

The Parish Church of St Anne, Kew

SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

Year 3: Third meeting (11th meeting of Forum)

Saturday 15 May 2018, 9.00-10.30

FOCUS on CLIMATE JUSTICE

Programme

- Welcome, introductions and guide to session
- Liturgy
- Reflections on the beatitudes as guide to discipleship
- Prayers and reflections together
- Recapping what we have learnt
- Follow up to Action Ideas in October
- Diary dates and closing prayer
- Web sites
- Optional: Monique Simmonds talk for the Friends.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS and GUIDE TO SESSION

2. LITURGY, the Beatitudes, St Matthew 5.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all
kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

“Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

3. THE BEATITUDES AS GUIDE TO DISCIPLESHIP

**4. PRAYERS and REFLECTIONS TOGETHER, please leave a
moment’s silence after each petition so that we can each offer the
prayer in our heart**

i. THANKSGIVING

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name

Thank you for bringing us together this morning

Thank you for calling each one of us to be a disciple of our Lord Jesus
Christ

Thank you that we all have different gifts as disciples

Thank you that no offering is too small for You.

Thank you for our learning about the meaning and reality of climate
change and climate justice

Thank you for our faith that you are the one Creator and Creating God
and that all your Creation is good

Thank you for our fellow human beings in universities, in government, in
non governmental organisations, in commerce and in the churches who
are responding to the reality of climate change.

Thank you for those who have helped us through their writing and for
those who have talked with us, especially Brother Samuel last December,
and Bishop David, Father Nicholas and Libby Insall in March

Thank you for our Carbon Fast in Lent

ii. Acknowledging our weakness

Blessed are the poor in spirit

We acknowledge our weakness and our difficulty in coming to terms with
climate change

Blessed are they that mourn

We weep when we see the damage and excesses of our consumer based
economy. We weep when we remember that our use of energy as citizens
of a wealthy country had directly impacted on climate change

Blessed are the meek

We acknowledge our ignorance and our closed minds to what is happening to our fellow human beings elsewhere in the world
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness
We remember in sorrow the disparities between countries in safe energy and safe water use.

We remember in sorrow the effects of climate change on the world's water supplies

iii. Responding in hope

Blessed are the merciful

Help us to discern your calling to us as your disciples in Kew in 2018.

Help us to hold the issue of climate justice in our minds and hearts and to respond to your calling

Blessed are the pure in heart

Help us to remember that we 'can do small things with great love', to listen to the voice of our conscience and to respond to your calling

Blessed are the peacemakers

Help us not to close our minds to the consequences of climate change, to wars, to the migration of peoples, to the disappearance of livelihoods, to the increase in natural disasters.

Help us to live simply, that others may simply live

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

God of Love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

ALL: O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

(Last prayer from the end of Laudato Si, the Pope's encyclical on Care of our Common Home, 24 May 2015)

5. RECAPPING WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

a. October 2017

1. Christians have faith in One Creator and Creating God and the goodness of Creation
2. The meaning and facts of climate change and climate justice
3. Responses by governments and churches

b. December 2017

1. Prophecy to-day and our response
2. The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals
3. The issues of climate justice – the disparities between countries and their peoples in their standards of living

c. February 2017

1. Christian hope
2. Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 7: water and energy. The effects of climate change on the world’s water; the use of energy and climate change
3. The disparities between countries in their quantity and quality of energy use.

4. Churches Together conversation on climate change, 6 March 2018

Father Nicholas King, SJ : key points from the Pope’s encyclical, *Laudato Si*, on care for our common home:

- i. addressed to all humanity,
- ii. we must listen to, and care about, the voices of the poor,
- iii. ‘Western’ standards of living are unsustainable,
- iv. we can all contribute positively to change,
- v. we face above all a moral and spiritual issue.

Bishop David Atkinson: climate change is changing our relationship to the natural world. This requires us to think about:

- i. the poorest people in the world,
- ii. future generations,
- iii. the place of technology,
- iv. our fears and vulnerabilities,
- v. our innate selfishness,
- vi. our values, hopes and goals.

5. Talk by Libby Insall, Kew volunteer, on The State of the World’s Plants (reports from Royal Botanic Gardens) 10 March 2018: Loss of bio-diversity and contribution of climate change

6. FOLLOW UP TO ACTION IDEAS IN OCTOBER

Carbon Fast	Done. We do not know how many people tried this and how far it ‘worked’ for them
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Eco Church	Audit filled in at meeting on 10.2.18 in groups of three. Decision that this would not be quite right for whole congregation. Discussion between Nigel, Claudine and Simon Child (architect). Decision to draw up a 'statement of principle' (done) and an action plan in line with this (in progress)
Junior Church Link	Sian Merrylees agreed to be the Link person. Junior Church have various projects on. Please see wonderful poster on notice board at back of church
Kew Gardens Link	Talk by Libby Insall in March. See also under talks for Director of Kew Gardens, Richard Deverell
Other	Claudine attended a meeting at USPG about Faith in a changing climate (booklet distributed) They are very keen for us to participate in a letter writing initiative about climate change with our MP, Zac Goldsmith. Claudine would welcome someone to help her take this forward.
Talks	See above and below!

7. DIARY DATES AND CLOSING PRAYER

This coming Tuesday, May 15th	See above, conversation at the Barn Church, 7.45pm
Saturday October/ November??	LAST meeting of Social Justice Forum, followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Monday October 22nd

See above, conversation at St Anne's (Richard Deverell, Director of Kew and Brother Samuel, Society of Saint Francis)

Closing prayer together (slowly!):

May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever more. Amen

8. WEB SITES

Church of England: <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint>

Climate Coalition: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

European Christian Environmental Network: <http://www.ecen.org/>

Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice: <https://www.mrfcj.org>

Met Office: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-guide/climate-change>

Operation Noah: <http://operationnoah.org>

John Ray Initiative: <http://www.jri.org.uk/> The John Ray Initiative is an educational charity with a vision to bring together scientific and Christian understandings of the environment in a way that can be widely communicated and lead to effective action. JRI's mission is to promote responsible environmental stewardship in accordance with Christian principles and the wise use of science and technology.

USPG: <http://www.uspg.org.uk/climate>