

SYNOD OPEN HOUSE

As promised, here are the slides we used, [and those we didn't use] for the Green Room group, now as a word doc. and pdf. Let me know if you want any slides on a Ppt.

To this has been added some of the points raised by you in both meetings.

Within our objectives you are invited to join a network interested in our churches' environment. This is to be an informal of people willing to share what their church has done already and to ask questions or to keep us up to date with what your church is planning or doing.

In addition to the network, I am aiming to recruit a handful of people from across the Synod interested in being part of a Policy group to develop a Synod Environment Policy to take URC Yorkshire towards 2030 even 2040 goals.

Please contact me greenapostle@urcyorkshire.org if either or both groups is of interest to you.

Thank you. It was really good to meet so many of you on January 16th.

God bless.

Alex Jowitt

Synod Environment Gathering
Saturday, January 16th 2021

what are we aiming for?

- Discern environment issues in churches
- Discuss possible green ways for good stewardship of God's earth
- Encourage churches to sign up to Eco church
 - Signed up churches to attain bronze award
 - Become an Eco Synod
- Create an active network of Green Stewards/apostles
- Prepare to develop an Environment Policy for Yorkshire Synod

Do you believe ?

- global heating is, a) a human activity induced phenomenon or b) a part of earth's natural cycle?
- as Christians our responsibility is 'dominion' or 'stewardship'?
- God, a) allows us to be progressive and 'capitalist' or b) does not sanction current western capitalist profiteering?

Causes of Poverty

Is it ok for 1 billion children to be multidimensionally poor including 356 million living in extreme poverty?

Psychological
Safety
Livelihoods
Esteem
Self-actualisation

Consider

What Poverty has to do with global warming/crisis?

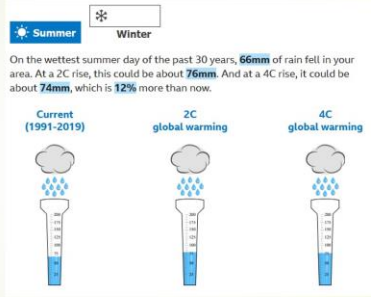
Synod Office LS27 9EP

Your local area
Use buttons to change season
☀ Summer ❄ Winter

The hottest summer day of the past 30 years near you was **34C**. If global average temperatures increase 2C above pre-industrial levels, the hottest summer day could be about **35.5C**. If global temperatures rise by 4C, it could be about **39.7C**.

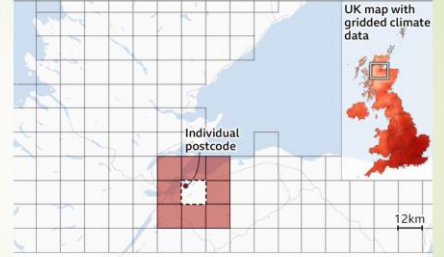
Current (1991-2019) 34.0C
2C global warming 35.5C
4C global warming 39.7C

Rainfall at Synod Office



"My Local Area" is measured by....

How is the data for your postcode calculated?



1. Each postcode is matched to its nearest 12km square grid
 2. The values of the matching grid and its nearest eight are averaged
- Source: BBC, Met Office

Food choices and Greenhouse Gas* emissions

*GHG

How do your food choices impact on the environment?

Which food would you like?
Avocados

How often do you have it?
3-5 times a week

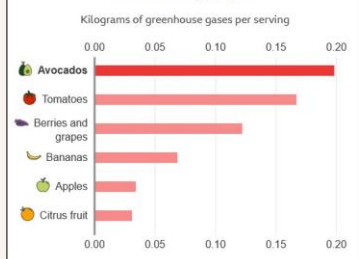
Half an avocado per serving

.... Part 2

Over an entire year your consumption of avocados is contributing **41kg** to your annual greenhouse gas emissions.



