

'Pray and fast for the climate' (www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk) is an initiative inviting Christians of all denominations to fast and pray on the 1st of every month for a meaningful and just UN climate agreement and for action on climate more generally. It has been put together by a network of agencies and denominations, of which the Church of England is a member.



Anglican Communion churches are already involved in the 'Fast for the Climate' movement (www.fastfortheclimate.org), started by Yeb Saño, the Philippine's lead negotiator at the 2013 UN climate talks. Despairing both at the devastation of his country by Super Typhoon Haiyan and the slow progress made at the talks, Saño announced he would fast either until the end of the two week conference or until real progress was made. He has continued to fast on the first of every month, joined by people from around the world, including the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Rt Revd Thabo Makgoba, who is a 'Fast for the Climate' ambassador.

'Pray and fast for the climate' builds on this. It includes a commitment to prayer, as we are called to bring our concerns in prayer to the God who created and sustains the world. In Scripture we read of the holy city, a place visible from far away, shining with the glory of God and the light and hope of Christ. Our desire is for God's Kingdom to be raised up in our world and for our prayers to help build a platform upon which right decisions will be made by politicians, leaders and negotiators, allowing people to hope, to live, to dream, and to shape a greener world .

Why the focus now? Time is running out for governments to agree practical and binding steps to reduce emissions and prevent run-away climate change. The successor to the Kyoto Protocol needs to be agreed at the UN Climate Talks in 2015 ... and it needs to be meaningful and just.

Why us? As Christians, who have been given a duty of care for creation by God and who have been told to love our neighbours – many of whom are already being affected by phenomena associated with climate change -- we need to take action.

How can we take part? Pray and Fast for the Climate is flexible. You can, for example, choose to fast and pray for the whole day, to fast during your lunch break, and/or to pray with your home group in the evening. If you cannot fast from food, you can fast from some other essential as a sign of your prayerful commitment.

Can we join in with other people? Yes! We're hoping that gatherings to Pray and Fast will meet around the country. They don't have to be large – "where two or three are gathered together in My name...." Check out our website to either find your nearest gathering or add a new one. And please don't hesitate to add yours because you think it's small – it's the combination of many small points of light that makes a flame!

Are there resources for local use? Each time of prayer can be supported, if you'd like, by using resources from the website. These resources include a simple worship leaflet, reflective prayers, stories and topical monthly prayer points and prayers. All those participating are also invited to share their stories, pictures, prayers and resources via the website.

If you'd like to gain support for the initiative in your diocese or church, we also have printed promotional leaflets: email info@prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk to request them.

Special resources for the Church of England: For Church of England participants, we are looking forward to having a prayer each month that our members can use. These will be written by people around the Church of England and the Communion.

'Pray and fast for the climate' is a joint initiative from the network 'Faith for the Climate', whose members include A Rocha, Christian Aid, Christian Concern for One World, Climate Stewards, Commitment for Life, Hope for the Future, Operation Noah, Our Voices, Speak, Tearfund, The Baptist Union, The Church of England, The Methodist Church, and The United Reformed Church.