

News from the Ecochurch Team



No more fossil fuels. Amen

God's creation is in trouble. Antonio Guterres, the head of the United Nations says "We are firmly on track towards an unliveable world."

The International Energy Agency said we can have no new fossil fuels after the end of 2021 – yes, 2021, that's not a misprint! Yet the UK government is giving tax breaks to oil companies to open up 100 plus new oil and gas fields. They have even given the go ahead to a new coal mine – against the advice of their own advisors.

On 21-24 April a big rally is taking place around Westminster to demand an end to fossil fuels. The rally is being organised in conjunction with the police. Many of those joining the witness will be Christians, people of faith. Jesus instructed us that we are "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." In participating in this mass protest, we bring our faithful communities into the space as salt, actively working as preservers and transformers in that secular space (and of that secular space), and as communities, even more than as individuals, we do so very visibly, giving light to everyone.

On the first day of the rally, Friday 21 April from 11am, the major Christian development and environmental NGOs are gathering in the gardens of St John's Church, Waterloo. At 12 noon we come together for an hour of prayers, songs and witness. Staff members from Christian Aid, Tearfund, Cafod, Green Christian, Operation Noah,

Christian Climate Action and the Salvation Army are co-operating on preparing the Service.

At around 1pm a Salvation Army youth band will lead us on a Pilgrimage to Parliament Square (step-free and wheelchair friendly). We plan a brief stop outside the Shell building to pray for no more fossil fuels – Amen!

If you do one thing for God's creation this year, this is it. Praying for and demanding climate leadership from our government is more important than anything else you can do. If you cannot come to London then please pray this prayer by Green Christian's Andii Bowsher at noon on April 21st.

Compassionate God, you know our hearts and share our sorrows.
We are hurt by the despoiling of the living Earth, which we love.
We are angry at the loss we contemplate.
We long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear.
Turn our grief to active love
Turn our anger to energy for repair of the world
Turn our guilt to solidarity
and by your forgiveness make us whole with all creation. Amen

Barbara Echlin
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