THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
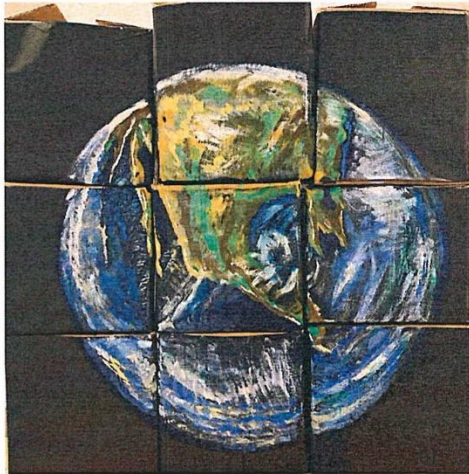## COVENANT WITH CREATION

Global warming has all too soon become a Climate Crisis and an emergency on everybody`s doorstep! Icebergs are melting fast. Species are in danger. Our sisters and brothers far and near already suffer from drought, floods, famine, fire and war. The most vulnerable are forced to migrate. The strong are not responding as they should. Coal, oil and gas continue to be mined out of the earth to fuel deadly emissions.

What does our faith say about care for Creation?

We believe that our planet has been given to us by God as a home where all of us can flourish. We are therefore duty bound to take care of it as best we can and share its resources fairly.

Our **Covenant with Creation** - which you are invited to sign - is our attempt in the Parish of St Michael`s to commit ourselves as a community and individually to do just that. What follows explains what that would mean for you.

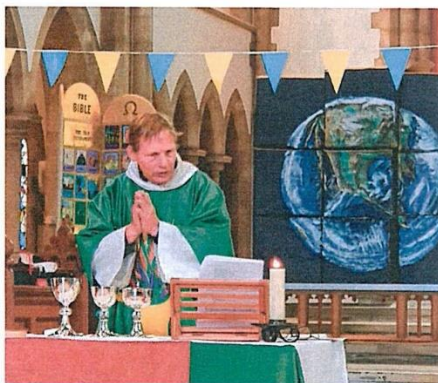*Can we commit to care for our planet?*

What am I being asked to sign?

On the opposite page, the Covenant - already accepted and signed by the PCC (the trustees of the church) - is commended to us all. As you will see it refers to five areas of activity we are already working on under the *A Rocha* scheme (worship and teaching, lifestyle, buildings, the garden and working with the community). However, we have also added commitments to generosity, to research, and to campaigning and political action without which we shall never prevent disaster.

If you feel able to sign the Covenant you will be agreeing:

1. to read it at least once a month to see how well you think you`re responding to its challenges.

2. to be invited twice a year to an informal small group meeting led by a member of our congregation to talk about your experiences and to support and encourage one another.

Can we help Creation to sing again?

THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, SUMMERTOWN

OUR COVENANT WITH CREATION

As a community and as the individuals undersigned, striving for integrity between our faith and how we live, we covenant together to tackle climate change and take all possible care of the Earth our home in the present and for future generations.

- o We will reduce our carbon footprints by minimising our travel by air and car, eating food produced sustainably, buying less, making and mending, insulating our homes, recycling and saving energy

- o We will make our church and its halls carbon neutral by 2030

- o We will plant trees and grow plants, promote bio-diversity and support others who do so on a small scale or large

- o We will encourage research, scientific, technological or otherwise, into ways to strengthen resilience

- o We will give generously in support of efforts to put an end to climate injustice far and near and we will stand with its victims

- o We will work together as a community (Community of Practice: COP) in North Oxford: residential, commercial, civic, religious, educational, leisure, hospitality and voluntary, to support, co-ordinate and re-enforce each other`s commitments

- o We will play our part along with our Diocese and organisations such as Christian Aid in political processes and campaigns to promote and support local, national and international policies to tackle climate change

- o We will encourage and be accountable to one another and celebrate together in hope

Signed ....

**Please also sign the copy in the church if you feel happy to do so
and complete and return the reply form enclosed**

CHECK-LIST FOR YOUR PRIVATE AND PERSONAL USE

Based on the Covenant and in no particular order:

What I will try to do about the Climate Emergency?	What I have managed to do?
Date:	6 months later:
1. travel	
2. saving energy	
3. recycling	
4. food	
5. trees & plants	
6. bio-diversity	
7. giving generously	
8. campaigning	
9. worship & prayer	
10. reading & learning	

THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, SUMMERTOWN

COVENANTING WITH CREATION

I have signed the Covenant and will read it once a month and try to respond to its challenges

(tick as appropriate)

I am happy to be invited twice a year to an informal small group meeting to share experiences and encourage one another

(tick as appropriate)

St Michael's has five eco-working groups. If you are a member of one of them, or would like to join a group, please tick the appropriate box:

Worship and Teaching

Lifestyle

Buildings

The Garden

Community action

Name:

Email (or address or phone):

Date: