

Storm of hope

Adaptation and Resilience with Green Christian 2026



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Climate Futures

The 2019 Paris Agreement set a target to keep global warming below 1.5°C. Now we are already there. In fact the latest UN “emissions gap” report foresees nearly 3°C of warming by 2100.

What kind of people does our faith call us to be in the coming climate? In this edition of *Storm of Hope* we invite you to discover what is “yours to do.” As survivors of climate impacts are already discovering, the answer is as much about what is “ours to do,” together – and in Green Christian we believe our churches are called to show the way.

In the coming centuries rising seas are likely to force millions to higher ground. The UK Government is beginning to plan for 4°C, a scenario thought to be incompatible with our current civilisation. Ironically, however, temperatures in Britain could fall by as much as 10°C if the Atlantic current which drives the Gulf Stream fails.

In the midst of these collapsing certainties, it is, as ever, our faith, hope and love that will remain. Let’s hear the call of our times to become existential leaders, and invite our churches to dig deep to the moral and spiritual resources which are the universal commonwealth of faith.

“Any spirituality or religion that is not engaged with the real world is an evasion, a distraction, a fail. Climate breakdown shows that real spirituality today must be engaged, must be eco-logical.... The historic role of the Church in this epochal and terrible civilisational moment is to reclaim spiritual leadership, to address the spiritual crisis head on.... When churches get real about climate-driven food price rises, about poly-crisis-driven energy price rises, about the rising risks of fire and flood and even famine, then they evoke something increasingly concrete and crucial. And secondly, and more specifically, it’s crucial for churches to become community resilience hubs because doing so is quite simply a key way that you can demonstrably and appreciably help.”

Rupert Read

“Cultivating relationships of trust is absolutely core to resilience. Because that’s the fabric within which anything can happen. It’s the foundation on which everything happens. It’s the core work. And as Christians we might want to start with the core relationship as being our relationship to God.”

Vanessa Elston

In his influential paper *Deep Adaptation* Jem Bendell identified four “Rs” guiding how we navigate these mapless times:

Resilience:

How do we keep what we most value?

Relinquishment:

What do we need to let go of?

Restoration:

What can we bring back to help us?

Reconciliation:

With what and whom shall we make peace?

Christians have no monopoly on answers to these, but the Gospel challenges us to be people who pay them attention and help form a society which answers them wisely and joyfully. At Green Christian’s 2025 conference Rupert Read, philosopher and co-founder of the Climate Majority Project called Britain’s churches to account for their faith: “A religious revival is coming,” he said, “The question is whether you will help lead it — or be bypassed by it and rendered irrelevant.”



“May God help us heal this burning Earth.”

Re-pitching the tent

What will climate-responsible Christianity look like? At our 2025 conference we met to sketch out the emerging church. A four-point Call to Mission emerged – challenges both to Christians and to our church institutions.

Witness for a changing climate: Give truthful, Creation-led learning, leadership and worship – learning from others and aspiring to be prophetic in the present crisis.

Build resilient communities: Be a good friend and neighbour – exploring eco-spirituality with hospitality, hope and care, and offering a living oasis for all, through good times and bad.

Provoke discernment: Make things happen, welcoming all and enabling discussion; collaborating with politicians, organisations and people of all faiths for prayer, learning and resilience planning.

Serve our neighbourhoods: Open wide our churches – creating hubs which connect people with activities, resources and practices for practical and spiritual resilience.

Steve says:

We are facing the “collapse of the way of life” that we are accustomed to. This will seriously challenge everyone both practically and spiritually. We all need to be ready, prepared and involved in both areas.



Donations to Green Christian are always welcome. Please click the Donate button on our website to contribute.

If you care about the climate and nature emergencies and making the world a greener and fairer place – why not join Green Christian? Membership begins at £3 per month. Church memberships available. See the back page.

