

## Climate Change

**S** Leaders of different denominations and world faiths in the UK signed the ‘Lambeth Declaration 2015 on Climate Change’<sup>1</sup>

‘As leaders of the faith communities we recognise the urgent need for action on climate change.

From the perspective of our different faiths we see the earth as a beautiful gift. We are all called to care for the earth and have a responsibility to live creatively and sustainably in a world of finite resources.

Climate change is already disproportionately affecting the poorest in the world. The demands of justice as well as of creation require the nations of the world urgently to limit the global rise in average temperatures to a maximum of 2°C, as agreed by the United Nations in Cancun.

We have a responsibility to act now, for ourselves, our neighbours and for future generations.’

**S** An immediate threat to the poorest nations, (South Sudan)

But rainfalls have decreased in South Sudan by 10-20 % and temperatures have increased by more than 1 °C since the middle of the 1970s

**S** A guaranteed threat to our grandchildren. (Greenhouse gases survive for 50 years)

‘The year 2050 – when the impacts of climate change will be strongly felt – may seem like the distant future for politicians, but it’s our children’s future and they have a right to have it protected.’ Save the Children

‘If you preach the gospel in every respect apart from the great issues of the day you have not preached the gospel at all.’ Martin Luther

Slavery to Wesley and Finney

Apartheid in South Africa

Climate change in the West

**S** ‘The predicted extent of climate change is a novel moral problem. ... Most people in British Empire did not own slaves, even though an important proportion of the wealth of the Empire was built on the profits from slave labour plantations.

—But every individual who has driven a car, or flown in an aeroplane, lived in an energy hungry modern house, bought clothes or computers made 10,000 miles away, or bought shares in a large corporation, is fractionally involved in global warming.’ Michael Northcott

**S** All interconnected – personal, local, glocal, intergenerational, global

**S** All engaged in the light of the one who will make all things new.

**Conc.**

**S** I propose that the Church participates in God’s transformation of the world:

—By what it hopes for

—By what it is

—By what it prays

—By what it does

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<sup>i</sup> Lambeth Declaration 2015 on Climate Change 16 June 2015 [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)