

## Can you help solve this mystery...?



So who recognises this little fella who is a feature on our building somewhere...? Do any of you know where to locate him? I guess his expression sums up how many of us might be feeling right now about the Covid-19 pandemic.

A mystery regarding this little guy started to unravel last week and I'm now wondering if any amongst you can help me solve it?

So, to give you a clue this guy is located in the oldest part of the church and stands guard above a certain doorway.

I'd never really noticed him much. I do recall Tricia posting a picture of him on Facebook but even then didn't realise he was from our church!

Last week as some visitors were doing a site visit for a light installation to be set up at church for the launch of the Advent Trail on 21st November, someone spotted this guy and pointed something out to me.

So to put you out of your suspense, I can tell you that this guy sits above the external doors to the Savage Chapel which was built between 1505 and 1507 by Thomas Savage, Archbishop of York between 1501 and 1507. So this little guy is now nearing in excess of 500 years old.

Well, it has taken a complete stranger to inform us that this little guy is in fact masquerading as a 15th century gargoyle. His age is a little indeterminate but I'm guessing around 1986, so he's an eighties gargoyle.

So you're all now wondering how I know him to be, at most, 34 and not 515...

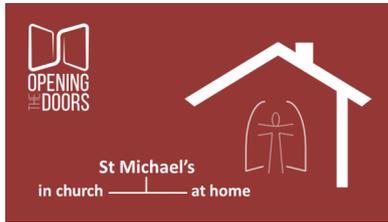
Well the little guy bears a lesser known architectural feature on him which proves this to be true...

See page 5 for the proof...

## St Michael's Worship 18th October 2020

Two services this week both at 10am:  
one in church and one on Zoom

To join by Zoom click on the image below or use  
Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625



Service Leader: Mike Strutt (Zoom) Martin Church)  
Talk: Martin Stephens (recorded for Zoom)  
Reading: Psalm 96.1-9

**Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?**

Watch the recording of our morning worship service on  
Zoom at a time to suit you after Sunday lunchtime [here](#)

## Church Annual Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 18th October 10.45am

To join from home by Zoom click [here](#)

Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379  
Passcode: 01625



## No Computer? No problem!

You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and  
services with your landline phone

If phoning:



Dial 0330 088 5830.

When prompted, enter the Meeting ID  
from any of these boxes followed by #

[For Sunday's service: 939 7279 7379]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults and families: click [here](#)

Resources for children: click [here](#)

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# JOIN US ON Zoom

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 326 496 3258  
Passcode: 139535

Hosted by Tricia & Martin



## Monday House Group:

When? 7.30pm til 9pm Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228  
Password: Monday

We've recently been looking at Paul's letters to the  
Christians in Corinth, but there's also the  
preliminary chat/pastoral catch-up and prayer  
together. Join us, or for more information contact  
Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110

## Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm. We are holding  
discussions of our respective faith journeys but will  
soon be moving on to discussing paintings that  
depict some of the parables. All are welcome to  
join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship,  
including by phone. Please contact David Mayers  
by [email](#) or phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659.

## Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

## Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's  
ministry





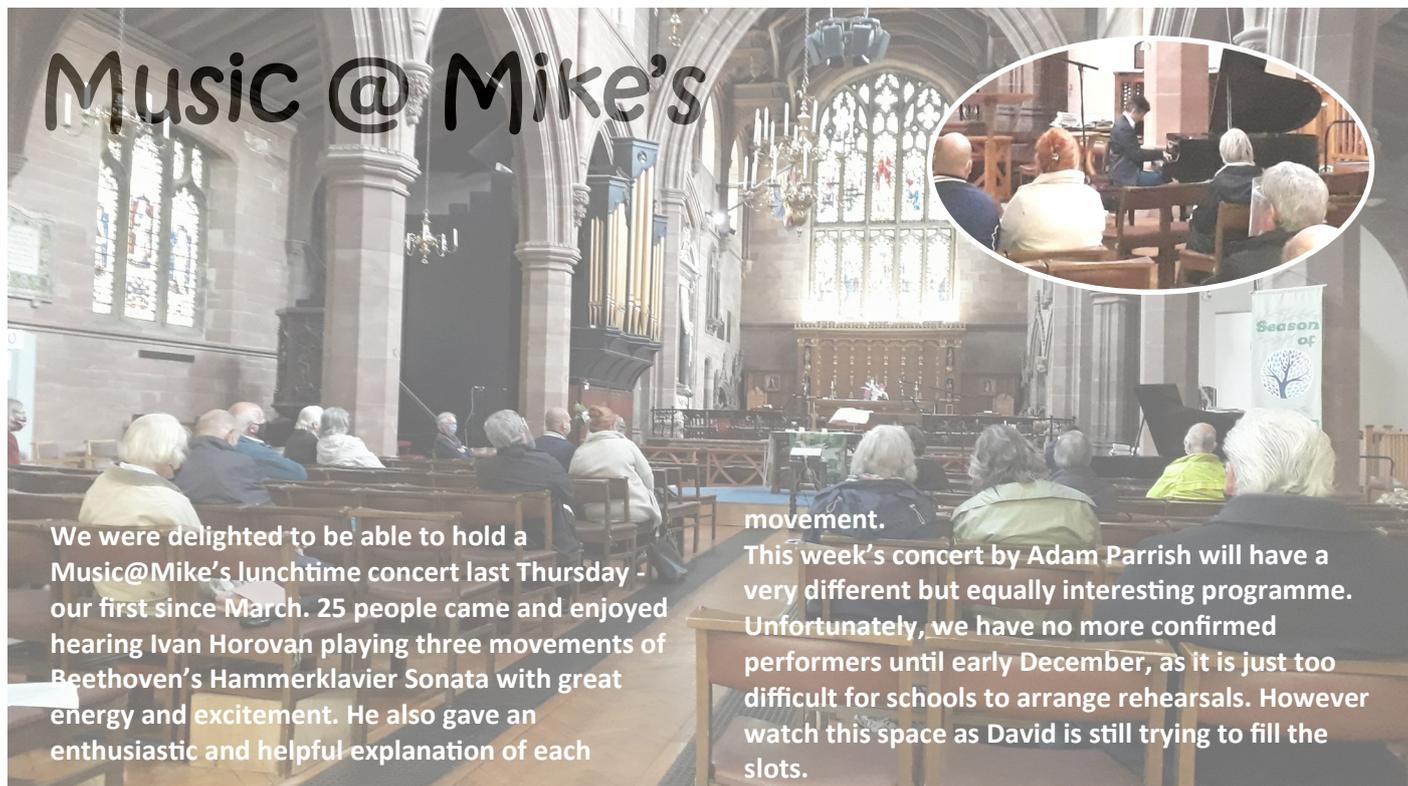
Michael Wootton wishes to donate flowers in memory of his darling wife, Muriel, and the many years of happiness they had together raising their children.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

### Donations to AV Project

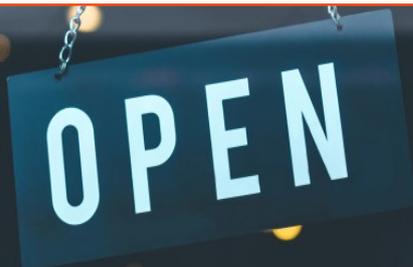
Don't forget if you'd like to donate towards the AV project as described by Rachel in a recent newsletter, please contact Mike, our Treasurer for more details.



## Music @ Mike's

We were delighted to be able to hold a Music@Mike's lunchtime concert last Thursday - our first since March. 25 people came and enjoyed hearing Ivan Horovan playing three movements of Beethoven's Hammerklavier Sonata with great energy and excitement. He also gave an enthusiastic and helpful explanation of each

movement. This week's concert by Adam Parrish will have a very different but equally interesting programme. Unfortunately, we have no more confirmed performers until early December, as it is just too difficult for schools to arrange rehearsals. However watch this space as David is still trying to fill the slots.



Monday to Saturday  
11am to 1pm

for private prayer

A shout out to everyone who is trying right now. Trying to do the right thing. Trying to stay open. Trying to keep going. Trying to hold on. Trying to let go. Trying to find their flow. Trying to stay afloat. Trying to meet each new day. Trying to find their balance. Trying to love themselves. Trying new things and new ways.

I see you. I'm there too. We're in this together.

# WHAM Nightshelter This Winter

We have delayed making plans and organising training for WHAM (Macclesfield Churches' Winter Nightshelter) as long as we can, while awaiting Government advice and developments in the COVID crisis.

