

Church Eco News (November 2023)

Dear Members,

Well, the weather recently hasn't been exactly uplifting has it. Three named major storms in the last three months, and most recently even some flooding here in the Stretton's, though thankfully nothing as serious as in other part of the country. Two weeks ago the flood at the bottom of Clive Avenue reached the hall doors and the old boiler room was flooded up to the ceiling!! Fortunately the flood pump did its job and little damage was done.

It could be all doom and gloom but how about some **good news**.

There are new Climate Action groups springing up around the county and several Town and Parish Councils have drawn up local Climate Action Plans. Repair Café's are helping repair items we might otherwise throw away and increasing numbers of houses in our community now have solar P.V. panels in their roof's. (These are often providing up to half the home's electricity requirements and of course this is green renewable electricity.) With the help of a Government grant, local Heat Pump installers are busy replacing gas boilers with clean, carbon free heating systems and help is beginning to be provided for those suffering from "Climate Anxiety."

I often hear folk say "I'm too old to do anything, it's all too expensive and my small effort won't make any difference." **But you can.** Just like in a football match, individual members of the team on their own may not make much difference, apart from the goal scorers, but by working together the team can be successful. Taking every opportunity to recycle, reduce, and repair can, collectively make a difference.

Shropshire as a County is not on track to reach Net Zero and the restoration of biodiversity by 2030 and at the moment carbon emissions still continue to rise worldwide. Talk to each other about what you are able to do, what makes it difficult and what you would like to do in the future.

The recent A Rocha (Eco Church) newsletter <https://arocha.org.uk/sunaks-slow-down-on-climate-separating-fact-from-fiction/> had the following lead article entitled "Sunak's slow down on climate: separating fact from fiction." It was surprisingly political and I have taken the liberty of copying the opening paragraph.

"On 20 September, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced radical changes to a raft of environmental policies in what he called a "pragmatic, proportionate and realistic" approach to net zero by 2050. In the last few weeks, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), the government's own advisors on climate, have offered a blistering rebuttal. Far from 'realistic', the CCC have warned that these policy reversals have damaged the UK's ability to meet our climate commitments and will keep energy bills high for millions of households."

The delaying of these green pledges may save some money in the short term but kicking the can down the road ultimately results in reaching Net Zero Carbon by 2050 all the more expensive and difficult.

Jeremiah the Prophet found himself thrown down a dry well because the rulers of the city didn't like his prophecy foretelling the future destruction of Jerusalem. His prophecy proved true. Climate deniers, like those against Jeremiah don't like to face up to the truth of what is happening and would have us put our heads in the sand. As Pete Postlethwaite said in the film *The Age of Stupid*, "our children and grandchildren won't thank us for ignoring what the scientists have been warning of for years.

What more do you, as members of our church fellowship feel we should be doing?

If you have any ideas, tell your Eco committee, and we will try and put them in place.

Jon Cooke

Sally Williams

Trish Howard.



The stream in Carding Mill Valley after the torrential downpour, showing how much damage is being done. As the atmosphere warms up it can hold more water vapour and we will increasingly see more extreme rainfall. Photo by Mike Hymas