

Join the COP26 Day of Action

Join a climate march on 6 November... and get your church to come along too!

On **Saturday 6 November**, people across the UK and the world will join marches and speak out against the injustice of the climate crisis. Will you and your church join in?

'Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves.'

Proverbs 31:8

At the mid-point of the two-week UN climate talks, COP26, we're calling on the Prime Minister and other world leaders to take strong and transformative action to help end the climate crisis.

Marches are planned for Glasgow, London and across the UK. Find out about a march near you at tearfund.org/DayOfAction

If you don't live near enough to one that's already organised, perhaps you could help arrange a small event or vigil of your own?



Why go on a march?

At the last big climate summit in 2015, Christiana Figueres, then Secretary General of the UNFCCC, stood on a platform in a small hall in Paris receiving signed petitions from faith groups and others from all over the world. Moved to tears, she said:

'I would like to thank you for your messages, for almost 2 million signatures, for your walking, for your praying, for your singing... I want to thank you for every single step, because with every step you have shown that it is possible to tread lightly on this, our beautiful planet.'

Christiana Figueres

Two weeks later, the Paris Agreement came into being. Since then, there have been steps forwards and steps backwards. The G7 summit in June this year did not deliver anywhere near the scale of action needed to tackle the climate crisis. Many countries still have to deliver their action plans to make good on Paris commitments to limit global warming close to the safer level of 1.5°C, and richer nations need to put more money on the table both to reduce emissions and help vulnerable countries adapt. As countries meet in Glasgow in November for COP26, the commitments made in Paris hang in the balance.



The climate crisis is growing more urgent each day. We are on course for catastrophic global temperature rises that will put millions of lives at risk – and it's the world's poorest people who are already bearing the brunt. We know this is not God's plan and we can help change this.

As Christians, and churches, we are all called to play our part. Wouldn't it be amazing to see whole churches stand up for justice for those impacted by the climate crisis? Taking part in a march on 6 November, and speaking out for change, is one way that we can build a fairer world that works for everyone. We've seen time and again that, when we raise our voices together, decision-makers take action and situations change for people in poverty.

📷 Climate change march, November 2015
Photo right: Clive Mear/Tearfund



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Quick tips for getting your church involved

- Bring your leaders on board
- Find a friend and, if possible, build a team. Plan and pray together
- Invite your congregation via as many channels as possible
- Make some placards (see below)

How to make placards – as an individual or group

- Decide on your message, and any eye-catching symbols or artwork
- Keep it brief and bold. For example:
 - » St Mary's Church calling for climate justice
 - » Stop funding fossil fuels
 - » Act justly on climate
- Consider putting a message on both sides of the placard
- Choose your materials; ideally, recycle things that you can also dispose of well. Bold painted words on a panel of a cardboard box would do!
- If the forecast is for rain, try to make your placard waterproof

Whether you're making placards on your own, as part of a church group or at a one-off 'placard-making' event, there are plenty of tips online, such as on [wikihow.com/Make-Protest-Signs](https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Protest-Signs)

If you would like some Tearfund placards, please email us at campaigns@tearfund.org



Why not also get your church to join in with Tearfund's COP26 church service on Sunday 7 November?

Pete Greig, Carol Ng'ang'a and Celtic Worship will lead churches across the UK in a climate-themed time of prayer and worship. Find out more at tearfund.org/cop26service



Checklist

- ✓ Check Covid rules ahead of time
- ✓ Provide a meeting point for your church members to gather
- ✓ Don't forget your placards!
- ✓ Take phone, camera, umbrellas, waterproofs, water and snacks
- ✓ Pray at your starting point as a group, before you set off

Optional

- ✓ Invite local dignitaries to join you eg MP, bishop, headteacher
- ✓ Tell your local newspaper what you're doing
- ✓ Post what you're doing on social media. You might like to use a relevant hashtag, such as #COP26 or #thetimeisnow, and tag @TearfundAct on Twitter or @Tearfund on Facebook or Instagram
- ✓ Email your photos to us at campaigns@tearfund.org

Let us know how you get on! And please do send photos of your group to campaigns@tearfund.org

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Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom
☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ campaigns@tearfund.org 📱 @Tearfund

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