



# BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

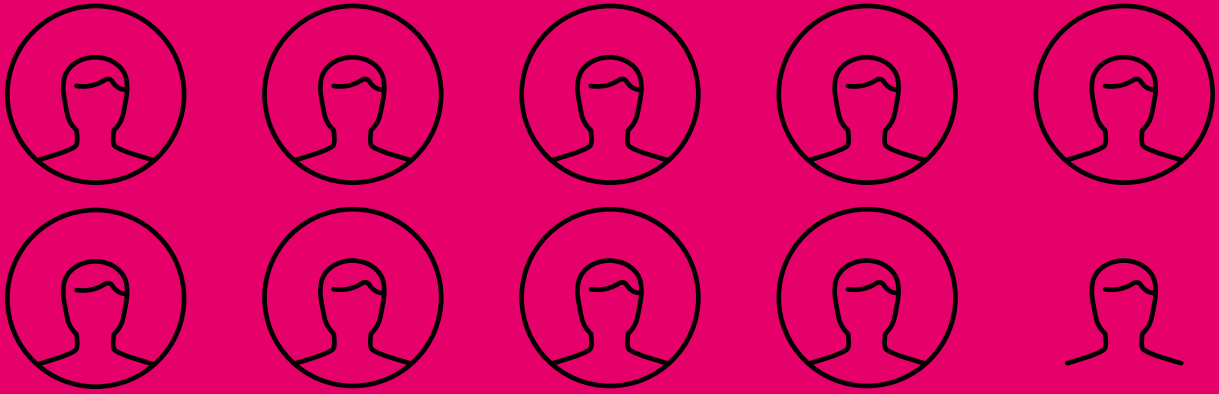
HOW THE CHURCH COULD LOSE YOUNG PEOPLE  
OVER CLIMATE INACTION

THE  
YOUTHSCAPE  
CENTRE FOR  
RESEARCH

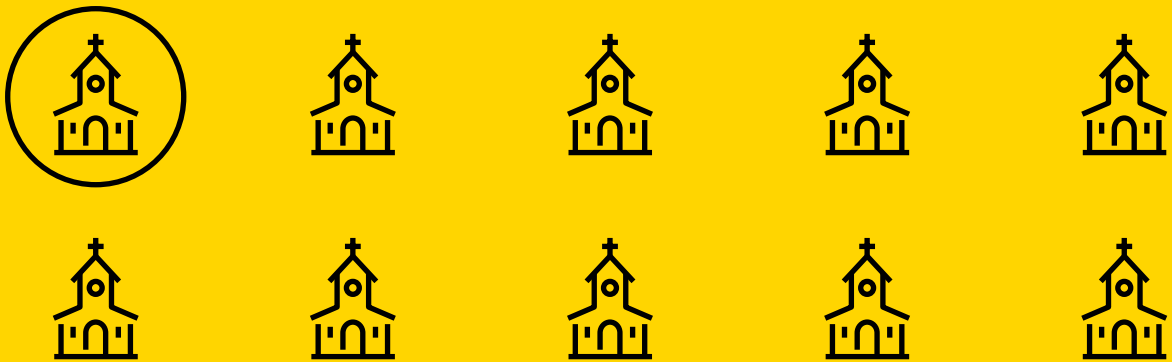
tearfund

**'BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS  
AND DO THE WORK.'**

1 Chronicles 28:20 NLT



**9 OUT OF 10 CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS  
SURVEYED ARE CONCERNED ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE.**



**1 OUT OF 10 THINK THEIR  
CHURCH IS DOING ENOUGH.**





# INTRODUCTION

Dear church leader,

**As your sister in Christ, I am imploring you to engage more, act more, and speak more on issues of social and political justice.**

Enacting justice, defending the oppressed, and loving as Jesus did are not optional to following Christ. In fact, many of my peers and I believe that meeting practical needs is how we best share the gospel, encounter God ourselves, and see true transformation and revival.

By ignoring climate justice, or placing it lower on our priority lists, we are overlooking the very real concerns, livelihoods and lives of God's children across the globe, who are currently harmed by climate change. Climate change disproportionately affects the poor, people of colour, women and people with existing health conditions. We can no longer view climate change from our positions of privilege as an issue to postpone and solve for our children, but we must take urgent action to care for the people who are affected by it now.

This creation is a gift from God, one that God called good. It may be too late to reverse what we've done to the earth, but it's not too late to show the just love of Jesus to our neighbours.



Please,

**Rebekah Wilson (aged 21)**

**'We are destroying the Earth. This is a crisis in the world today and should be much higher up on church agendas than it is. We should be doing our part and be encouraged to do so by our leaders in churches.'**



***'This is an emergency! Our young people are crying out for support by way of encouragement, as well as church and leadership engagement with these issues of discrimination, poverty and climate change. The findings in the report are simultaneously uncomfortable and inspiring, but extremely valuable in understanding the injustices that are burdening the heart of our Father and young people.'***

**Lian Jacobs, Corporate Youth Director (COGOP UK)**



***'The research and findings of this report reflect the urgency and high priority our young people are placing on resolving the climate crisis. A brilliant resource for all church leaders on what Gen Z are truly praying and thinking about.'***

**Pete Hughes, Pastor, KXC (Kings Cross Church)**



***'So many young people today aren't asking 'Is faith in Jesus real?' but 'Will faith in Jesus make a difference?'. The clear cry from this research is that our faith should not only make a difference to our lives, but to our planet, and this is the difference that so many young people, Christian or not, are looking to see.'***

**Laura Hancock, Director of Church Resources (Youth for Christ)**





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THE  
YOUTHSCAPE  
CENTRE FOR  
RESEARCH

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## THE RESEARCH

The findings in this report have been gathered from an online survey conducted over the summer of 2020. A total of 630 young British Christians aged 14-19 took part.

These young people were active Christians: 84% said their faith was important or very important to them, and 92% said they took part in a church service at least once a week.

A further 23 participants, aged 16-23, took part in four online focus groups, looking particularly at the experiences of young Christian climate activists and young black Christians.

While the sample is large enough to provide significant new insights, the findings are not representative of all Christian teenagers in Britain (see methodology on page 20).

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Christian young people are concerned about climate change, and so are their friends. They also care about racism and poverty. As Christians, they feel called to respond to these crises as a fundamental aspect of their faith.

However, many do not see this concern for social and environmental justice reflected in the wider church. While some churches are talking about these issues, young people expect more from their church leaders – and they want to be supported in making a difference.

## OUR CONCERNS

**Christian teenagers are concerned about discrimination, climate change and poverty.**

Discrimination, eg racism, sexism, homophobia

96%

Poverty, in the UK or abroad

94%

Climate change

92%

(% concerned or somewhat concerned)

The forms of discrimination that most concern young people are racism, sexism and the treatment of sexual minorities, in that order. Concern about racism has increased in recent months. In our focus groups, young Christian climate activists told us that they see climate change, racism and poverty as connected, and that they need to be addressed together.



## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE WORLD TO BE BETTER IN TEN YEARS' TIME?

*'I would love for everyone to know God as their heavenly Father and for more people to help reverse climate change and pollution, and for things like sexism and racism to end.'*



## OUR CLIMATE

**Christian teenagers recognise climate change as a threat. They are responding, and they are ready to do more.**

### Recycle

Have done: **87%**

Willing to: **97%**

### Pray about the climate

Have done: **57%**

Willing to: **84%**

### Persuade family to make positive changes

Have done: **44%**

Willing to: **73%**

### Eat less meat

Have done: **44%**

Willing to: **56%**



**98% OF CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS HAVE FRIENDS WHO CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.**

## OUR FAITH

**Christian teenagers see justice as an important part of their faith.**

**My faith teaches me to care about injustice**

**86%**

**It is important that Christians respond to climate change**

**84%**

In the focus groups, young people told us that their faith motivates them to press for change. They saw their actions in a theological context, their activism as a response to the call to love others as God has loved us.

As well as motivating their climate activism, young people also said that their faith sustains it, giving them hope and a long-term vision. In turn, their activism was shaping their faith.

## OUR CHURCH

**Young people do not think their churches are doing enough about climate change.**

Teenagers reported mixed experiences of church engagement with climate change: **63%** had seen church leaders taking practical steps to help the congregation respond to climate change; **54%** had heard a leader pray about climate change in a meeting.

**I have not heard a sermon on climate change on a Sunday**

**66%**

**Church leaders have not spoken to me about climate change**

**51%**

**My church leaders see climate change as something they should care about**

**37%**

**My church is doing enough about the climate**

**9%**

This mixed experience has left many young Christians frustrated with church.

***'When the world looks back at the church in 200 years' time, will they think the church helped to stop climate change or were part of the problem? Will they view the church as a positive part of society which is a catalyst of change, or negative and outdated?'***

## OUR MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

**Christian teenagers want the church to act with greater urgency, and support them in taking action for the climate.**

***'It's important, and I'd like you to lead the way. But if you don't, then we will.'***



# THREE MESSAGES FOR THE CHURCH

Our survey asked young people what they wanted to say to the church about climate change. A total of 230 teenagers filled in the open question. Some were hopeless or angry, some were appeals to pray or to step up. Many responses were short and urgent: 'do something!' or 'we need to do more.' They can be summarised in these three messages.







## **1. WE NEED CHANGE**

Acknowledge the problem. Don't ignore climate change, or its devastating impacts on the natural world and on communities across the globe. The destruction of climate change is a burden that will be carried by our generation and those who come after us. The church can start with small steps, but must do more and with greater urgency.

***'We need to do something now! We have the opportunity and a God who is all powerful behind us, so why haven't we made a change yet?'***

***'Being passive isn't an option.'***

***'Climate change affects people differently – you may find it pretty easy to ignore it, but it has a catastrophic effect on other communities around the world.'***



## **2. CLIMATE ACTIVISM IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR FAITH**

We are called to care for God's creation, and we are called to act justly towards our neighbours. These are fundamental to our faith, and climate change cannot be separated as a 'political' issue that does not concern the church. The church needs to teach this and pray about climate change.

***'We are called to steward our planet and to love our neighbours, and those two things are absolutely interlinked and godly ways of living! Living out these commands can be a way to worship God. There is so much potential in this area for really exciting sermons!'***

***'Pray for the healing of our home and the people on it – it's urgent.'***

***'If the Bible isn't dead, then start applying teachings to current emergencies.'***



## **3. THE CHURCH SHOULD BE LEADING THE WAY**

The church has a platform. It has power. It should be leading the way in responding to climate change and global injustice, but instead it risks falling behind. The church can set an example to the wider community.