Green Christian Conference Videos



Margaret says:

In collapse, people long for spiritual succour. Lord, I want to be a resilient person myself. And I want to help built resilience in our children and our grandchildren, in our church and our community. Eternal Spirit, have your way in me and through me.



What are churches already doing?

Churches have long and honourable experience in this. But the urgency now is entirely new. Jesus was a child of the Holocene (the era in which today's faiths and civilisations grew). Now, however, we're in a new era – the Anthropocene (human-made era). The landscape is changing, and so is our task. It's time for us to pull up the pegs, roll up the tent, trace where our journey now lies.

The CofE found, via research in 2022, some examples of how churches already help build community resilience. Two parishes in Sheffield Diocese helped lead emergency response to local flooding in 2019 and 2021. In 2019, **St Cuthbert's, Fishlake** provided a base for first responders, access to food, clothes and emotional/spiritual support. Its role lasted five months and it remains a pivotal part of future flood resilience.

St Laurence's Priory, Snaith, where clergy had previously trained in emergency response, acted as the “bronze level” relief point in 2021, providing an emergency response for over 500 people.

When the record heatwave struck in July 2022, **St Mary's, Ellenbrook** near Manchester opened the church as a cool space with cold drinks, wifi and spaces for work and social contact. While the outside temperature peaked at 37.7°C, inside it stayed under 20°C.

How do Christians meet these challenges? Read on for more.....

Recordings of our 2025 conference on the Church's response to climate adaptation and resilience can be found on the Green Christian workshop: <http://bit.ly/buildingontherock> or on the QR code below.

The speakers were: Rupert Read, Climate Majority Project; Jo Chamberlain and Adrian Fox, Church of England Environment Programme; Rev Vanessa Elston, pioneering eco-vicar and chaplain to the Bishop of Kingston. Melanie Nazareth, our Churches Project Officer, chaired the day.

Climate adaptation is a defining challenge for Christian mission today. Let's rise to it. Watch these videos and share them with your own church.





Next steps to explore and questions to ask:

Local congregations:

How is your church already strengthening community bonds and building social capital through your pastoral care, mission and stewardship of buildings?

What can you do to provide an emergency response following extreme weather and other civil contingencies? Who are the leaders, decision-makers and organisations you need to connect with locally in order to contribute to preparedness for climate risks?

What is your church called to do to give spiritual, moral and practical leadership alongside partners in the local community?

How could your church provide space for people to process the more difficult emotions they might feel about the growing impacts of the climate and ecological crisis?

What does your church need to do, additionally or differently, to build local resilience to indirect climate impacts such as food insecurity, uninsurability, mass migration, conflict and injustice towards vulnerable groups?

Ministerial training institutions:

How are you currently equipping your students to minister in the climate of the future?

How does your syllabus need to be updated to build the resilience of their churches, and of the communities they serve?

National and regional church denominations, networks and structures:

What is your church called to do to give moral and practical leadership in civil society?

How can you support your congregations not only to respond to emergencies, but to build society's structural resilience to indirect climate impacts?

What national, regional and local partnerships should you form that will help local congregations play their part at neighbourhood level?

What can we learn here in the UK from how communities and churches in the majority world have been adapting to climate change?

How does your ongoing discipleship and spiritual growth need to be updated so that existing and incoming leaders are prepared for the impacts of climate change, and can prepare others?

Resources:

Green Christian's **Borrowed Time** programme offers, via zoom gatherings, ways to explore and share responses to climate breakdown, in the context of our faith. **Deep Waters** helps people navigate their emotional responses to climate breakdown, through a lens of love, wisdom, and justice, and leads people into active hope. **Cloud and Fire** is for those in ministry, deepening their theological, spiritual and pastoral responses as we travel towards unknown outcomes. It's a form of retreat in daily life, with gatherings over several months and individual reflection between times. Visit our borrowedtime.earth website to find out more.

In 2026 we will publish a **Tool Kit** for churches to help to lead their local community's climate adaptation journey.

