

The Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago

# *Holy Saviour Parish*

*Sunday 21st February 2010*

## ***Stewardship of Creation - Becoming a Green Parish***



***Heal the World***

**Awareness, Caring, Action.**

*Theme for February - Rethink*





**The Archbishop of Canterbury – Rowan Williams “Climate Change – a Moral Issue- Address to the Tyndall Centre, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

We've just been reminded that the fundamental question is who we are, where do we belong, do we belong anywhere in this world? Because we behave as if we didn't, and one of the underlying, evasive, moral and imaginative questions that arises in thinking about climate change and the wider environmental agenda is this habit, this ingrained tradition of behaving as if we didn't belong, as if we were not part of an interactive system, as if we were brains on stalks. So the moral question is not simply, as you heard, about what you do, it is about imagining who we are, reviving that sense of being part of a system, not one that imprisons or crushes us, but one in which we become who we are by interaction. It's as true of our place overall, as it is true of our social destiny, and possibility, as social and political beings. But to begin there, is of course to remind ourselves that we're now more and more in a world in which conventional political patterns, and conventional ideas of local and national sovereignties, are challenged in all sorts of ways by the number of problems we face that cannot be addressed or resolved by one nation, one jurisdiction, alone. The challenges that the environmental crisis poses are challenges which need to be addressed by global citizenship, that's to say, by a lively and practical sense of belonging to something more than just the voting community in any one locality.... But, whatever the truth of that, the point is that we are now in an environment in which local resolution, local decision has to open out into global perspective.

The moral dimension comes in, of course, in a sense, not only of responsibility to people at a distance from us here and now in our world, it comes in respect to our responsibility to the future. And that's perhaps a slightly odd thing to say in some ways, but if, in justice, one sector of a public or a community is using, draining, resources at the expense of others, then if we have a longer view than just the contemporary, what we are currently involved in is a fantastically and manifestly unjust

situation where those who happen to be alive at the moment are draining off the resource from that vast future community who need to live in a habitable and a just world. The interaction here of ecology and economy becomes crucial in the present, and in respect to the future. So that another dimension of our moral imagination here, has to be a stronger and stronger sense of what we owe to the future. You can talk about that in terms that sound a bit woolly and aspirational, but the fact is that we behave, most of the time, as if we trusted that there would be a human future. We beget children, we leave legacies, we make records, but how are we actively going to continue to make a sustainable, habitable environment? That, I suggest, is a question of justice. So, that's part of what we address, and part of what excites me about this project is, as you'll see from the list behind me, the way in which a whole range of disciplines, areas of research and resource, are being held together. We're encouraged not to forget the connections between ecology and economy; we're being encouraged to see that issues about development cannot be counter-poised to issues about environmental justice, and we're being encouraged quite simply, to be exact and precise about the knowledge we need in order to address the crisis. We need to think about this in relation to those questions of the unequal balance of power in our world between wealthy and poor, and when we're confronted with these problems that require global consciousness, global citizenship, it's very easy to think that this is much too big, this is something where I'm incapable of making a difference. Those of you who share my enthusiasm for *The Simpsons* may remember that wonderful episode where Homer runs for public office on the slogan 'Can't someone else do it'. And wins!

I know that it's customary, in some people's eyes, for the Church to make large moral statements about things that it doesn't really do very much about and, before that is said, I hope that we can really address this in our own context, speaking as a member of the Church of England. And we are about to launch precisely that project within our Church, a 'Shrinking the Footprint' exercise which will ask every church, every diocesan office, every national institution of the Church of

England, to measure its energy consumption, and begin to set targets. It's a small beginning, but at the moment we haven't got that information; we need to have it, and that kind of auditing activity is of course one of the places to start for any individual, any household, and any organisation. So, in the work, the work that lies ahead, in the change of awareness that all of us here desperately hope to see, I hope I can say that the Church of England is fully behind this effort and involved in this effort. And I know that you will tell us if we're falling behind, and not let us forget; and I challenge those present to keep us up to the mark on that....

I come at this question, obviously, as somebody who believes that we're here because we are meant to be here in the purposes of God, but for me being 'meant to be here in the purposes of God', means meant to be here in the material, vulnerable, interactive world which I have to respect as deeply and seriously as I have to respect other parts of the human creation. That's the challenge which Christians and other religious persons have to internalise and rise to, but it's a challenge which really makes claims on all of our capacity to extend our hearts and minds to envision ourselves afresh; as I said at the beginning, to develop a new, more rooted, more serious, sense of who we are and where we belong.



*Theme for February—  
Rethink  
Have you noticed:  
on a fair day the temperature is  
34°C*



*Stewardship Of Creation—Becoming a Green Parish*

**Message on Climate Change  
United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon**

The people who are bearing the brunt of the effects of climate change are those who can least afford to do so and who have done least to cause the problem. Adaptation is both a practical need and a moral imperative.

LET'S "Turn the climate crisis into a climate compact".