***'The church should absolutely be at the forefront of fighting climate change – because the world is God's creation and we have a duty of care over it.'***

***'You have been appointed by God to be in a position of power in your community, don't let us down by refusing to acknowledge the biggest crisis we have ever faced.'***

# WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO?

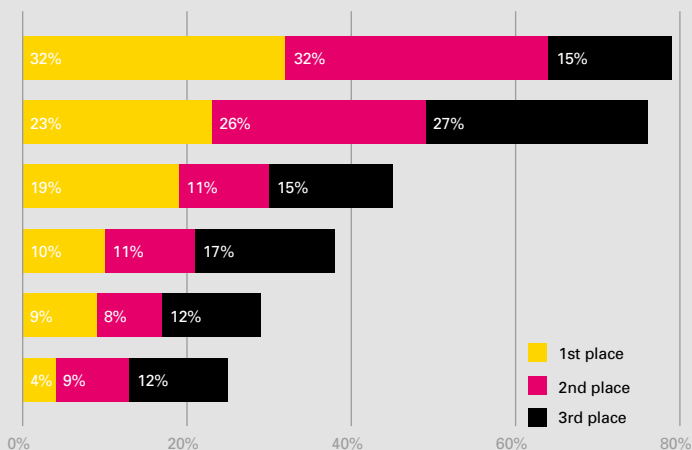
Church leaders may agree that the church needs to do more, and that responding to climate change is part of being a faithful Christian in the 21st Century – so what next? What can they do?

Young people want the adults in their churches to support them to respond practically to climate change. This practical action is more important to them than teaching about climate change, prayer, or emotional support for climate anxiety – though many welcome these forms of support too.

## WHAT COULD ADULTS IN YOUR CHURCH DO THAT WOULD MOST HELP YOU RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Participants were asked to rank these in order of importance

- Show me how to practically make a difference in the world
- Give me opportunities to make a difference
- Help me understand climate change
- Pray with me
- Give me hope about the world's future
- Help me manage anxiety about the world's future



## HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE WANT THEIR CHURCHES TO SUPPORT THEM?

- Acknowledge the issue
- Don't dismiss our involvement as trying to be cool, fashionable or worldly
- Use your gifts to act justly and not see justice as a cause for only some types of Christians
- Listen to us
- Support us emotionally and in prayer
- Take a risk and publicly support actions like the school strikes
- Don't be afraid
- Encourage and recognise our activism in church, but don't expect us to do all the work ourselves
- Divest from fossil fuels
- Teach about this on Sundays and other church settings
- Create a culture where responding to climate change is central to what the church does



***'Just recognising the issue would do so much for us, because that's most of what we're asking for. Most of what we're asking for is the government to listen, so that's what we want the church to do.'***

