Climate Action Prayer Support – January, 2024

Dear Supporter,

It would be simplistic, to only pray about subjects that affect Eco Church, Global Warming and the environment, but we have to be realistic. Caring for God’s earth also encompasses people as well as flora and fauna. This prayer letter therefore needs to cover a much broader canvas, including how our government addresses the environment. Because whatever we do as individuals, we still need a sympathetic government and ministers to enact effective environmental legislation.

*UK general elections – are where all 650 MPs are elected to the House of Commons - have to be held no more than five years apart.* ***The next election is therefore due***[***by January 2025***](https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/elections)***.***

*Experts predict the Prime Minister will go to the polls sooner than that. An autumn 2024 date has been suggested. Labour insiders believe Mr Sunak will call a May election.  My guess is that Rishi Sunak will go to the polls when he thinks he can best win. Who knows when that will be?*

What better time to consider this broader canvas, than at the beginning of this new year?

**The Next General Election.** Lord, before the next General Election we pray you will guide us to be informed, equipped and encouraged. May churches in every UK constituency be inspired to build relationships with candidates and host hustings and other events in Christ’s name. Amen.

**The Environment** - pray for the environment to be higher on the political agenda. For instance to bring back lost wildlife, to end river pollution, to fund wildlife-friendly farming, to green our communities and tackle the Climate Emergency (ideas from Jenny Bennion, Lancs Wildlife Trust).

**A New Constituency.** The Boundary Commission have recommended that Clitheroe and the Whalley area be included in a new Pendle and Clitheroe Constituency instead of Ribble Valley. Give thanks that the matter has been fully implemented before the next General Election.

**Prospective Candidates for the Pendle and Clitheroe Constituency –** we pray that You will raise up men and women of wisdom, honesty and courage as prospective candidates. We pray that they will apply Christian values in all their decisions. Give us wisdom to choose the best one.

**Practical Involvement.** God Our Saviour, your Word urges ‘petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving to be made for all people – for kings, and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.’ Please help us to put our prayers into action with practical and political involvement, as You guide us by your wisdom. Amen.

**COP28** (Conference of the Parties) took place in Dubai from 30th November to 12th December. The hosts were the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, we must give thanks for the beneficial results and pray that all the members, especially the UK government, will live up to their promises.

Closer to home – **Trinity Eco Community Garden,** give thanks for all the people who have volunteered to help set up and work in this garden. Bless, enthuse and empower them. Pray that funding for the “garden” will be forthcoming. Pray for the groups who may be involved like Natural England, the Ribble Rivers Trust and others. Pray for the Eco Group members involved in bringing the project to fruition, that they will have the necessary skills and wisdom needed.

“Dear God, thank you for the beautiful world you have given us and for the animals that make us smile. Lord, help us save our planet. Amen”

*(Prayer from the ‘The Earth is the Lord’s’, Methodist Prayer Handbook, 2020/2021, by Ava, pupil, St Andrew’s Methodist Primary School, Manchester.)*

Archie Whymark, Trinity Climate Action Champion