



## Welcome to Ely Cathedral's Environmental Newsletter

<https://www.elycathedral.org/social-justice/social-justice-and-the-environment/renew>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/668996277287429/>

### Vigil for the Environment: 17 July, 7pm

This service will be on Zoom, and anyone, anywhere, is very welcome to join us – it has been good to welcome a participant from the USA to our recent Zoom Vigils. The service will last about 40 minutes, and will include readings and prayers, and music for times of reflection. Anyone who prefers to reflect in silence is welcome to simply turn down the volume for these.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82682224513?pwd=WlJEYWg3cERqcHNpQ1FDOVBRN3lIZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 8222 4513

Password: 708823

The focus for this month's Vigil will be Jesus' commandment that we love one another as he loves us, which requires us to think seriously about what it means to love people who are distant, as well as those who are close by, especially people already affected by climate change and our unsustainable lifestyles.

### LOAF<sup>1</sup> Cathedral community shopping scheme

We are grateful to those who have participated so far for being our guinea pigs, as we have worked out the details of the shopping scheme – we hope that we now have a viable scheme which will work for everyone, customer and volunteer alike.

The scheme is open to everyone, whether still self-isolating/shielding or not. Just submit to our online form at:

<https://forms.gle/fpTPD4AdKWt5d83y8>

We can supply fruit and veg, eggs and honey, larder staples, and FairTrade products from local traders and Traidcraft.

Orders need to be made by the end of a Thursday. We will then contact our suppliers on the Friday, and let you know availability of products and when delivery will be made. Payment details are given on the response you see after submitting the form.

## Plastic Waste<sup>2</sup>

Just as it seemed as if we might be getting somewhere on reducing plastic waste, along came lockdown and a host of hygiene measures threatening to undo much of that progress. Globally, more than 300 million tonnes of plastics are produced every year, of which 40% is single use.

Not only is that a waste of the raw materials used in production, it is also a huge environmental hazard. A team from the Marine institute, University of Plymouth, has discovered that microplastics are to be found in all sea life, from the smallest organisms to the largest mammals, transferring toxic chemicals from seawater into marine life and hence into our food chains.

### How can we cut down on plastic waste?

1. What single use plastic are you throwing away this week – what could you avoid, or at least reuse?
2. Buy loose fruit and veg.
3. Cover food with a plate or saucepan lid rather than cling film.
4. Use a washable fabric face mask rather than a single use one.
5. Buy products in clear plastic bottles rather than coloured ones – the pigments reduce the recycling value of coloured plastics.
6. Reuse soap and detergent dispensers and bottles – you can get them refilled locally at Prospects Café (at The Lighthouse, Ely or through our LOAF shopping scheme).
7. Don't wash clothing more often than necessary, and keep it for longer – clothing sheds microfibres most when it is new.
8. Wash clothes on a low temperature setting (not more than 30C), and fill the washing machine, to reduce the amount of microfibres released into the water. Dry your laundry on a washing line/clothes rack (whether indoors or out) rather than using a tumble dryer.
9. Sign a petition urging the UK government to introduce legislation to phase out plastic pollution: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics>

### Book Review by Elaine Ewart:

#### ***Time to Act: a resource book by the Christians in Extinction Rebellion<sup>3</sup>***

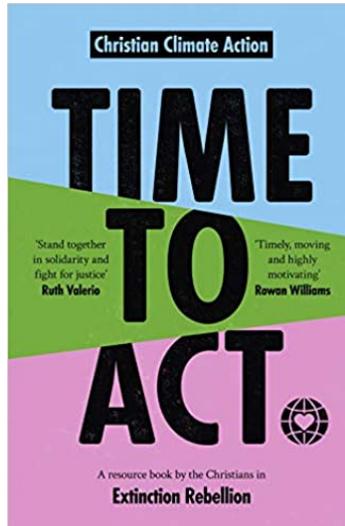
With countries all over the world only just beginning to come out of lockdown, the mass climate protests led by the non-violent action group Extinction Rebellion may seem to belong to another world. However, in the midst of the chaos created by the pandemic, the climate crisis continues. Over the past

few weeks, Arctic temperatures have reached a mind-melting 38 degrees Celsius. We have also learnt that human vulnerability to viruses such as Covid-19 is increased by environmental degradation, as globalisation and habitat destruction leave us exposed to cross-species infections. The disruption, loss,

### Sue's tips

Cut the base off plastic water bottles and sink them into the ground neck down, as close to plants as possible. During dry periods, rather than water the ground around the plant, pour the water into the bottle. This ensures water goes directly to the roots rather than running off the surface.

financial blows and mental trauma we have undergone as coronavirus spreads across the planet may only be a trial run for the accelerating catastrophe of global heating. In this context, *Time to Act*, an anthology of essays by activists in the network Christian Climate Action, is an important contribution to the way we as Christians consider the part we are called to play in resisting the fossil fuel lobby and building a fairer, more sustainable society. Divided into thematic sections on “The Head,” “The Heart,” and “The Hands,” individual Christian activists tell their personal stories on why they became involved in direct action for the climate: telling us what is was like to break the law, be arrested and appear in court, as well as what motivates and sustains them. Among the collection is Ely activist Adam Earl’s account of taking part in the “rebel Eucharist” in Trafalgar Square as part of the October 2019 actions. These stories, told with vulnerable honesty, are raw, moving and memorable.



There are poems, theological reflections and testimonies as well as useful resources for the reader, including liturgies, advice and action ideas. There is an awareness of the need to increase accessibility and diversity, with an acknowledgement that the movement can do more to engage with the criticisms of activists of colour, and learn from indigenous climate activism. Not everyone is up for being arrested, and the final section emphasises the importance of individual Christians and congregations taking responsibility for finding their role, whatever that might be: including the simple but important act of holding the activists in prayer.

I highly recommend this heartfelt, thought-provoking and accessible book to all Christians trying to find their place in the climate movement, fighting against burn-out, or looking for inspiration to action.

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<sup>1</sup> Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fairtrade

<sup>2</sup> Information taken from <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/research-degrees/research-areas/marine-sciences>, <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics> and *Weekend* (Waitrose’s weekly free newspaper) 2 July 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Christian Climate Action, published by SPCK, 2000, obtainable from Church House Bookshop for £9.99 paperback, or £6.99 ePUB, <https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/search-results?query=time%20to%20act>