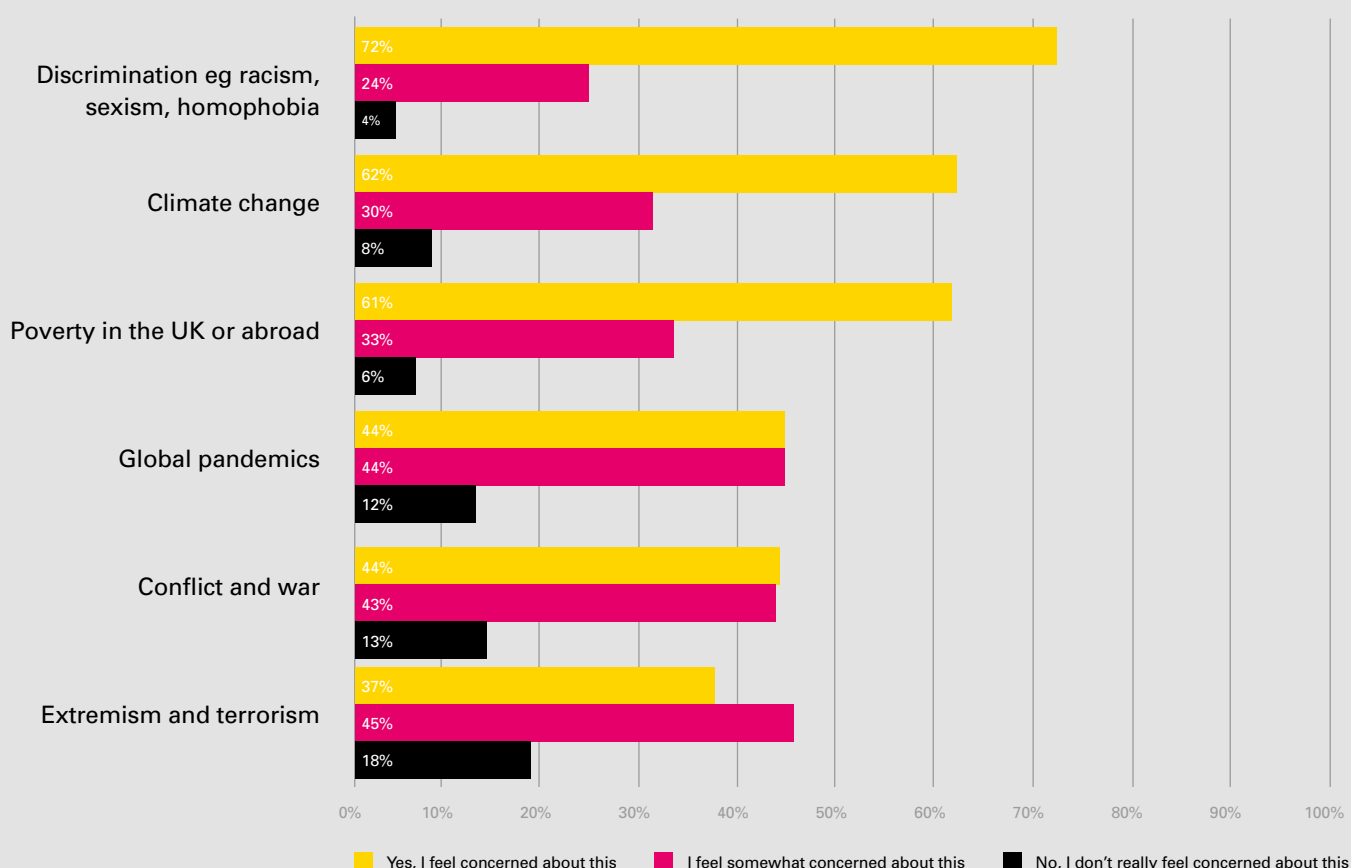






# OUR CONCERNS

## WHICH GLOBAL ISSUES ARE TROUBLING CHRISTIAN YOUNG PEOPLE?



**The survey found the top three concerns were discrimination, climate change and poverty. 72% of respondents were concerned about discrimination, with 24% somewhat concerned. Only 4% were unconcerned.**

There was wide agreement on climate change too, with 62% concerned and a further 30% somewhat concerned. Only 8% did not feel concerned about climate change.

Teenagers were asked whether they had become more concerned about any of these in recent months. Awareness of racial discrimination and poverty was rising, due in part to the timing of the survey and events in America. Concern about global pandemics had, unsurprisingly, also risen in the last year.

## IMAGINING A BETTER WORLD

When asked an open question about how they would like to see the world improve in the next decade, many of the same themes were expressed. The top three concerns were discrimination, climate change and poverty.

'I'd like to think that our generation has stood up for what we want and the world has become a more equal, cleaner place.'

'I would like global emissions to be as low as possible, food and technology to be available for all and racism to be something we remember and learn from.'

'For those who are richer to realise they can live with less, and to choose to redistribute their wealth (voluntarily).'





## **CONNECTING RACE, CLIMATE AND INEQUALITY**

**Our focus groups discussed the Black Lives Matter movement and its relevance to climate change. Many young people saw a connection between climate change and racism, though experiences of activism were more mixed.**

In one group, consisting of young Black Christians, climate change was not seen as something on the agenda of the church.

**'I've not been a part of a conversation about climate change or necessarily heard a talk or a preach on climate change.'**

Climate activist circles were seen as White spaces, with cultural expectations that differed from those of their own communities. Where they were drawn into activism, racism was more of a priority than climate change.

However, encountering 'Intersectional activism' had changed one young woman's perspective, as she realised that social justice and environmental action could go together.

**'I realised there was a connection. I was like, "Okay, yeah, we can build this at the same time."'**

In other focus groups, there was discussion about the lack of diversity amongst climate activists. Some recognised that not everyone has equal access to the resources needed to engage in climate activism as it is currently organised.

In talking to young people about the climate, it's important to make the links between different kinds of injustice, and help people to see the relationship between caring for the planet and acting justly towards our neighbour.

**'There can't be climate justice without racial justice... I think a lot of people ignore that they all go hand in hand.'**

## **INTERSECTIONAL ACTIVISM**

**Climate change disproportionately affects people of colour. Some of those who have contributed the least to global emissions, such as the populations of Sub-Saharan Africa, are among the most vulnerable.**

Participants in our focus groups were familiar with these connections, and understood that climate action and social justice were two sides of the same coin.

Leah Thomas, a leading young climate influencer in the US, advocates for 'Intersectional Environmentalism'. This is an inclusive version of environmentalism that advocates for both the protection of people and the planet. It identifies ways in which injustices happening to marginalised communities and the earth are interconnected.<sup>1</sup>

Intersectionalism is a complicated word but a relatively straightforward idea. It refers to the US term for a road junction. Just as pedestrians at a junction must be aware of traffic from multiple directions, some people are vulnerable to multiple forms of inequality or prejudice: race, gender and economic, for example.

Intersectional activists therefore pay particular attention to the voices and needs of women, people of colour, indigenous communities and other minorities or marginalised groups – including working class White communities.