The core team met with the Cheshire East Rough Sleepers Team and Homeless Officers last week to establish the situation in Macclesfield. In short: all their hostel beds are full, despite having some increased capacity. During lockdown they were unable to move people on to rental accommodation (of which there is shortage anyway), and this is taking time to resolve. They are, therefore, concerned that when cold weather hits us, they will be unable to accommodate all rough sleepers and would be very grateful if we can offer some sort of support. There is no funding available to increase their own service short term.

The WHAM team would like to be able to continue to share Christ's love in this very practical way, but have to consider safety of guests and volunteers alike. Is a guest more at risk of dying as a result of spending a night outside in the wet and cold, or indoors with others?

We are considering options in the light of government guidance and have proposed the possibility of offering "sit-up" spaces in a single venue. Our ability to offer this is dependent on:

- Being able to find a single, large enough, venue in the town centre which can be dedicated to the shelter for the winter. We can work to make this as safe as possible for guests and volunteers. The team are working on finding a suitable space.
- AND having sufficient volunteers willing to offer to cover overnight shifts.

Many of our dedicated team of volunteers will be, understandably, unwilling to offer themselves this year and we do not want folk to feel under pressure to do so if they are not comfortable with this.

We will be contacting all volunteers on our database directly. However you may be able to consider volunteering this year for the first time, or the first time for a few years. We would like to hear from you if you would:

- Do a full overnight shift (10pm to 7am) any day Friday to Sunday
- Do a full shift Friday or Saturday (not Sunday)
- Do an emergency overnight shift any day very cold weather is predicted
- Do part of a shift (10pm-2am, or 2am to 7am, for example)

Please contact Richard Ainley, the volunteer coordinator, on [maccnightselter@gmail.com](mailto:maccnightselter@gmail.com) or 07874 852762. Training will be provided. **We would be grateful if you could let us know THIS WEEK (by 19<sup>th</sup> October) if you are considering it, so that we can make a decision.**

There will be other opportunities to volunteer if we go ahead, but without being able to cover night shifts and find a venue, there will be no emergency nightshelter this winter, so you will hear about those later.

Rachel Mayers



In September 2019 Satsuki-Mei was one of 12 children nationwide appointed to the Lego Creative Board. She attended monthly Lego meetings at Legoland Manchester and made items for their displays, including a Christmas stall for their MiniLand display. All that stopped with the pandemic but last week Satsuki-Mei was invited back to Legoland Manchester with Daddy. With a small group of children she enjoyed all the facilities of Legoland Manchester as you can see from the picture!

Satsuki-Mei would love to see anyone else's lego creations! Here is a picture of her with her Saturn V rocket which secured her place on the Lego Creative Board.

Gemma Shepherd-Etchells

## By Appointment of Lego



*And thank you to Gemma and Satsuki –Mei for all your wonderful stories you have been filming for us. What a talented young lady she is. Ed*





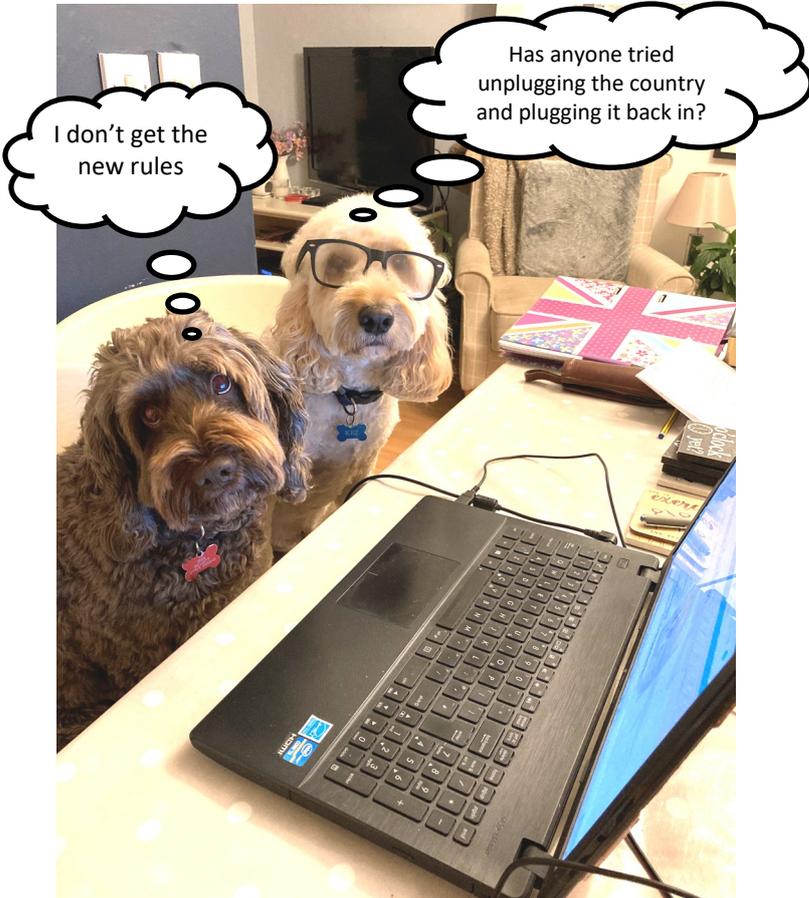
So... What do you plan on growing this year?

