

27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear young people

Firstly, I just want to say how well you have all done in this past challenging year. What an example you have been to many of us of what a good neighbour looks like. Your care of one another and of the older generation has been remarkable, through acts of kindness and community service. Thank you!

You have also been a wonderful example to many of us in the growth of awareness re. the climate crisis we are facing as a planet. On 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June, the Government will be hosting an international gathering in Cornwall with 7 of the richest countries in the world, known as the G7, to talk about important global issues including the climate crisis. Later in the year, in November, the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference will also be hosted in the UK. So, 2021 is an important year for discussing global and climate issues.

My prayer is these gatherings will look to address many of the important issues that concern children and young people, so that real and lasting change can happen. Many of you are already engaged with these issues in your homes, at school or college, in your communities and your churches. I want to thank you for your positive engagement in these issues, I also want to assure you that your voice, and your actions are an important part of bringing about change.

As a diocese, we have an Environmental Policy that commits us to living more environmentally friendly lives and to achieving Carbon Zero by 2030 for the buildings in our care and in the run up to the conference in November we are actively encouraging all our church communities across Somerset to do more to help care for our wonderful planet.

I know that there are many things that you are already doing such as recycling and reducing waste, campaigning for change, and reducing your carbon footprint. There are many other national and local initiatives that you can get involved with too, and I wanted to share these with you. With this letter are a few suggestions that you, your friends, household, school, church or community might like to think about or engage with, from Blue Peter Green Badges to Tear Fund activities.

I would like to encourage you to continue as courageous advocates for our amazing planet and for our fellow human beings, so the world can be a better and fairer place for everyone.

Cont'd ...

**The Rt Reverend Ruth Worsley**

Bishop of Taunton

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-green-badge?collection=blue-peter-badges> Why not help us win more Blue Peter green badges than anywhere else! Look at the website for Climate Heroes and take up a challenge about plastic, power and plants!

<https://www.yccn.uk/> The YCCN (Young Christian Climate Network, a group of 18-30s from around the UK) are organising a 'relay' from Cornwall to Glasgow to take place between June and November which will (of course) go right through our diocese in July. If you click on the link [RELAY | YCCN](#) you can see proposed stopping points.

<https://wearetearfund.org/burning-down-the-house/> Tear Fund have some inspirational ideas. The youth strand of Tear Fund also has a web page, 'Take a Stand': <https://wearetearfund.org/takeastand/> As a school, household or individually, if appropriate, you might follow @wearetearfund on Instagram.

<https://sendacow.org/gifts/category/climate-champions/> 'Send a Cow', for which I am a Patron, also has some very helpful ideas with a global view.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild-2021-sign-your-pack> The Wildlife Trusts 30 Days Wild is another project, again if appropriate follow them on Instagram: @thewildlifetrusts. Linked to that, the Wilder Churchyards idea: <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/events/wilder-churches> and eco-churches <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> (there are already the eco-schools awards: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>)

[BBC One - Countryfile - Take part in Plant Britain](#) BBC Countryfile are promoting 'Plant Britain'.

Finally, if you do start a new project, or have a good story about the environment to tell, please do get in touch with my colleagues Caroline Gray or Louise Willmot. You can email them at [comms@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:comms@bathwells.anglican.org). They would be delighted to hear from you and will share everything you send through with me.



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