

A journey into climate justice



'If they destroy the forest, if they destroy the eco-system – they destroy the way they live.'

Alejandro Aleman, Oficial de Cambio Climático: Climate Change Officer Nicaragua

We cannot look at the world and not see the need for a vision that lies in the hope of God's kingdom come. We live in the tension of the world around us and the world we want to build together. As people of faith, we are called like the prophets of old to share a bright and distinct hope with the world. One of those hopes is that we might work together to challenge the injustice at the heart of the climate crisis.

Our strength is in working together as the church – let's walk together in the journey towards climate justice. You won't need any special provisions for this journey – just hope, faith, humility, the ability to listen and a desire for change. We might not be able to fix every problem, but we believe everyone can help change the world for the better. We've spent several years apart from our neighbours and friends; the time has come to reach back out into our local communities and to have conversations – to get creative and to speak truth to power – about the things that really matter.

Steps on the journey

There are a number of ways you can engage with our call for climate justice this year. You could do one of them – you could do all of them! Our vision is one where every type of community – a church, a cathedral, a school, a village, a community group – shapes their own journey towards climate justice, using the ideas on the next page (or throw in some of your own)!

'The ones who are suffering the most are those who are least responsible. It's the worst injustice that the world has ever known. This is why we need to ask the countries that are most responsible to take appropriate measures to address the issues. They need to repay and repair, and pay for the damage that has been done.'

Aldrin Calixte - Haiti Survie (a Christian Aid partner)



Have conversations!

Talking Climate Justice Tour

'Spur one another on toward love and good deeds' (Hebrews 10:24)

Really great conversations are more than just a chat – they can help us unpack big challenges, stir up hope and lead us into action. We're inviting you to host climate justice conversations that do just that! We'll provide you with the tools you need to inspire powerful conversations that lead to climate action.



Who do you want to invite to your conversation?

Could you get a local speaker or leader to join you?

Get creative!

Letters for Creation

Letters for Creation is a prophetic arts project that enables people of all ages to learn about climate justice and respond creatively with art that captures their hopes for the future. This art can be used in exhibitions in your local community: in school, in church, in a village hall, or your closest cathedral! We have lots of resources to help you prepare for this and learn about climate justice, as well as materials to help facilitate art-making and get the most impact from your exhibitions. We even have a poster and postcard pack of art that's already been made to help get you started.



Could you invite a local artist to run the workshops in your community?



Speak truth to power!

Who pays for climate breakdown?

People living on the frontlines of the climate crisis across the world – in Bangladesh, Mali, Haiti and other climate-vulnerable nations – are already paying the greatest price. People are losing their lives, livelihoods and culture. Their homes, crops and cities are being damaged. This is the injustice at the heart of the crisis: that those who have done least to cause it are suffering the worst effects. We believe that, polluters must pay for the loss and damage caused by their actions. Join Christian Aid in campaigning for a dedicated fund to help countries cope with the loss and damage that they face.

We can provide you with all the tools you need to tell decision-makers that you think the time has come for climate justice.



What will you do?

So, what next steps would you like your church and community to take on this journey? Do you have some ideas? Will you organise a big conversation to talk climate justice? Will you make some art with Letters for Creation? Will you speak truth to power on Loss and Damage? Maybe you will do all three together! Or one at a time. Whatever you decide will be distinctively shaped by your community – and you will be part of a growing movement this year and beyond, as groups, schools and churches across the country take up the call for climate justice.



If you have any questions or need more information email campaigns@christian-aid.org
Or visit caid.org.uk/climate

How might your journey into climate justice look this year?

Here are some case studies to spark some ideas about ways you could involve your community.



Church A

Church A and its neighbouring church primary school teamed up to exhibit their Letters for Creation. They started by exploring the concept of climate justice. The schools used the Letters for Creation lesson plans whilst the church used the small group resource pack.

Following some great conversations and time for reflection, church home groups and the school got together and made art (using the provided artwork facilitation guide) and then created an exhibition which the church hosted over a fortnight.

The local MP attended the exhibition and met with students to discuss their works of art. The students relished the opportunity to speak directly to a member of Parliament, whilst members of the church congregation, equipped with Christian Aid's campaign briefing, encouraged her to raise the issue of Loss and Damage in Parliament.

Keen to ensure they maintained momentum, the key players in the exhibition organised a whole-church conversation that led them to forming a working group reporting to the Church Council.

Plans are now in development for a permanent exhibition of the Letters for Creation artwork, the appointment of a volunteer Christian Aid Campaigns Organiser, and further community events on climate justice around Harvest. There are also ongoing Bible study exchanges with churches in Uganda as part of the Diocesan Companion Links programme.



Church B

Driven by a challenge from the church's youth group for the church to speak out for climate justice, the minister, two elders and the youth group leader of Church B attended one of Christian Aid's regional-level "Talking Climate Justice Tour" events.

They subsequently held a conversation in their church (using Christian Aid's toolkit) which attracted half of the church membership, more than any previous conversation on climate justice – showing the importance of getting the church leader on board. Their conversation resulted in the church taking part in Letters for Creation.



The church drew inspiration from the Letters for Creation Impact Toolkit and decided to invite other churches in the town to join by hosting an exhibition of climate justice based artwork they'd created (using the artwork facilitation guide).

They opened the exhibition with a family-friendly event, which their MP and local councillors attended. This featured workshops with an art teacher from one of the participating schools, and a presentation by the youth group on the Loss and Damage campaign. Guests were encouraged to sign the Loss and Damage petition and to share their Letters for Creation via social media.

Church C

Church C's journey into climate justice began when a preacher referred to the Loss and Damage campaign as part of a Christian Aid Week service. This sparked the interest of the church's Creation Care working group who collected petition signatures and shared details of the campaign in the church newsletter.

However, they felt that there was so much more that their church should be doing in relation to climate justice and that their church had become more inward-looking in recent years. They identified Letters for Creation as a vehicle for engaging the wider congregation in a hope-filled, creative and outward-looking conversation.

One of the church's home groups trialled the small group resource for Letters for Creation, and such was the response that all the other home groups were also using it within a month, each producing their own Letters for Creation.

The Creation Care group met with the pastor and home group leaders and organised a presentation of the artworks during Harvest Festival and a whole church conversation on climate justice over a bring-and-share harvest lunch.

A few church members, so impressed with the artworks and their strong message of a need to act, arranged to send artworks to the local MP, and they included Christian Aid's MP briefing on their Loss and Damage campaign. They received a positive response from the MP, although they know they'll need to follow up to keep them to account on the MP's promises.

Reinvigorated by the response from the MP, the church has re-committed themselves to the Eco-Church scheme (known as Eco-Congregation in Scotland), and are now pushing for a Gold Award, inviting churches in the town to join it in hosting an exhibition of climate justice-based artwork they'd created (using the artwork facilitation guide).

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