Older and crankier

I washed my hands so much due to COVID-19, that my exam notes from 1995 resurfaced

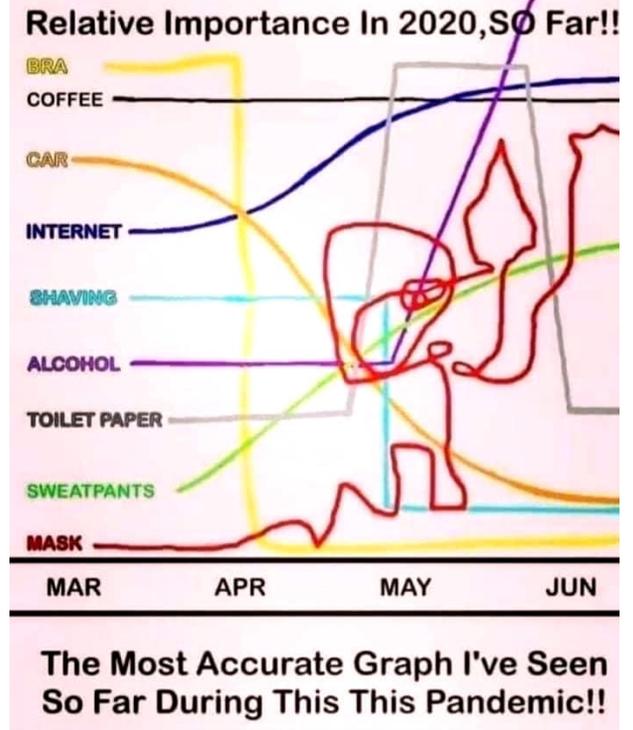


Whoever told me to leave my car at the pub and take the bus home, turns out I was in no fit state to drive that either.



I don't get the new rules

Has anyone tried unplugging the country and plugging it back in?



Continued from page 1...

So the picture below shows where this guy is located, but take a closer look at the picture to the right where you can see the underside of his feet (circled). Do you see it? Do you remember this shop pictured at the bottom. So it appears someone has put this fella up there in recent items! But who? And when? Was it you?



**Bishop Keith to Retire 8th March 2021**

Announcing the news, Bishop Keith said that he was thankful to God for calling Bishop Mark to the role of Bishop of Chester and said that he is hoping that his retirement in March will help the process of the appointment of two new suffragan bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead. He has recorded an interview with +Mark. Click on image to watch. Hard copy statement for offline members.





If you missed Graham's talk (Graham Turner, our former Rector and then Prison Chaplain), click on the image above to see his talk in our worship service last Sunday for Prison Sunday.



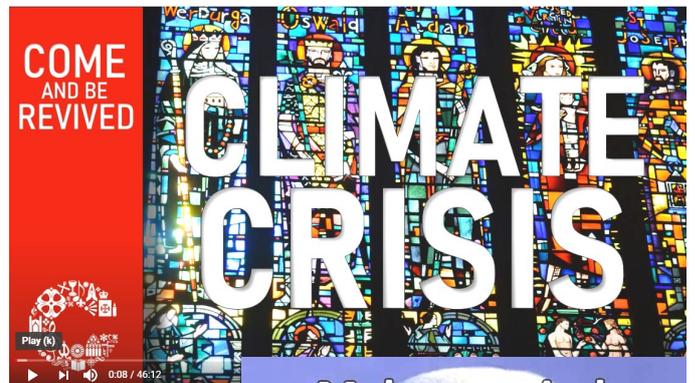
Some of our church members who met up with Graham and Rosie for a short walk and picnic lunch at Tegg's Nose.

