



**“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24: v1)**

Recently Sir David Attenborough said the moment of climate crisis has come, ‘We can no longer prevaricate. We have to change’. We can no longer rely upon appeals to different kinds of optimism. He went on to emphasize the huge change in public opinion, particularly among young people. This is a matter of life and death. The irony is that we know how to solve it and governments must take action.

**One Northallerton - Church and Community Together** (previously Churches Together) has brought together a group representing our churches to think about the crisis and what we can do. There can be no argument that the earth is in crisis from climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the cause is human activity. It isn’t possible to separate the different aspects of the crisis, however we feel our main focus at the moment should be on the climate crisis. Care for all God’s good creation and related justice issues are an essential expression of the gospel and has to be a concern for the whole church, not a fringe activity for a few enthusiasts.

All our denominations are addressing the crisis at national level, and a particularly useful resource we will be using is the **Climate Emergency Toolkit**, available at <https://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com/>





It has been produced by several Christian environmental and aid organisations, and sets out the following plan of action, which we hope each church will take on board:

**Prepare:** Start the conversation about the climate emergency within your own church and begin planning your response.

**Declare:** Recognise, declare or acknowledge an emergency in a way that engages your church and community and amplifies the need for leaders everywhere to act.

**Impact:** Increase your impact by partnering with your local community and speak up for the scale of change we need.

One Northallerton asks that:

-  Each local church supports and promotes creation care within the church, both by teaching and example.
-  Each member of the congregation looks at how we can be part of the solution to the crisis, not part of the problem. Help is available from Eco Church - <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/>
-  We seek out groups in our community who share our concerns.
-  We encourage and campaign for change within our Town, District and County Councils, and also at a national level.

As a group we will be providing ongoing inspiration, support and challenge, but we need you to play your part!



**The time to act is now.** We cannot delay any further - for our sake, for the sake of future generations, and for God’s sake.