

»»» FRIMLEY BAPTIST CHURCH «««

CREATION CARE

NEWSLETTER

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

Psalms 24:1



Forget-me-nots (or Myosotis)

In the world we live in, it's becoming increasingly easy to feel helpless. For everyone, those with and without it, faith included, the stories we see and the way journalists write and feed information to us is designed to be eye catching. It's designed to shock you and engage you and make you scared, so you should never feel bad for climate anxiety - in fact it's very reasonable. These articles are written in very specific ways, yes, but it doesn't take away from their truth. So how do we deal with that?

No one reading this will be a billionaire or powerful government official (as far as I'm aware), who can snap their fingers and donate obscene amounts to climate research, charities, or specific relief funds like support for the California wildfires. This doesn't mean we are unable to do anything. In the Bible, God doesn't solely turn to privileged people, speaking to them and enacting His will through those who can easily make change, instead, He enacts change at times through the lowly and the unknown, showing the depth of His power. Take for example:

- Shiprah and Puah—two midwives who defied Pharaoh because they knew they answered to a higher power (Exodus 1: 15-21)
- Bezaleel—a simple architect to whom God gave the job of a lifetime (Exodus 31:2-5)
- Ehud—used by God for no other reason than he was left-handed and available (Judges 3: 12-30)
- Shamgar—though mentioned only once in the Bible, he still had time to kill 600 Philistines and save Israel (Judges 3:31)

No one is asking you, however, to take on a mammoth task as these people did. With the state our world is in now it's not enough to simply not do the wrong thing, or not do anything at all- it's time to embrace the right thing to do, which is everything you reasonably can. No one is asking for you to take on mammoth tasks, that was simply meant to inspire, to show you how God uses ordinary people like us. Think about the little things you can do that will contribute to a larger change, pray for guidance in looking after this world, and find some small sense of accomplishment and satisfaction amidst the helplessness.

Piper Bolland

>>> DID YOU KNOW?

- A lot of plastic can now be recycled in supermarkets! This includes bread bags, fruit wrappers and even crisp packets! Packaging should now have a label on it that states "Recycle with plastic bags in store" in a green box. If it says this, you can take it to a supermarket (including Waitrose in Frimley) and they'll recycle it for you.
- You can save food waste using the **Olio app**. You can download the Olio app for free and then use it to collect food that has been saved from being thrown away in the supermarkets. It's a great way to save food and money!
- Most appliances we have in our houses have an "eco-mode" setting - using this can help to reduce our impact on the environment. Opting for this setting may mean a cycle takes longer but it uses reduced temperatures and therefore reduces your electricity bill too!

HOW CAN WE REDUCE OUR IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

In recent world and UK news, the impact of climate change is now becoming clear and impacting our lives. We all want to reduce climate change, but how can we do this? It just seems too hard and often gets filed in the too-hard category.

As Christians, we believe that every act of love is part of God's transformation of our world, the realisation of Jesus's prayer for God's Kingdom to come. Similarly, every act, no matter how small, that reduces our climate impact, is an act of love for God's precious world. We can't do it all, but we can make a difference.

A helpful approach is understanding our carbon footprint and possible steps to reduce our footprint. I have found the ClimateHero Carbon Calculator easy to use with 5-10 minutes of effort. You can find it here: <https://carbon-calculator.climatehero.org/>

The calculator asks several questions, calculates your Carbon footprint, identifies areas where you are doing well and makes several suggestions on steps you can take, the impact of these suggestions and options for carbon offsetting.

I found that my Carbon footprint was 7.4 tons CO₂e, less than the Western world average of 10 tons CO₂e but rather more than 2 tons CO₂e, the global target to reduce climate change by less than 2C.

50 → OK Mark, I bet you're now wondering what you can do to reduce your footprint?

Your carbon footprint is 7.4 ton CO₂e/year, consisting of:

- Home: 2.3 ton
- Travel: 2.7 ton
- Consumption: 2.4 ton

While many of the suggestions take effort and cost, there are some suggestions (reducing beef and lamb consumption, swapping to a Green Energy provider) that have a significant impact, save money, and are relatively easy!

Mark Daly



Highland cows at Velmead Woods, Fleet