Join us

Since 1982 Green Christian has been working with Christians, churches and the Green movement to witness to hope in the ecological crisis. We welcome new members. To find out more about Green Christian visit our extensive website: greenchristian.org.uk. Sign up for our free monthly news email, *prayer diary*, *Joy in Enough* updates or Food news, or contact us for a free introductory pack.

Join Now

Membership on line starts at just £3 a month. Please go to: greenchristian.org.uk/join-us?



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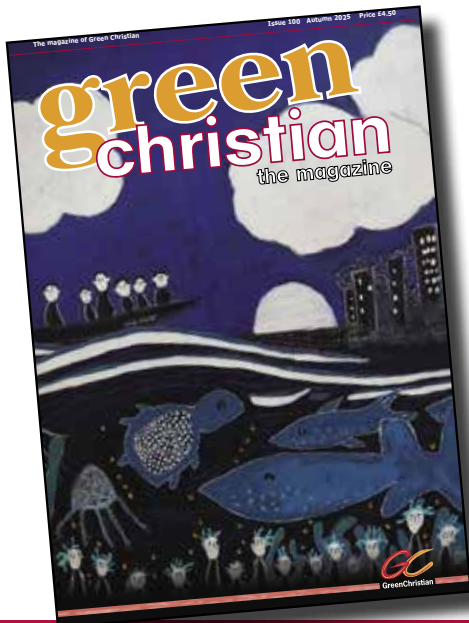
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Green Christian's Aims

Green Christian is an interdenominational UK Christian organisation for people concerned about the environment. It offers insights into ecology and the environment to Christian people and churches, and offers Christian insights to the Green movement. **Basis of Faith:** We affirm our belief in God as Creator of all things and in Jesus Christ as Lord, looking to the Holy Spirit for guidance through the Scriptures, and seeking to hear the Spirit in the challenges of the present time.

Get involved

Prayer: a daily *Prayer Guide* available by email or on our website. Worship resources: hymns, liturgies, points for sermons, plays.

Action:

Events: Green Christian events are open to all, unless specified otherwise.

7 February, Way of Life Day, "Spiritual Adaptation". How can church communities prepare for climate adaptation? 11am-4.30pm, London. For more details, and other events, see the Green Christian website.

Exhibition materials: leaflets, banners and posters giving a Christian perspective on environmental topics.

Food: LOAF promotes food which is Locally grown, Organically produced, Animal friendly and Fairly traded. Keep an eye out for upcoming food-related events and initiatives, including a networking event in London in summer 2026. Sign up for our Food E-newsletter.

Just Economics: Joy in Enough promotes an alternative economy free from growth, debt and the obligation to consume. joyinenough.org

Nature: See our Nature leaflet and also our website.

Living gently: Ideas in our leaflets: Nine Ways to Live Gently and 7Rs: Practical tips for respecting God's Creation

Encouragement:

Green Christian Magazine: a full-colour magazine published twice a year, packed with news, articles, reviews and resources.

Way of Life Community: a dispersed community of people who value and live by the disciplines of Daily Prayer, Living Gently on the Earth, Public Witness and Encouragement.

Local Groups: many groups are directly affiliated to Green Christian, and we offer support, advice and materials to others.

Courage in Eco-anxiety: **Borrowed Time** offers **Deep Waters**, an eight-week shared journey providing support in navigating climate grief and eco-anxiety; **Cloud and Fire**, an eight-session programme for clergy and those in pastoral responsibility; and a **Lent Course**. Visit borrowedtime.earth

Newsletters: twice-monthly Enews on events and resources from Green Christian and other Christian environmental organisations.

Email Discussion Group: CELink – a discussion forum and social network for members.

Gatherings: conferences, retreats and workshops every year. Online discussions, courses and workshops. Open to all.

YouTube channel for recorded talks and discussions. [@GreenChristian](https://www.youtube.com/@GreenChristian)

Website: greenchristian.org.uk

Further details at greenchristian.org.uk or from info@greenchristian.org.uk