## Christian Ethics, Animal Welfare and Climate

I am sure many of you are wondering about what you can do to make a difference to the various environmental crises we are facing? Sometimes it all seems too huge; but there are some easy changes we can all make to our lifestyles which really do make a difference, and are good for us as well as the planet:

### eat less meat

Cattle, pigs and sheep raised for human consumption release methane amounting to 14% of the carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere each year – that's more than transport! Added to that is all the forest cleared to provide pasture, the vast amounts of water animals consume, and the risk to human health from intensive, industrialised animal husbandry. For a fuller explanation of why we need to eat less, or no meat, have a look at the excellent talk given last week by Professor David Clough at Chester Cathedral - click on image.



David Mayers



### Grand Opening of their new store this Saturday

Great news about Macclesfield's very own zero-waste grocery outlet.

From this **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October** they will be opening four days a week, so there's no excuse to continue buying all that single-use plastic from the supermarket when you can buy so much of your regular shopping in your own re-used containers (and they will have paper bags available if you forget your own).

The shop is in the Old Sunday School (Heritage Centre) on Roe Street, opposite the town centre

Tesco. Opening times Wed, Friday and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Thursdays 10am to 7pm.

Plus Treacle Sundays. Go to [www.scoopandscales.co.uk](http://www.scoopandscales.co.uk) for full details of what's available; it includes cereals, nuts, dried fruit, pulses, toiletries, kitchen cloths and scourers, cleaning materials and liquids and much, much more.

# Macclesfield Football Club



The photo is of me about to attend church on Sunday 20th September, wearing my Macclesfield Town Football Club tie. This was just a few days after the local club had been wound up by the High Court for failure to pay debts.

I started going to watch Macclesfield when I was 14 in 1976 in the days when they played in the Northern Premier League before 'crowds' of 300, when you could swap ends at half time and from one end watch from a grass bank. At that time the team was going through a bad spell and would regularly finish at or near to the bottom. Despite moving away from Macclesfield for 38 years after I was 18, I never stopped supporting my local team and would always try to time my visits to see family and friends with a home game. In recent years, I got my father fought above its weight interested and for the for the size of town last four seasons we had season tickets and would make it to about half the home games. The club has always fought above its weight for the size of town and enjoyed a spell of 15 years as a league club, then more recently endured another 2 years in League 2 after an 'against all odds' season in 2017/18, winning the National League on a shoestring budget under the management of John Askey, known to fans as 'Sir John'.

I say 'endured' above as during this return to the League, the club's owner of about a decade decided to try to run the club himself after previously relying on a professional chairman. His incompetence and a drying up of the funds from his other businesses that had previously supported the club lead to two seasons of trauma for the players, staff and fans, with wages often paid late, players going on strike, matches postponed and numerous court cases over unpaid debt. In the 2019/20 season, three separate disciplinary hearings docked the club 17 points for its misdemeanours and as a consequence the club finished bottom of the league and was relegated to the National League. A further court case in September gave the owner a week to pay certain debts, he didn't and the club was

wound up on September 16th.

This was devastating news for the town. The football club has a long history going back to 1874 and is an important part of the community. It has often put the town 'on the map'. The chances of somebody coming along to rescue the club from these ashes seemed remote, especially in the current COVID times without paying spectators able to go to games. On Sunday 20th September, in my MTFC tie, I did say a prayer for the club. I also posted that picture and the fact that I had said a prayer for the club's future on the fans' Facebook page (called The Star Lane End). To my surprise, it had received almost 100 likes last time I looked and was one of the most popular posts at that time.

Well just a few weeks later, on Wednesday 13th October, it was announced that local businessman Rob Smethurst has bought the assets of the club from the liquidator and is re-launching it under the name Macclesfield FC. He has appointed a strong board which includes fan representation and made playing legend Danny Whittaker the manager. The club will be run in a professional and business like manner, with ground improvements to be made, including converting the pitch to an all weather surface. This will allow for its use in the community 7 days a week. The aim is to have a true community club in the town. It is hoped to enter the NW Counties league at the start of next season. This is the best possible outcome; one nobody imagined possible just a few weeks ago. It really is good news for the town. And I'm glad I included the club in my prayers a few Sundays ago...