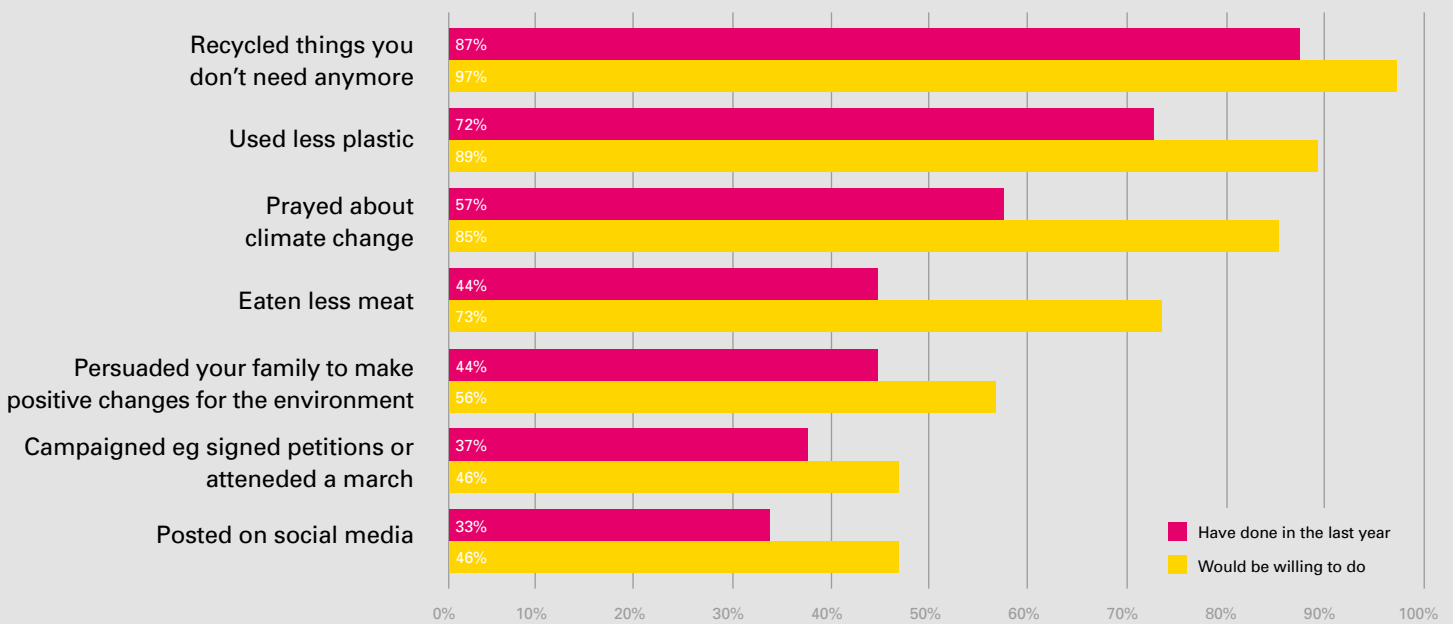
While it may not be the language that Christians have traditionally used, this is something that Jesus models for his disciples when he speaks to a Samaritan woman – someone who was excluded in multiple ways. When activists take an intersectional approach, they follow Jesus in his call to focus on 'the least of these my brothers and sisters'. (Matthew 25:40)

# OUR CLIMATE

## HOW DO CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS FEEL ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW ARE THEY RESPONDING?

The survey asked participants to write three words that they associated with the word 'climate'. The most common responses were those that expressed climate change as a threat, with words such as 'danger', 'emergency', or 'crisis'.

Given that Christian teenagers clearly perceive climate change as a threat, it is unsurprising that they are responding in their own lives.



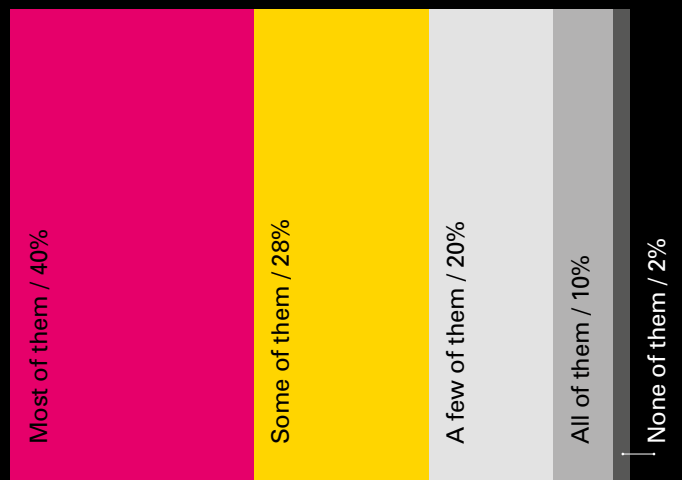
These teenagers were also prepared to do more, including eating less meat, recycling, or lobbying their family to make more sustainable choices.

The action that teenagers were least likely to do more of was to post about climate change on social media, which less than half of teenagers would definitely be willing to do. Nearly all have some peers who care about climate change, but young people may still be concerned about how online activism is perceived by others.

However, the focus groups suggested that conversation among peers was very powerful.

***'[when] people are actually talking about it, that's where it goes from individual change to group change, because your friends hear about it. Because you actually care. It spreads through that way, and that's probably the most effective way to get more people involved, by actually having conversations about it.'***

## HOW MANY OF YOUR FRIENDS CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?





## **YOUNG CHRISTIANS ARE ALREADY LEADING ON CLIMATE ACTION**

As well as taking actions in their own lives and with their families, Christian teenagers are involved in wider activism. In our focus groups, we met young people who are already living out their faith through their action on climate change. Some of the ways that they were taking action included:

- Writing and delivering speeches
- Setting up societies and clubs at school/colleges
- Educating themselves
- Running campaigns
- Praying
- Influencing friends and family, and on social media
- Organising school strikes
- Making changes to their travel and consumption
- Attending conferences
- Working with politicians
- Setting up environmental ministries within the church

Not everyone had found these actions easy, and some spoke about the importance of support and encouragement. One participant mentioned that she had only reluctantly joined the focus group, because she had felt like 'such a newbie with climate activism'. She was taking time to learn more, and take small steps, and the encouragement of others had been helpful. 'Something that helped me is when people have told me 'I was where you were, it's okay, you'll learn, you don't have to know everything overnight''.

Another said that they had taken their interest in sustainability online, 'because I think the more and more I got into talking about it, the more I realised not everyone wants to listen. I suppose that's hard to hear sometimes, because you just want everyone to be on this journey with you.'

Climate action can be draining, and churches could do more to support their activists.

