

June Newsletter

A Rocha's theologian Dave Bookless, who preached at St Nics two years ago, is supporting the "Renew our World" campaign, and there is a video interview with him which can be found at

<https://renewourworld.net/2020/04/renew-our-world-wildlife-statement/> or directly at <https://youtu.be/opXnN7DF3aI>.



St Johns Church Neville's Cross Eco Festival

will take place this year on 21st June, this year - Online! The theme this year is 'Hope in Action'

We have some great speakers and musicians lined up to inspire and entertain, with short videos posted throughout the day. There will also be posts from lots of our usual Ecofest contributors, and a few videos with activity suggestions for getting outside and getting creative with all the family. We will end the day with a 'gathering' on Zoom at 4pm where we encourage you to bring a drink and share what you've been up to during the day, as well as ask

any questions you might have to our day's speakers. **Dave Bookless from A Rocha UK** is giving 2 talks.

To get involved, visit our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnschurchnevillescros/> and click attending on our Ecofest events page or email us at nxecofestonline@gmail.com

Dick Swarbrick and Richard Lilly wrote: "Did you notice improved air quality, reduction in transport noise, intensely blue skies and birdsong during lockdown? All these changes seem to reflect an improved environment where we can appreciate God's wonderful creation so much better. As lockdown eases do you want to see these benefits maintained? It is, after all, what activists have been wanting to happen through our collective response to the threat of global climate change (rather than through the massive "shock" of a global pandemic). Now that we have experienced the benefits, how can we ensure we don't return to the "old" ways of doing things and ignoring the environment?"

For all—individuals, companies, governments, and civil society—two priorities. First, use this moment to raise awareness of the impact of a

climate crisis, which could ultimately create disruptions of greater magnitude and duration than the current Covid-19 crisis. So, look for, follow and support all links locally on climate action, climate change and climate plans which are working towards change and preventing the return towards the business as usual situation, and to maintaining the benefits that we have all experienced. Second, build upon the mind-set and behavioural shifts that are likely to persist after the current crisis. Examples could be - continue regular working from home on several days a week; continue using and encouraging others to use virtual meetings by Zoom etc.; promise to try different transport methods for short journeys especially to church and school and work - walk, cycle, e-transport, bus (social distancing allowing); use home deliveries (more environmentally friendly); think carefully about whether flying to foreign far flung countries for holidays is so really so much better than holidaying in this beautiful country; travelling to European countries by train can be very rewarding and so much kinder to the environment; building on the localism and neighbourliness and caring that we have all enjoyed and experienced, especially with the Thursday "clap" by buying local food, caring for local issues and people, to reduce the demands we place on our environment—or, more precisely, to shift them towards more sustainable sources.

World Weather Chief Petteri Taalas explains in a New Scientist Interview in the 29 May issue that he is positive about the future, since COVID-19 could be a catalyst for global climate action. Climate change does not need such drastic action as has been taken in the face of this pandemic, and so can give us hope that we can together avert a disaster that will be much more serious than the pandemic.



Book Review

The Future We Choose

ISBN 978-1-83877-082-2

I found this book really inspiring. It is written by two of the people who organised the Paris Climate Change conference, and sets out in detail what our world will be like if we halve our carbon emissions by 2030 and reduce them to zero by 2050, and what it will be like if we do nothing. Then it describes 10 things that we can all do to help make the first

scenario come true:-

Change your own mind set by:-

- 1) Letting go of the old world (don't cling on to old ways of thought)
- 2) Facing your grief but hold a vision for the future

- 3) Defending the truth
- 4) Seeing yourself as a citizen, not a consumer

Change your actions by:-

- 1) Moving beyond fossil fuels
- 2) Reforesting the earth
- 3) Investing in a clean economy
- 4) Using technology responsibly
- 5) Building gender equality
- 6) Engaging in politics

A truly prophetic and inspiring book, giving us detail of what to do and why, and creating hope for the future.

Philip Brooks

Russia races to clean up massive oil spill in Siberia

Over 21,000 tons of diesel were leaked into the Arctic Ocean as officials were slow to respond. The incident marks one of the largest oil spills in Russian history, and experts say the area will need years to recover.



The spillage happened due to increased temperatures in Siberia, causing the permafrost under storage tanks to thaw. If global warming continues we can expect more unforeseen disasters like this.

LED Lighting

The Eco-Group discussed the possibility of reducing our electricity usage by changing to LED lighting, and it is hoped that this can be expedited.