How fruit & veg compare



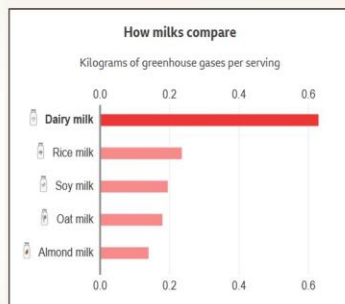
Dairy 200ml glass

Which food would you like?
Milk (dairy)

How often do you have it?
Once a day

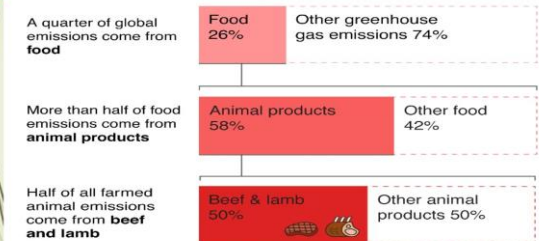
1 glass (200ml) per serving

How Dairy milk compares with nut and vegetable milks



How much impact does food have?

Proportion of total greenhouse gas emissions from food



Source: Poore & Nemecek (2018), Science

Comparisons are global averages

To find out more about your favourite food, go to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>

from 2018 article in Science

Feast to Save the Planet: BBC2 9pm January 4th 2021 [iPlayer]

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/carbon?xtor=ES-211-139926_PANUK_NLT_02_ENG_LockdownLearning_RET_O30-20210112-

[bbcfood_thesimpleformulatocutyourdietscarbonfootprint_food](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/carbon?xtor=ES-211-139926_PANUK_NLT_02_ENG_LockdownLearning_RET_O30-20210112-)

Eco Areas: Worship

- Special times in the church year
 - Climate Sunday: September 4th 2021
- Environment theme one service in each month
- Outdoor services on an environment theme
- Children's programme to be environment rich
- Lent study
- Have you been to a 'green' funeral or to a 'green' wedding?
- Bring new events into the worship calendar
 - All ages
 - Discrete to group

On church grounds

- ▶ Plant trees
- ▶ Leave grass to grow
- ▶ Pollinating plants
- ▶ Cycle rack
- ▶ Wild spaces
- ▶ Compost heaps
- ▶ Bird boxes / bat boxes / bug hotel
- ▶ Not too much weeding
- ▶ Hedgerows – clipping regime
- ▶ Exercise equipment
- ▶ Woodland nursery

Our Church's Environment

- ▶ Purchasing Policy
 - Cleaning materials
 - Food and drink
 - Paper and paperless
- ▶ Water use
- ▶ Energy purchasing
 - Gas
 - Electricity
- ▶ Waste handling
- ▶ Energy generation

Beyond our church's environment

- ▶ Twinning or partnership [toilets, water, schooling, laptops etc]
- ▶ Community activities
 - By or for the neighbourhood
- ▶ Visiting preacher or speaker on an environment topic
 - Open meetings
- ▶ Activity meetings, [film, discussion, event planning etc]
- ▶ Our home lifestyle, [carbon footprint+ travel, clothes etc]
- ▶ What is  AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

A Rocha, One world Week, Climate Sunday and More

- ▶ <https://arocha.org.uk/a-plan-for-net-zero-is-the-governments-new-emissions-target-a-cause-for-hope/>
- ▶ <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>
- ▶ <https://www.climatesunday.org/>
- ▶ <https://www.oneworldweek.org/faith-based>
- ▶ <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>
- ▶ <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>
- ▶ <https://greenchristian.org.uk/>

Summation from Participants

Key Issues

- Getting started
- Gas and Boilers
- Energy suppliers
- Garden
- Insulation
- Changing/'greening' church policy
- Cycle Rack
- Listed Building
- Older buildings
- Other points

Taking The Gospel Further

- JPIT Conference
- Books: Philip or others are you able to add more detail here?
- Tree Planting
- Twinning:
- Grant Funding: do you want to share
- Synod Property grant funding
- Green Building Store website: [local store] <https://www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk/>

Further Options

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GknXxsvqToU&feature=youtu.be>
- ▶ https://www.ted.com/talks/christiana_figueres_the_case_for_stubborn_optimism_on_climate?language=en
- ▶ https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_dramatic_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate_change
- ▶ https://cofehereford.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2019/06/COFE_02316_CrossingTheThreshold-BOOK-12Mar19.pdf
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/GknXxsvqToU>

Contact and Policy group

please add your name in the chat section to be part of the Policy group or to add further questions or comments

Contact Greenapostle@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Policy group

- ▶ Rod Morrison
- ▶ Alex Jowitt
- ▶ Janet Simmons