Climate Action Prayer Support – December, 2023

Dear Supporter,

Please pray for “caring for God’s earth” and some Christmassy topics, at this time of year.

**COP28** (Conference of the Parties) is taking place in Dubai from 30th November to 12th December. This year the hosts, the United Arab Emirates, UAE, nominated **Sultan Ahmed al Jaber**, the head of the state oil company, as president of the summit. **Graham Stuart MP** is representing the UK. **King Charles** is making the first major climate change speech of his reign. At the time of going to press, not much is known about how the conference is progressing. Therefore, one can only pray for COP28 plus these men and that their inputs to the conference will be beneficial.

*We sometimes forget that caring for God’s earth includes caring for the people who live on it. We automatically think of our poorer neighbours. We assume this means poorer communities abroad and that is why Trinity, as part of being an Eco Church, has twinned all its toilets with ones in Afghanistan, Malawi, Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Zambia and the Yemen.*

*However, we sometimes forget that there are poor and needy people in this country too. Now there are several organisations that cater for them at Christmas, like the Salvation Army. Therefore, let us pray for those organisations we are aware of, and if we don’t know any……….*

Pray for **Crisis at Christmas** which helps provide food, welfare and help at Christmas to those experiencing homelessness. It operates primarily from four hubs in London from Christmas Eve to 28th December and relies mainly on volunteers – cooks, hairdressers, podiatrists, and all sorts of advisers. Pray for this enterprise and for all the volunteers. Pray that all those who use their services (known as guests!) will have a happy Christmas and be pointed towards a better lifestyle.

Pray for wisdom in our choice of **Christmas Cards** and **Gift Wrapping Paper –** charity cards? Less foil and glitter? Plain brown paper? Recycle? Repurpose?

Pray for wisdom in our choice of **Christmas Trees –** artificial? Rooted and reuseable?

Pray for wisdom in our choice of **Festive Food –** don’t buy too much? Plan your festive meals and make a shopping list?Donate items to food banks for those who have less? Use up leftovers?

Pray for wisdom in our choice of **Christmas Presents** – reduce waste and affirm sustainability.

*But then, why should we reinvent the wheel? I am a great fan of Martin Lewis and suggest you read on the internet his “Money Saving Expert’s 48 Christmas MoneySaving tips” and pray about which ones might apply to you and help you think (and pray) outside the box.*

Finally, let us end with a prayer that challenges, in part, the commercialism of Christmas:

“Lord, help us experience a sense of urgency about safeguarding your creation.

Challenge us to see that future generations are some of our neighbours Jesus urged us to love and help us to stop taking more than our fair share.

Challenge our assumptions, like whether we take a flight or how often we drive our cars.

Challenge our wastefulness, like our desire to buy new clothes and items for the home.

Challenge our complacency, like our choices about the food we eat and the energy we use.

Challenge our sense of entitlement, for the earth is not ours, but Yours. Amen”

*(Based on a Prayer from the ‘The Earth is the Lord’s’, Methodist Prayer Handbook, 2020/21, by Margaret Lee, Swanwick Methodist Church, Borders Circuit Mission.)*

Archie Whymark, Climate Action Champion