UNLESS we fight against climate change, unless we stop this trend, we'll have devastating consequences for humanity.

THE transition to a low-carbon economy will be difficult, but it will also yield great benefits across the spectrum of human activity. We can catch two birds – climate change and economic growth – with just one stone.

WE need to see partnerships that demonstrate a low-emission future is possible – now. We need a new model that enables developing countries to leapfrog the energy technologies of yesteryear.

SO far, only a small portion of the business and investment community has made climate change a strategic priority. Too many are sitting on the fence, waiting for others to act, or waiting for the clear policies that will signal a level playing field. Others are defenders of the old order. For those who are directly or implicitly lobbying against climate action I have a clear message: your ideas are out of date, and you are running out of time.

CLEAN technologies have proven their worth again and again. Investments in clean technologies can generate jobs and growth while safeguarding the environment, in effect addressing the financial crisis and climate change at the same time.

MANAGING the global financial crisis requires massive global stimulus. A big part of that spending should be an investment – an investment in a green future.

*Heal the World—Awareness, Caring, Action.*

HANDLING correctly, our fight against global warming could set the stage for an eco-friendly transformation of the global economy – one that spurs growth and development rather than crimps it, as many nations fear.

FIFTEEN years have passed since the Framework Convention on Climate Change was finalized in Rio. It has been 10 years since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. Yet most industrialised country emissions are still rising. And their per capita emissions remain unacceptably high.

WORLD leaders must commit to seal the deal on a new climate pact.

NO issue better demonstrates the need for global solidarity than climate change, the defining challenge of our generation. No issue is more essential to our future survival as a species. And no issue is more fundamental to long term national security and sustainable prosperity.

Frequently asked questions on Climate change.  
**CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**2010**



### ***What is climate change?***

Climate change is any long-term significant change in the “average weather” that is given region experiences. Average weather may include average temperature, precipitation and wind patterns. It involves changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere over time ranging from decades to millions of years. These changes can be caused from dynamic processes on earth, external forces including variations in sunlight intensity, and more recently by anthropogenic activities.

### ***What is global warming?***

Global warming is the increase in the average measured temperature of the earth’s near-surface air and ocean since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and its projected continuation.

## 5 Key concepts



1. Food provides us with the energy and nutrients our bodies need for growth, repair, physical activities and resistance to disease. Climate change could become a major threat to world food production, access and distribution. Especially at risk are developing countries, which are highly dependant on agriculture and have fewer resources and options to combat effects of climate change and damage caused from extreme events.
2. Water: nothing on Earth can live without water 70% of the Earth is covered in water but only 2.5% of it is fresh; the rest salt water. A person needs 2-4 litres of drinking water a day. Worldwide, agriculture accounts for up to 70% of all fresh water uses, industries accounts for 22% and domestic use for about 8%. One-sixth of the world's population doesn't have clean water and two-fifth don't have toilets. Climate change is an additional threat: it is expected that 3 billion people will face water shortage and 100 million people will be more at risk from costal flooding.
3. Land is necessary for most rural families to have a sustainable way of producing good and earning income. Difficulties in owning or renting land often contribute to food insecurity and poverty. Climate change including extreme events such as storms and floods is making it even more difficult to grow and harvest produce from the land.
4. Forests are home to hundreds of species of mammals, birds, reptiles, thousands of insects and plant species.
5. Harvesting forests products is important to the livelihood of millions of people living in or near forests. Forests produce oxygen, use carbon dioxide and ensure water and soil conservation. When forests are cut down or burned, carbon dioxide is released, and the home for many plants, animals, insects and other creatures is lost.



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## What You Can Do



### AT HOME

#### *Change 5 lights*

Change a light, and you help change the world. Replace the conventional bulbs in your 5 most frequently used light fixtures with bulbs that have the ENERGY STAR and you will help the environment while saving money on energy bills.

### IN THE OFFICE

#### *Manage office equipment energy use better*

Office equipment and electronics use energy even when idle or on stand-by. To save energy always activate the power management features on your computer and monitor, unplug laptop power cords when not in use and turn off equipment and lights at the end of the day. Consider using a power strip that can be turned off when you're done using your computers, printers, wireless routers and other electronics.

### ON THE ROAD

#### *Drive Smart*

Many factors affect the fuel economy of your car. To improve fuel economy, go easy on the breaks and gas pedal, avoid hard acceleration, reduce time spent idling and unload unnecessary items in your trunk to reduce weight. If you have a removable roof rack and you are not using it, take it off to improve your fuel economy by as much as 5%. Use overdrive and cruise control on your car if you have those features. For more tips to improve your gas mileage, visit the fuel economy guide.

### AT SCHOOL

#### *Students—Bring science to life*

Explore the Climate Change Kids Site and watch climate Animations that bring to life the science and impacts of climate change. The site also provides games that help students, their parents and their teachers learn about both the science of climate change and what actions they can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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