**Creationtide 2021**. **Please take this Handout Home with you**

Dear People of St Peter’s

Since Eco Maney was set up in 2009, as a church and as individuals, we have come a long way along the road of our Eco journey. We became the first Anglican Church in Birmingham Diocese to obtain the Eco Church Silver Award. We have solar panels on the roof, LED lightbulbs, use Fairtrade goods and recycled paper, switched our energy to ‘green’ providers. We have regular prayer and preaching for God’s creation, donate regularly to environmental charities, twinned our toilets, undertaken local litter picks, made our grounds and the Vicarage gardens more wildlife friendly, improved our recycling facilities. As individuals we have worked out our carbon footprints, cut our car journeys, reduced our consumption of red meat, hung our washing out of doors, turned down our thermostats, changed to LEDS and Green energy, printed on both sides of the paper and so much more.

Eco Maney members have taken motions through Deanery and Diocesan Synod culminating in the resolution to commit Birmingham Diocese to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. We are active in the Diocesan Eco Group and John Heywood is a member of the Bishop’s Net Zero Environment Group

But good as all the above is, we know in our hearts that what we are doing is not enough. We have seen the evidence of the climate emergency in so many places this year alone. We have heard the report of the IPCC: we know the glaciers are receding, the sea is rising, temperatures are reaching unbearable levels, wild fires are raging, the rainforest is being destroyed and many species are facing extinction. However painful it may be we need to move to a different level of awareness and a higher commitment to do something and make a difference.

In the next four weeks, we in Eco Maney want to bring some hard facts before you; facts you probably won’t want to know about; facts which challenge our deeply held views and opinions, and which challenge our lifestyle. It is not our intention to depress you but to provide information and show how we can make a difference as individuals, as a church and local community and as citizens of our country.

THERE IS HOPE

Scientists are agreed that if we act quickly we can hold global warming to 1.5°. We want to make some suggestions as to what individuals can do and how you can influence other people. Most importantly we need to influence government, political parties, leaders in the financial sector, big business, education and the churches. We need these institutions to work together with a common purpose. There are marvellous developments and discoveries taking place and there are all sorts of actions which could be taken but there is a lack of joined up thinking and a planned approach. Electric cars are not much use without sufficient charging points. Planting trees will not solve the problems if we keep on building more roads. Developing green energy resources will not be enough if we are also opening new coal mines and oil fields. We need now to move beyond the personal and do what we can to influence the future. We have only a few years to do it. We need to act now.

Eco Maney team

Anne & Andrew Ball, Sue Fenoughty, Sheena Heaton, John Heywood, Jim McAvan