46: It's tough, but this is what we're faced with. We know what our species is doing. Additionally, include other species in those treated well or badly: “What you did to the Earth, you did to me!”



Prayer by Elizabeth South, Trustee, Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Thank you, God, for the richness and diversity of all you have created.

We thank you for the abundance of what Earth has to offer all humankind - air to breathe, light, water, energy, food, shelter, precious metals and minerals, and so much more...

For the beauty and the complexity of the eco-system which sustains our lives as well as every other living thing.

We ask your forgiveness that we have not always used the Earth's resources well, and have often exploited them for our own gain.

We ask your forgiveness that our choices and actions have impoverished other lives.

Renew our awareness of our global connections with people, and with all of your creation.

Renew our awareness that each life is important and that we are all equal in your sight.

We pray especially for those visiting Scotland for COP 26

Open our ears to hear their stories

Open our eyes to see their ways of life

Open our hands to give and to receive hospitality.

Inspire us with a sense of urgency to work together on reducing the harm to our climate and to preserving life on Earth for future generations.

In the name of the One who came to show us the way of love,

Our Saviour Jesus Christ,

Amen