

Eco Church Gold Award and COP26

- How do you feel about the future in the light of climate change? Are you afraid?
- Read Mark 4:35-41
- Have you ever been out in a boat in a storm? How did it feel? What emotions did you experience?
- Can you think of any other references to storms and raging seas in the Bible which might help us to understand the story?
- What does this story about Jesus tell us about his relationship with nature?
- What hope does it give us in a time of environmental crisis?

The first type of hope is the hope that the problems can be solved. In 2020, this hope looks distinctly thin. The second sort of hope is the eschatological hope... which gives firm hope for a wonderful future, but we also need to interpret it in the present. A third form of hope is of living our Christian hope while experiencing severe difficulties in our present life. We have come to call this 'resilient hope'.

Margot and Martin Hodson, *Green Reflections*, p 58

- In what ways can we demonstrate this message of hope to those around us?
- What has most surprised, challenged or moved you during St Thomas' Eco Church journey over the last 4 years?
- What additional actions are you going to take in the light of the COP26 and the latest climate and biodiversity data?
- Pray for the rest of COP26 and its aftermath, for people across the world suffering the results of climate change, and for the Eco Church programme



The Eco Church award scheme helps churches to demonstrate that the Christian gospel is good news for God's earth, and an integral part of loving God and loving our neighbours.

There are now over 4,200 registered Eco Churches. There have been over 1,380 awards, including 22 Gold.

A Rocha UK encourages Christians and churches to get involved in addressing the accelerating climate and biodiversity crises.

Whatever the outcome of COP26, Christians and churches will still need to do three things:

1. **to accelerate our own action on climate and nature;**
2. **to speak up and hold our national and local governments to their responsibilities and commitments;**
3. **to offer practical and pastoral support to people suffering the mental, physical and financial effects of accelerating climate change, in the UK and abroad.**

To learn more about nature, the climate and action on conservation, you can sign up to receive monthly emails from Wild Christian: arochoa.org.uk/wildchristian

Further reading:

M & M Hodson, *Green Reflections*, BRF – a collection of reflections on Bible passages
M & M Hodson, *A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues*, BRF 2nd edition 2021

Prayer resources:

[Pray and Fast for the Climate](#) (monthly emails)

[Prayer for A Rocha UK](#), including Eco Church