***'Activism really does take it out of you. It would be good if the church didn't add to that; rather, it would be amazing if it could be a place that does the opposite.'***

Christian young people are concerned about climate change, and so are many of their friends. They are taking action already, and want to do more. Some may be confidently leading the way, but others may feel inadequate, tired or isolated. Churches and adults could be doing more to support their young people.



### **DAN'S STORY**

Unlike others in the focus group, Dan had never been involved in street protests or school strikes, choosing instead to directly lobby his MP and MEP on environmental issues. When it came to choosing work experience placements or internships, he worked with advocacy organisations. This commitment to advocacy is closely linked to his experience of God.

***'When I was 16, I prayed to God about what I wanted to do, and about working in the environment sphere, and that was when I first felt really strongly connected to God or to the Holy Spirit or whatever term you want to use. So it's really been linked with my faith from the get-go.'***

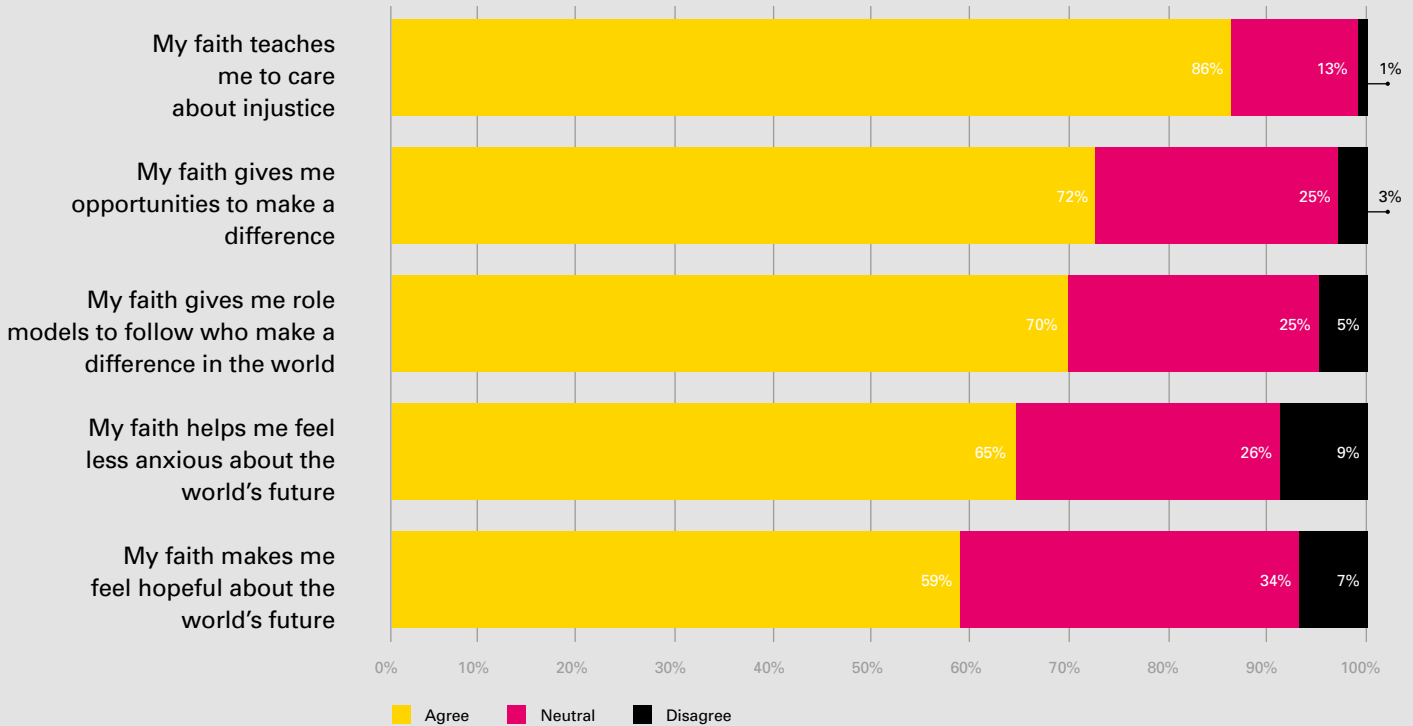
When he was at university, he attended a weekend away and heard a talk where they said:

***'...if you're passionate about something, you need to live it out through the whole of your life'. After that point I couldn't eat meat anymore, so I've been vegetarian for two years now.'***

More recently, Dan has been leading his congregation through the process of becoming an Eco Church.

# OUR FAITH

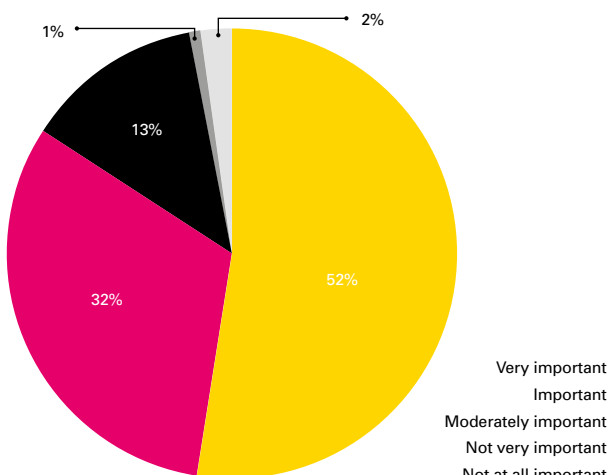
## HOW DO CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS INTEGRATE THEIR FAITH AND CLIMATE CHANGE?



