

## COP26 Relay Update

As many of you will be aware, this year, in November, world leaders are meeting in Glasgow at COP26, the UN Climate Conference. These important negotiations are a once in a lifetime chance to tackle climate change. Our newspapers are currently full of examples of heat waves, droughts, forest fires and extreme flooding, all of which are proof of the damages to our environment which have already been done. However, the most recent UN report states that many of the most devastating changes to our planet's climate can still be avoided but only with immediate action. If we do not act now the Earth will reach the critical warming threshold of 1.5 degrees in the next 20 years, or, to put it more bluntly, within many of our lifetimes! We cannot delay, this is the moment to act.



The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) together with Christian Aid have sought to “Rise to the Moment”. God commissions us to rule over his earth in a way that sustains, protects, and enhances his works so that all creation may fulfil the purposes that God intended. We must manage the environment not simply for our own benefit but for God's glory. As an act of faith, love and hope, the YCCN have arranged a relay to walk from Cornwall where the G7 recently met, to COP26 in Glasgow. On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August, members of CTiB joined scores of other walkers as the Relay passed through London. You can read a report from one of our young

people, Imogen, attached. It was a truly inspiring occasion and greatly encouraging to join with so many like-minded people seeking to save our planet for future generations.

Whilst I would like to thank all those of you who have already shown your commitment to the cause, I would also remind others that there is still plenty to be done. In the coming months I would ask for your continued support and prayers for our environmental initiatives at St Mary's Barnes, and our continued effort to "Rise to the Moment." I am reminded of the words of Robert Swan, OBE:

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it"

We can all play our part and the time to start is now. We pray for God's help in our belief that there is still a window of time when, if we all work together, we can start to heal the hurt we have inflicted on our planet.

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