Garrie Naden

## Remembering Loved Ones



*Gone, ... but never forgotten*

Join with us online at 4pm on Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Oct to remember loved ones who have passed away but are not forgotten.

This short service, recorded by the clergy and members of churches in Macclesfield, will include readings and prayers, music and silence.

As part of the service we will light candles in St Michael's Church to aid our thoughts.

Members of our churches will be filming contributions from their home or from church.

Unable to hold our regular 'Remembering Service' in St Michael's this year, I invite you to be still, remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one.

*Mark Stephens*  
Revd Martin Stephens  
Team Rector of Macclesfield

Our Remembering Service will begin at 4pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October and will be available for two weeks afterwards.

Access the recording [here](#)



## ROAR needs your help!

Many of you know all about our connection with ROAR (Reach Out and Recover) – a local organisation which supports those recovering from addiction problems. ROAR's success rate in assisting their client "family members" to resume an addiction-free life, often with gainful employment and a return to estranged families, is considerably higher than most organisations nationally which work in this field.

As you can imagine, the last six months have been extraordinarily difficult for Jill Millward and her team, as they continue to keep the show on the road, and provide the support and care they are so good at giving, throughout such a stressful and challenging period.

Jill is now trying to plan something for Christmas – it can't be the usual Christmas Dinner at the United Reformed Church as such gatherings are unlikely to be allowed. Instead she is planning an outdoor meal "event" in the Market Square.

As part of this Christmas celebration, she would love to be able to give each person at the meal a personal gift comprising toiletries, a little luxury (some chocolate) and a pair of socks. These include both members of ROAR and the isolated and vulnerable who are invited because they would otherwise celebrate Christmas alone.

### PLEASE HELP

If you could donate one or more of the following items, please put them in the box at church (in the Welcome Area), or contact Lynne Spedding ([lynne.norbron@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.norbron@gmail.com) or 614819) who will happily come and collect items from you.

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Soap</b>              | <b>Toothbrush</b> |
| <b>Shampoo</b>           | <b>Toothpaste</b> |
| <b>Deodorant</b>         | <b>Socks</b>      |
| <b>A chocolate treat</b> |                   |

**Alternatively you can donate money and Lynne will purchase the items on your behalf.**

Please do try to help, epically as we reflect on Graham's message of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> (Prison Sunday) when we learned of the problems many ex-offenders face as they return to society. ROAR often welcomes ex-prisoners on their release and helps to give them a while new start in life. It would be an excellent way for us all to put Matthew 25 into practice!

*Lynne Spedding*



## "It's Our World - Let's Make It Better"

The week always includes United Nations Day (24th October) although events can and do happen all year round.

*Aim: To share understanding about some of the global issues that affect us all and to recognise we can all make a difference*

### Individually will you commit to...?

<b>Act to change my life style</b>	Reduce - buy less, give away stuff no longer useful, go for a renewable energy tariff, travel by public transport. Go electric – bike or car, eat less meat, buy local, walk more. Reuse – up cycle, pass things on, buy second hand; Recycle, take my own cup, use cloth bags, buy recycled paper.
<b>Act to better care for my neighbour</b>	Dispose of goods on local freecycle site or charity shop. Help at local repair café. Get involved in local visiting group or group that helps with gardening. Volunteer to help those who cannot go out. Start a walking or cycling group, share lifts in my car.
<b>Act to secure a better future for all creation</b>	Cultivate plants for insects, bees and birds to eat and live. Become a tree warden. Volunteer for litter picking or local environmental charity. Use the car less. Look for ideas in "L is for lifestyle" by Ruth Valerio, recently updated. Join Green Christians <a href="https://greenchristian.org.uk/">https://greenchristian.org.uk/</a>

### In the wider world

– will you support a commitment to:?

<b>Act to change my life style</b>	Support my local community with greening projects, litter picks, tree planting, recycling schemes. Lobby for national changes for a green and fair recovery, affordable transport. Supporting cycling and foot path routes.
<b>Act to better care for my neighbour</b>	Get involved in civil society -serve as a local councillor, volunteer in local neighbourhood group, lobby councillors and your MP. Look at what I could do build community in my own street. Campaign and fund raise for a global charity.
<b>Act to secure a better future for all creation</b>	Support petitions asking government to bring in legislation to use less fossil fuel ( Christian Aid ) Help a nature group. Speak up.