

Eco Church

From Cornwall to Glasgow for Climate

Young Christians are walking across England from Truro to Glasgow to campaign for climate justice and will pass through our Diocese later this month.

100s of young Christians are leading a pilgrimage which spans the length of the country – from last month's G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow, the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) calls on world leaders to address the climate emergency.

[Young people will interview government ministers](#) as part of a day set aside at COP26 to hear the views of selected young climate activists. Each day of the two-week conference focusses on a distinct theme - including unheard or marginalised voices.

In preparation, the pilgrims have organised a relay route which, instead of a baton, sees young activists meet to pass on the importance of urgent action to reverse climate change.

The relay set out from Truro Cathedral on 13th June and continues to Glasgow, where it will arrive on 31st October when COP26 begins. World leaders are meeting, and the young activists are calling on nations to take tangible steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Rachel Mander, the relay's co-leader, said:

"We stand in solidarity with people and places that are being plunged into debt and poverty because of climate change.

"We will not let the UK government host summits on our doorstep only to hear more talk and no action."

The relay is expected to see many young people opting for small walks or cycle rides between the stopping-points – each of which gives an exceptional opportunity for local churches to engage with young people and show solidarity with their concerns about climate change.

There are details on the YCCN website [here](#).

Dates and places for the route through our Diocese:

1. **19th July** the party will walk from Bath to Trowbridge, across our Diocesan border from Bath & Wells.
2. **20th July** walk to West Lavington.
3. **21st July** walk to Shrewton.
4. **22nd July** walk to Salisbury.
5. **23rd July** walk from Salisbury to Broughton, across our Diocesan border into Winchester.

The route planner is [here](#).

Our Diocesan Environment Group is helping co-ordinate the stages to and from Salisbury. Group member Mike Perry has issued this briefing:

This is a heads up about the **Young Christian Climate Network's walk from Cornwall to Glasgow for COP-26** for anyone who has not yet heard about it, and a call for you to sign up. See <https://www.yccn.uk>.

It is an opportunity to stand with our sisters and our brothers in churches around the world who are losing their livelihoods, homes and lives due to climate change. The walk both shows the depth of feeling about this to our leaders and is an act of prayer in itself. Time is short and we need to act.

The Relay will be walking from Bath to Salisbury across our Diocese from 19 July to the 23 July, stopping at Trowbridge, West Lavington, Shrewton and Salisbury.

Ros Durrant is the YCCN Route Section Team Leader for the Bristol to Salisbury Section (Mobile: 07580 479452 Tel: 0117 239 8669 Email: rmdurrantenroute@gmail.com).

Becky Boardman is YCCN Route Section Team Leader for Salisbury to Bristol.

As this is only a very few days away, if you are interested in getting involved in any way contact Ros directly and ideally **sign up at the YCCN-UK website** (and it would be great to have church leaders sign up as well as delegating it out). **You can also join the YCCN Slack system at www.bit.ly/YCCN-SLACK which is the easiest way of finding out more.**

There are five young people as the core group for Bristol - Salisbury. You can sign up to walk with them, be a lead walker, cheer them on their way, give hospitality including lunch stops and accommodation (ideally all together, eg in a hall or church)

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Caring for both the world around us is a *primary mission objective* for the Church and not a *secondary or fringe interest*. Young people care deeply about this and are crying out for church leaders to speak out, act themselves and support action to care for God's creation.

You can hear a message to church leaders from young people here: <https://youtu.be/LlzkvDhqPVA>).

As a Trustee of A Rocha UK I commend this action of YCCN and urge you to get involved.

Every blessing

Mike

Mike Perry

Vicar of Woodford Valley w/ Archers Gate; Trustee of A Rocha UK.