**There was wide agreement among survey respondents that the Christian faith teaches us to care about injustice. Of those surveyed, 86% agreed and just 1% disagreed. They also found role models and opportunities to make a difference through their faith.**

Young people believe that it is important for Christians to respond to climate change – 84% thought it was important or very important.

## HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS FOR CHRISTIANS TO TAKE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE?



**'Jesus wants every part of our lives, there is nothing that we should not give to Jesus in our lives. So, when we're in the supermarket we don't stop being followers of Jesus. When we're watching the news, we don't stop... becoming a Christian is a whole-life thing.'**

**'Jesus was an activist. He fought against injustices, and it's one of the reasons I feel so strongly about speaking up about injustices, and I think it makes it easier, as I can pray about it and Jesus and God totally get it and I know they're on my side.'**

# **OUR THEOLOGY OF CLIMATE ACTIVISM**

**Teenagers in our focus groups explained that their Christian faith inspired climate activism. They were enthusiastic about how their faith shaped and sustained them, with some common themes emerging.**

## **1. GOD'S STORY MOVES US TO ACT**

Our action is a response to the call to love others with a Christ-like love and to care for God's creation.

**'My care about the human impact of climate change on the world is inspired in many ways by my belief that Christ died for all people and loves each person dearly and each person has integral value.'**

**'I remember being in so much shock when I took away the importance of stewardship and how everything belongs to God, but he's entrusted it into our hands... that definitely woke me up.'**

## **2. HOPE IN JESUS MAKES ACTIVISM MORE EMOTIONALLY SUSTAINABLE**

Our faith gives us hope, counteracting narratives of dread and denial.

**'The activism can still get me down, and ultimately it's my faith that keeps me going and keeps me more hopeful... that's quite different to how some of my atheist friends might approach it.'**

## **3. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ENCOURAGES AND CHANGES US**

Our faith encourages us and gives us meaning, a conviction to do what is right even when it is hard.

**'Sometimes, you do want to shut that door and not talk about it anymore. That's the easy option – but I think, as I've grown more in my faith and learning more about what the Bible says about stewarding what God's put in our hands, the world that he's placed us in, it's really challenged me to not let those walls build up but to keep having those conversations no matter how tough or tiring.'**

## **4. FAITH HELPS US TAKE THE NARROW PATH AND GIVES US A LONG-TERM VISION.**

We do not act because climate is a fashionable cause, but because we can share in God's plans.

**'When something's not a popular issue anymore who's going to still be talking about it? That's where the church comes in – they're the people who are going to be against the grain of what the world's doing anyway... I have to make sure that my fuel is from something that's going to actually last rather than just whatever is popular now.'**

## **5. FAITH REQUIRES COMPASSIONATE ACTIVISM**

Being a Christian shapes how we do our activism, building bridges with those who disagree with us.

**'I think the way Christians need to act is being full of grace to people and recognising your own mistakes, and repenting from it... Jesus would always be giving second, third, fourth chances.'**

## **6. ACTION SHAPES OUR EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND GOD**

Our faith inspires our activism, and our activism shapes our faith in turn.

**'Just starting doing the strikes has given me 100 times more hope than I ever had before.'**

**'If I believe that climate activism is ultimately rooted in everything Jesus represents and calls us to do then that's a very encouraging thing. It means there's something more powerful and transcendent behind it, and it's not just me with a little placard hoping the planet doesn't explode.'**

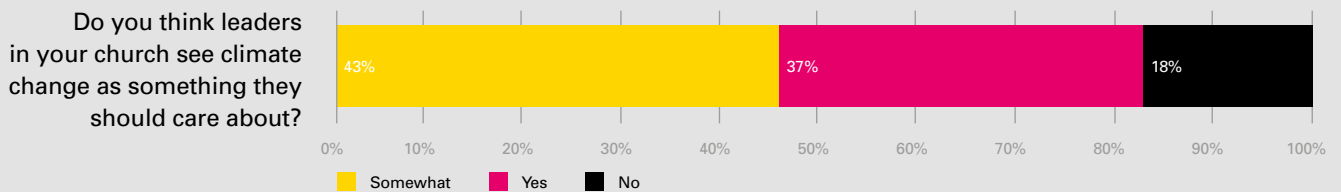


# OUR CHURCH

## HOW DO CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS THINK THEIR CHURCH IS DOING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

The survey revealed mixed experiences of church action. On the one hand, 63% had seen church leaders taking practical steps to help the congregation respond to climate change. On the other, two thirds of teenagers surveyed had never heard a sermon on climate change on a Sunday. Just over half had heard a church leader pray about climate change, but half had never had a church leader speak to them about the topic, one-to-one, in youth group or small groups.

Consequently, only a third of young people were confident that their church sees climate change as something they should be concerned about. When asked if they thought their church was doing enough to tackle climate change, 58% said no. A further third said they didn't know, and only 9% could say that their church was doing enough.

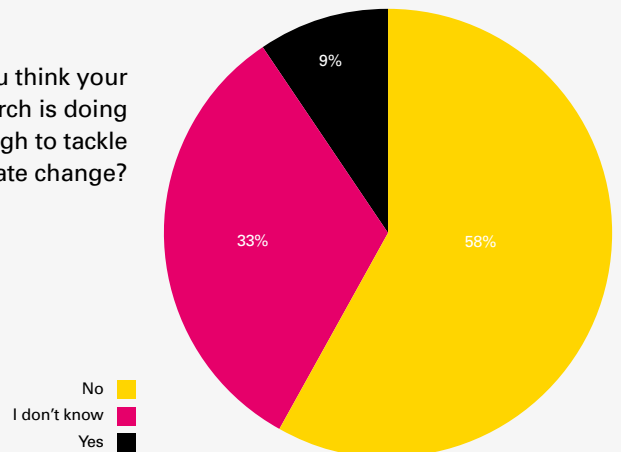


The sense that climate change is not a high priority has left many young people disappointed with the church. Some spoke of how the church 'drags its feet' on social justice – or that it was willing to address the consequences of social problems but not the underlying causes: eg providing food banks, but not asking why people need food banks in the first place. Some thought churches might be avoiding climate change because it is political; but to young people, inaction itself is a political choice. One participant said that 'the church's refusal to engage in politics is a total abdication of responsibility.'

In dealing with these frustrations, some young activists had separated their faith from their experience of church, speaking of the need to draw hope from sources beyond the 'human institutions' of the church. They were not giving up on the church, but hoped that it would realise the power that it has to act and to influence.

**'Christians have such a huge potential for change because it's not just their faith they're putting actions on, but they get to pray alongside those actions, and that combination of faith, action and prayer is so powerful.'**

Do you think your church is doing enough to tackle climate change?



**'Activism and change and politics isn't seen as a central act of worship.'**

**'As far as I can remember, none of the churches (Anglican and Evangelical) I have been to have encouraged me in climate activism.'**

**'I always go back and forth between wanting to just give up on the church as a lost cause that's too big and fundamentally stuck in its ways to actually start taking meaningful action, and wanting desperately to convince the church to wield the massive power and influence it has to change the world for the better.'**

# YOUR RESPONSE

**The research presented here suggests that Christian young people are concerned about climate change; that they see a response to climate change as an integral part of their faith; and that they want to see the church step up and do more.**

Teenagers have challenged the church on this issue. It is their generation that has most acutely felt the urgency of the current moment. Responding to the findings of the survey and focus groups is not a matter of giving young people what they want, but acknowledging their moral leadership and working with them to address an era-defining environmental and social crisis.

The church must act now. If it does not, it will fail the living planet that God loves and calls us to protect. It will fail the world's most vulnerable people, who face the most serious consequences of climate change. And, it will fail its young people.

But, if the church listens to its young people and responds to their concerns and acts, then it can play a vital role in the transformation of society. It can be midwife to a better future, where humanity's relationship to God's earth is restored and rebalanced. And in the process, the church itself may be transformed, discovering new ways to follow Jesus faithfully in the 21st century.

## **FIRST STEPS**

The climate crisis needs the church's full attention and a long-term commitment, but here are some places to start:

### **LISTEN**

Talk to the young people in your church. What do they want you to do? Follow their lead.

### **LEARN**

Invite your young people to recommend books and documentaries. Watch or read them as a leadership team or in small groups, and feed back to your teenagers.

### **SPEAK**

Book in a climate sermon or teaching series for 2021.

### **DECLARE**

Can your church declare a climate emergency? It can be a symbolic moment to draw attention to the climate crisis and show young people that you think it is important.

### **ACT**

Investigate the Eco Church programme.

### **PRAY**

A great place to start learning and acting alongside your teenagers is with the We Are Tearfund community. Please check out [weare.tearfund.org](http://weare.tearfund.org) for youth session resources, and [@wearetearfund](https://twitter.com/wearetearfund) on social media for our YouTube channel, podcast and magazine.

We also highly recommend the Climate Emergency Toolkit ([www.climateemergencytoolkit.com](http://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com)) for a hub of ideas of how your church can meaningfully respond.

We would love to support and resource your church on this journey. Please get in touch with us at [campaigns@tearfund.org](mailto:campaigns@tearfund.org)



## **METHODOLOGY NOTES**

The survey was co-written by the Youthscape Centre for Research and Tearfund, and hosted online. To ensure it reached the right audience, the survey link was circulated to Christian youth workers to pass on.

The survey data is unweighted for two reasons. First, there is not robust data on the demographic characteristics of Christian teenagers in the UK, which makes it very challenging to apply weights. Second, we wanted to acknowledge the limits of our sample, which was more white (89 per cent), female (69 per cent) and located in London/South East (34 per cent) than projections or estimates of the general population of Christian teenagers.

While it is standard practice to weight data, the practice means that the perspectives and experiences of a relatively small number of individuals (eg young, black males) come to represent the group that is underrepresented in the sample. In the context of various kinds of discrimination, we see a need to be more sensitive to how weighting could be perceived to be a form of tokenism and want to work harder as organisations to achieve true diversity in our research samples.

Four focus groups were hosted online. Participants were recruited to focus groups primarily through Tearfund's networks. This included young people involved in school strikes, churches, student groups, and those who had participated in a Tearfund programme.

The research and tools were approved by the Youthscape Ethics Advisory Board, which is an independent group that reviews all projects. We would like to thank all those who participated in the research for sharing their thoughts and perspectives.

***'Everyone and everything needs to change. But the bigger your platform, the bigger your responsibility...'***

***'What we are doing now can soon no longer be undone...'***

***'The future, as well as what we have achieved in the past, is literally in your hands now.'***

***'But, it is still not too late to act. It will take a far-reaching vision.'***

***'It will take courage.'***

**Greta Thunberg**