



***The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it.  
(Psalm, 24:1)***

Bramhall Methodist Church in Stockport has declared this year as 'Climate Year', partly in acknowledgement of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) which is planned to take place in Glasgow later this year. Representatives from 197 nations and territories from around the world will discuss how further temperature rises can be minimised and the best ways of ensuring that vulnerable people do not continue to be adversely affected by the climate crisis.

The church family at Bramhall have been involved in activities to help them become more informed about the challenges that our planet is facing, including a series of online talks called 'Praying for our Planet' at which a scientist, who is also a Christian, talks about how their work affects what they pray for and gives a perspective on a faithful response to climate change. They also have a 'Hymn writer in residence' who is preparing new hymns inspired by the issues raised in the talks.

Whilst we may not be scientists, government negotiators or hymn writers, we also need to 'Pray for our Planet' as well as for the communities affected by climate change, and groups such as Christian Aid trying to help them. We have a responsibility to inform ourselves about the climate crisis and other environmental issues and what we can do to help take care of God's creation. The Methodist Church website has some great resources (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/environment-and-climate-change/>) and this year's prayer handbook "The Earth is the LORD's", acknowledges the impact that human activities are having on our world.

Did you know, for example, that the Methodist Church has an Environmental Policy? As churches we could work towards becoming an Eco Church, taking small steps such as

- \* switching to a green energy company,
- \* using Fairtrade products
- \* leaving part of church grounds for wildlife
- \* host a group bible study looking at creation and climate change
- \* plan a Climate Sunday service for September 5th (or Harvest).

**Julia Branson** Circuit Steward



**Saturday 5 June is World Environment Day.** Take time to pray for our world with other Christians.

**Eternal God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light and life; by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in your people.**

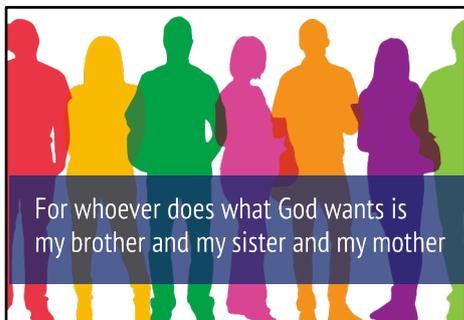
**Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards, that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your works; through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed.**

**Amen.**

Rt Revd Libby Lane,  
Bishop of Stockport

from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-world-environment-day>

**FOR SUNDAY 6 JUNE**  
**1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11:14-15)**  
**Psalm 138**  
**2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1**  
**Mark 3:20-35**



### Green Agents of Change

The Children, Youth and Family Team recently hosted the first online gatherings for children and young people in the Methodist Church who are passionate about climate justice.

Grace aged 8 attended. She has drawn her dream world.

You can read her article at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/for-children-and-young-people/agents-of-change/green-agents-of-change/>



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## LECTIONARY REFLECTION 6 June Mark 3:20 - 35

Revd Tony de Boltz

Blessed and affirmed; Jesus rose from the baptismal waters of the Jordan. Challenged and tempted, yet undefeated; Jesus walked out of His 40 day trial in the desert - prepared. As He began His Kingdom work of teaching and healing, Jesus gathered crowds and Disciples. Meanwhile, rumours reached Jerusalem of this itinerant threat to the status quo of the powerful, consequently learned troublemakers are sent to "contain and manage" the risk.

In today's reading Jesus goes "home", probably to Peter's house in Capernaum. Jesus and his disciples sole appetite is to respond to the individual need of the increasing numbers of souls drawn to Jesus and the Gospel. The family's concern at Jesus behaviour <sup>v21</sup>"He is out of His mind" becomes subverted by the Jerusalem scribes seeking to discredit <sup>v22</sup> "...By the prince of demons he is driving out demons!" In resisting Satan's temptations in the desert, Jesus has already proved himself the "stronger man". Now through healing, and the forgiving of sins He is plundering Satan's trove. But, beware, don't believe the scribes conspiracy theory that the Holy Spirit's work is Satan's or you'll miss out on the blessing!

In the eyes of the world the Kingdom of God seems topsy-turvy: the first shall be last – the last first, the servant King upon the throne. In this Kingdom the lowly are lifted high. Whoever heard of a Kingdom where the royal family welcomes us as brother, sister or mother? The entry requirement? Trust, believe Jesus and do God's will

### Climate Justice for All [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

2021 will be a pivotal year in the fight against the climate crisis. In November, the UN will hold its annual climate conference (the Conference Of Parties 26, or COP26) in Glasgow. 'Climate Justice for All' is a global campaign led by young people employed by the Methodist Church from Britain, Fiji, Italy, Uruguay and Zambia. The goal is to encourage Methodist churches and partners around the world to commit to taking action for climate justice and call on their representatives at the COP to make climate justice possible for everyone.

'Climate Justice for All' has two main focuses:

Equipping vulnerable communities on the front lines of climate change with the resources they need to adapt to the changing world.

Fairness, promoting action where the highest emitting countries commit to being the most ambitious in reducing carbon to net-zero and supporting efforts in other countries to reduce carbon outputs and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The campaign will equip communities around the world with resources to better understand the issues surrounding climate change and inspire action. Volunteers from all six continents will help to shape the campaign so that it is empowering in all of our global contexts. The campaign will culminate with a 12-hour livestreamed event in Glasgow during COP26, which will celebrate the work of the campaign from around the world, through music, prayer, dance, and other forms of worship. The online event will enable everyone who was involved in the campaign from around the world to take part, including you!

This global campaign is supported by JPIT, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain, with funding from the World Mission Fund.

For more information on 'Climate Justice for All' please visit: [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/cop26/](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/cop26/)

**Climate change Sunday is on 5 September 2021**



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<https://www.ryedalemethodist.org.uk/events.html>  
For further information and service material for Sundays



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