

A Statement of Climate Concern

An invitation to join a campaign

The *Statement of Climate Concern* overleaf was initiated by Wellspring Church, Wirksworth. Paul Heppleston is coordinating the environmental programme of the church and is now inviting you to email your agreement to the *Statement* overleaf.

The collected names and (partial) postcodes will be sent by 15th August (at the latest) to our MP and local Councillors to alert them to the depth of feeling amongst people in the Derbyshire Dales area.

Send your response (initials and surname plus the first part of your postcode*) to : climate.wellspring@yahoo.com – an account which has been set up solely for the purpose of collecting names for this *Statement*. The whole Yahoo account holding your email address will be deleted by August 15th. Until that deletion date, be assured that your email address will not be used for **any** other purpose.

The information that you supply will be held and processed in line with the Data Protection Act 2018, GDPR (and subsequent legislation) until the date above. Your information will not be used by Wellspring Church (as Data Processor) for any other purpose whatsoever.

The Wellspring Church Privacy notice can be found [here](#).

* *eg DE4 6ZZ would become DE4; it is your decision as to whether you include your full postcode, but from my point of view only the first section is needed.*

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A Statement of Climate Concern from people of Derbyshire Dales

We appreciate this opportunity to contact you to express our concerns about climate change, but also to communicate our hopes about what could result from taking action.

CONCERNS

—We are unsettled at the statistics emerging from the global scientific community regarding planetary temperature projections in the decades to come.

—We are particularly concerned about the rapid and inevitable global heating, the consequences of which are now being played out in our local community, particularly concerning agriculture and transport; others have been well rehearsed in the media but include such instances as sea-level rise threatening the viability of low-lying nations, more frequent drought, rainfall and storms of greater severity. In the Polar Regions there is evidence of unprecedented ice-melt and in the Arctic the effects of global heating are being seen on a dramatic scale.

—We are also aware of climate injustice - that the effects of these dramatic changes will continue to be felt more keenly by those in developing countries suffering hugely mainly because of the emissions produced by wealthy nations.

FEARS

—Our fears for the future lead us to wonder whether COP26 in Glasgow in November will turn out to be one of those occasions which, like the Paris Agreement of 2015, falls flat; our planet simply cannot survive were that to be the case. Those fears focus our minds particularly when we talk to/about those ‘*who will inherit the Earth when we have gone*’ – our grandchildren and subsequent generations. When things come apart will we have failed them?

HOPES

—Our particular hopes are on what might take place at COP26 in Glasgow later this year. Britain holding the chair at this huge gathering of world leaders is a tremendous opportunity for us to show that as a nation we have concerns along the lines that we have expressed above. We know that the UK has made significant progress, but there are also nations who have not signed up to any specific (and/or *achievable*) CO₂-reduction deadline. There are yet other nations who talk of ambitious plans for action, but whose words do not translate into action.

—Representing a typical cross-section of society in expressing our concerns and fears, we wish to give our support to those who are in decision-making positions at COP26, particularly regarding the UK as it chairs the event. Our key hope is that those to whom we outline our concerns will appreciate the depth of our feelings and even perhaps share them. But in either event we wish to be assured that our concerns will be passed on to those in significant positions of authority and decision-making prior to the conference.

—A very hopeful sign of local commitment is the formation of the *Derbyshire Dales Climate Hub* which is increasingly active within the community. Their recent 2021 report reveals that climate issues are highly significant to a large majority of over 1000 respondents from the 50+ community groups surveyed. Such a group deserves active support as it looks to the future of the Dales District.

AND FINALLY

We can all respond to calls to take action on the individual level, but since the big decisions will be made at governmental level, this Statement express our deepest hope for COP26 viz - that **action will follow promises**. If that does not happen, it will become increasingly challenging to fulfil the aims of the 2015 Paris Agreement and limit global warming - preferably to 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels.