



General Synod and the Environment

Dr Tony Thick (Morpeth Deanery)



New Bishop's Adviser on the Environment The Revd Mark Nash-Williams





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

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General Synod in February 2019 *(motion passed 279 votes to 3)*

Voted to:

- recognise the escalating threat to God's creation from global warming and climate change, and the suffering caused, particularly to the poor;
- develop **Shrinking the Footprint** (StF) to enable the whole Church to address the issue of climate change;
- call on every Diocese to have an environment programme with a designated member of the Bishop's staff team to lead and advocate for the programme.

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General Synod in February 2019 *(motion passed 279 votes to 3)*

And voted to:

- call on the **Environmental Working Group**, supported by the national teams for the CofE Environmental Programme (CoEEP) and Mission and Public Affairs: to *(abbreviated)*
 1. Rapidly accelerate **CoEEP** esp re energy use and CO₂ emissions;
 2. Make tools for energy and CO₂ checks by churches/halls etc to help reduce CO₂ emissions **by 80% by 2050**;
 3. Promote peer review between Dioceses especially re investments/property/land use.



Our Environment

1. Climate change due to global warming

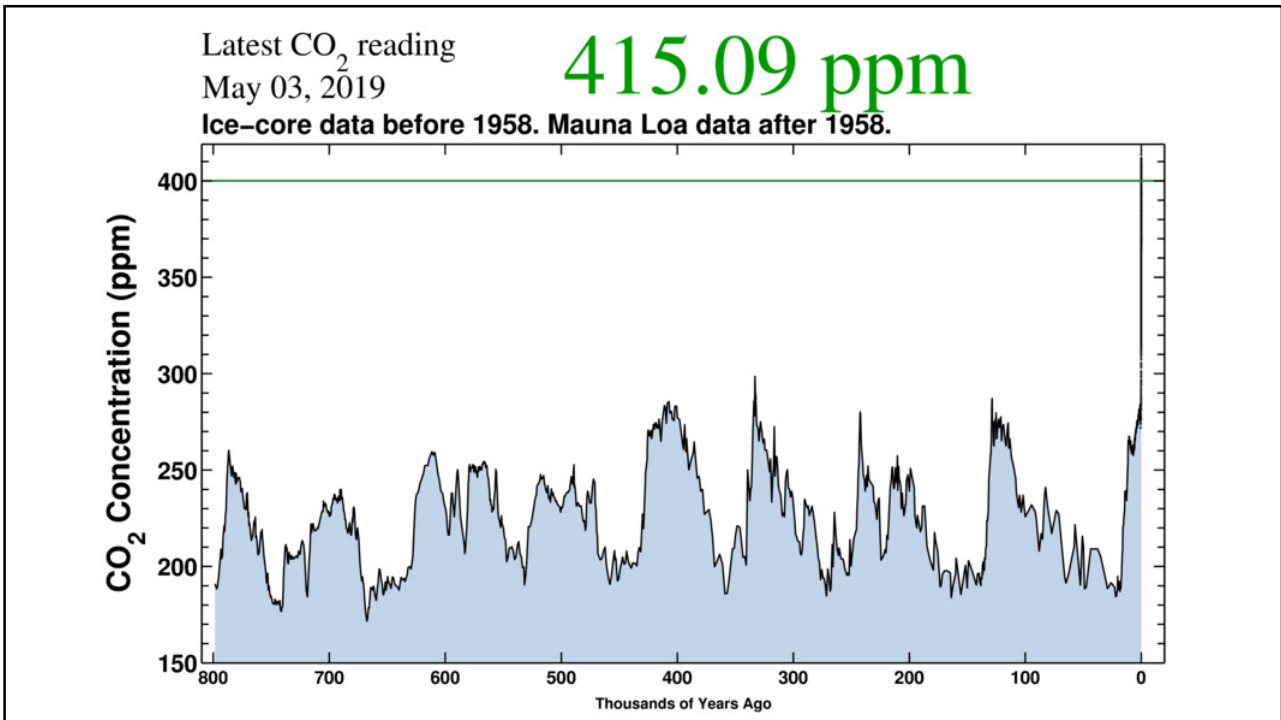
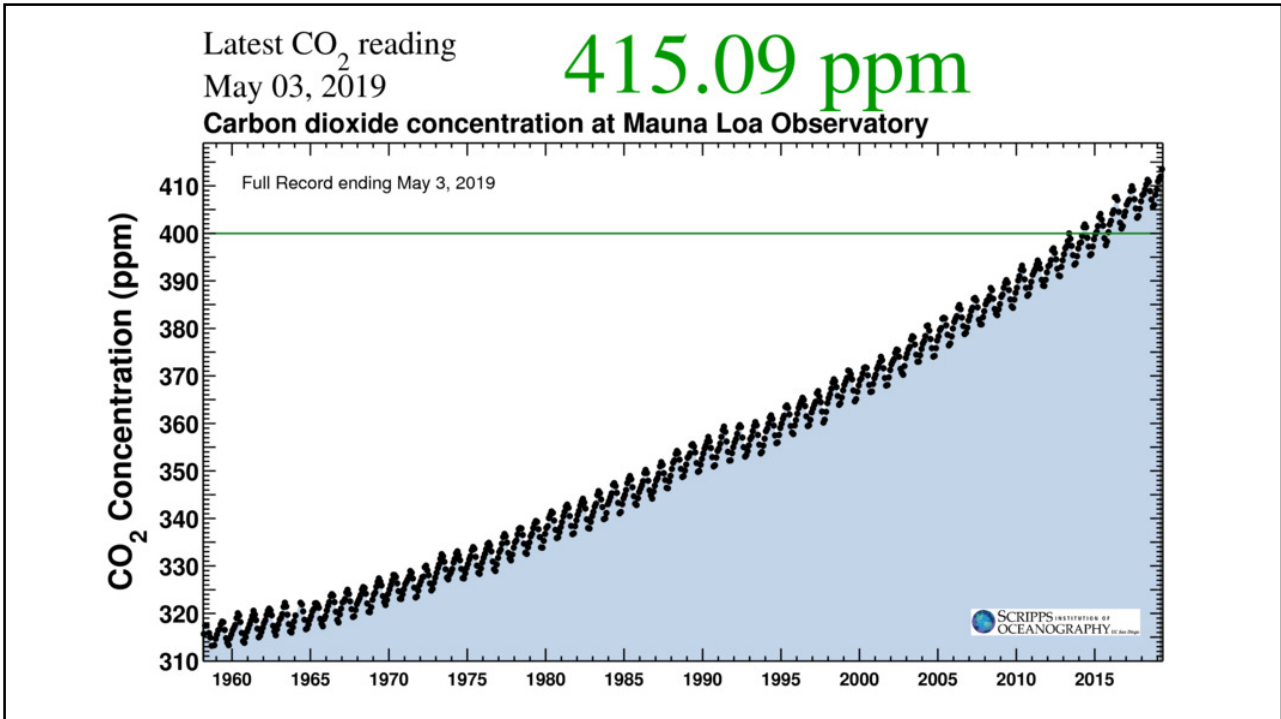
Our greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, F Gases):

- **87% Fossil fuels** (transport esp aviation, heating)
- 9% Massive deforestation and other changed land use
- 4% Industry eg cement
- Agriculture including ruminant livestock (sheep, cattle CH₄)

2. Loss of biodiversity and abundance

- Our way of life is causing nature to collapse





Our Environment

1. Global warming due to human activity
2. Massive loss of biodiversity and biomass (IPBES)
 - Land and sea use
 - Direct exploitation of organisms
 - Climate change
 - Pollution
 - Invasive species

1992 World Scientists' Warning to Humanity

'We the undersigned, senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead.

A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated.'

Nations Unies
Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015
COP21/CMP11
Paris - France



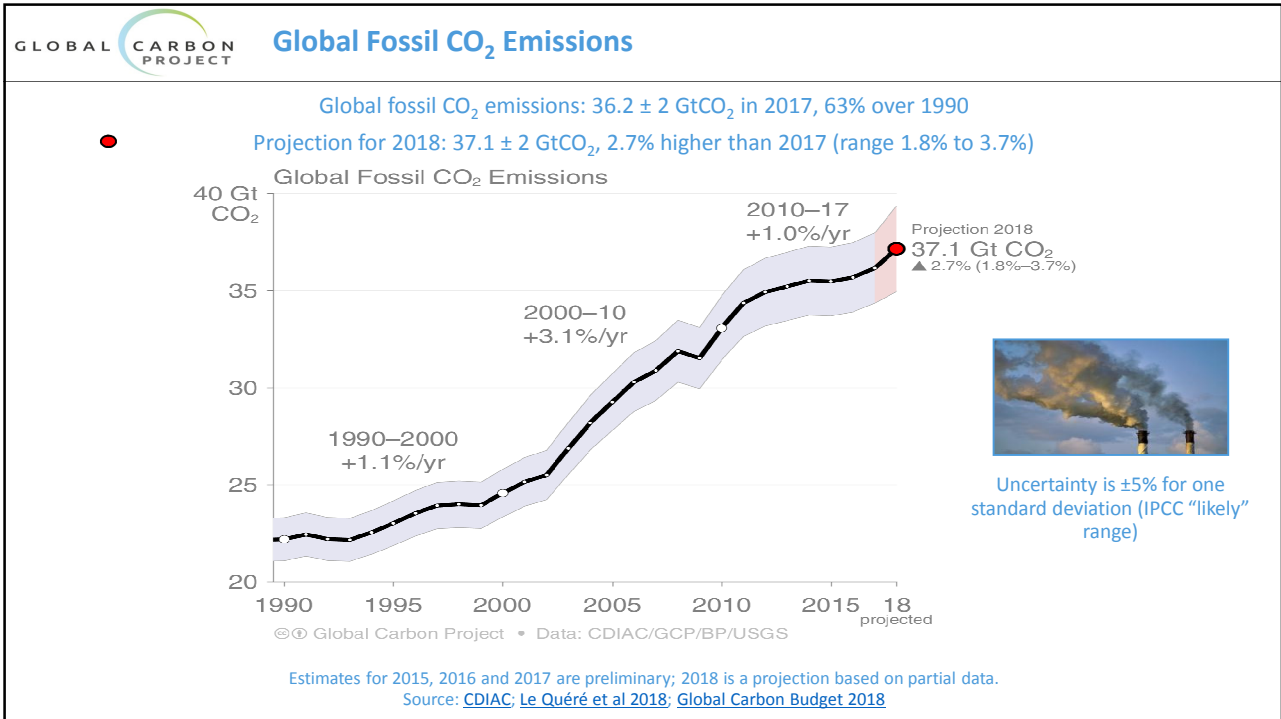
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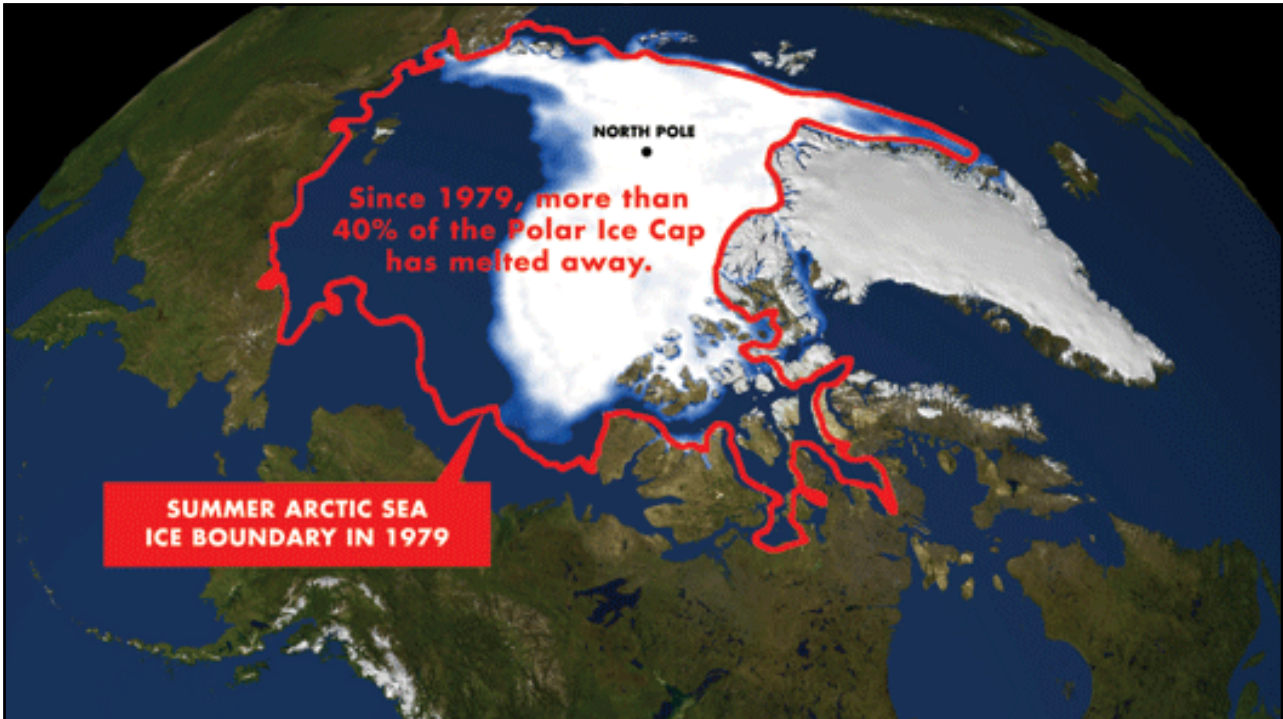
2017 Second World Scientists' Warning to Humanity

- 26% reduction in fresh water per capita
- 75% increase in ocean dead zones
- 300 million acres of forest destroyed
- 29% reduction in numbers of animals/fish/birds/...
- CO2 and global temperatures still rising
- Climate breakdown









Greenhouse gas emissions

UK to miss legal climate targets without urgent action, official advisers warn

Vague ambitions, such as banning new petrol cars by 2040, must be turned into solid plans, says the Committee on Climate Change



Damian Carrington *Environment editor*

06:01 Wednesday, 17 January 2018

Follow Damian Carrington

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**extinction
rebellion**

INTERNATIONAL SIGNUP

WE DECLARE:

**INTERNATIONAL NON-VIOLENT REBELLION AGAINST
THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS FOR CRIMINAL
INACTION ON THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS**



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UK Parliament declares climate change emergency

© 1 May 2019

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MPs have approved a motion to declare an environment and climate emergency.

Five Marks of Mission

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

To respond to human need by loving service

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Launched at St Paul's Cathedral on 26 January 2016

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

An award scheme designed to motivate and resource churches in England and Wales to care for God's earth as part of their everyday work and witness.



Eco Diocese

Many dioceses identify Eco Church as a key tool by which they can encourage their churches to engage in wider creation care. This led A Rocha UK to introduce the idea of Eco Diocese.



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To become an Eco Diocese we would need to:

- Register our intent
- Establish a point person or group within the Diocese e.g. DEG
- Have an agreed written Environmental Policy
- Have achieved Eco Church Bronze or better for Church House (and Land where appropriate)
- Have gained at least 10% churches registered and 5% with Bronze to be a Bronze Eco Diocese
- Have environmental issues in our ongoing ministerial education
- Have appropriate Diocesan investments
- Be working with other denominations and/or faiths to promote Eco Church
- Be recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives



Diocese of Newcastle: Environment Action

1. Prayer
2. Inform ourselves
3. Get involved
4. Change our own lives
5. Become an EcoChampion

Going for Green

Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot,
nothing is
going to get
better.
It's not.



Dr Seuss: The Lorax