

Mission for the month Tearfund

Recently the prime minister announced his Ten Point Plan for a UK-wide green industrial revolution. This plan is a big step towards a greener, fairer world, but much more ambition is needed.

BUT WHY SHOULD CLIMATE CHANGE MATTER TO CHRISTIANS?

As temperatures rise, rains are becoming less reliable and droughts, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and extreme. We might notice some of these changes here at home, like the flooding and heatwaves in recent times. But it's impacting the world's poorest first and worst. As Christians, we know that *'the earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it'* (Psalm 24:1). We're called to act justly and to love our neighbours. God's creation is good, but the way we've damaged it is pushing people deeper into poverty. Responding to the climate emergency has to be a key part of living out our faith. (See the Kashenye Water Project for a practical way of responding.)

Vicar's Comment

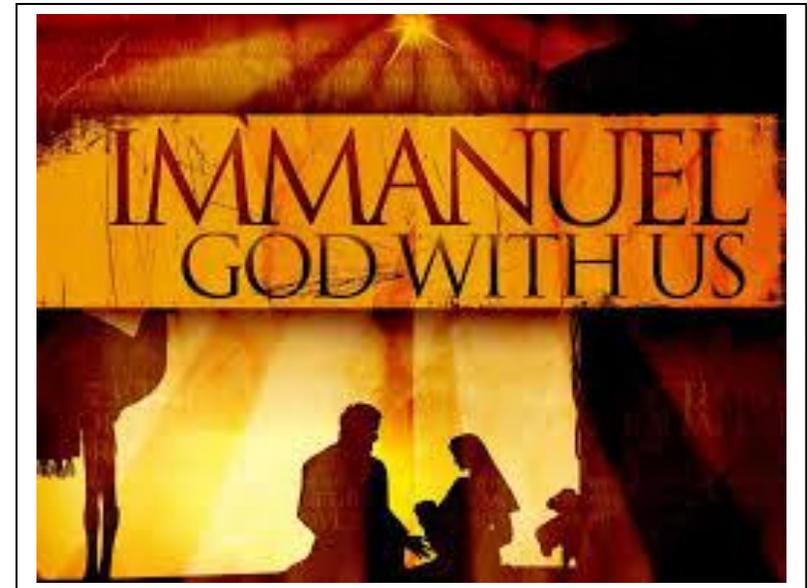
I guess we're all wondering what Christmas will be like this year. Certainly planning it is not proving straightforward for family Collins! But whilst our travel and social arrangements over the Christmas period might be different this time around, the imagery that goes along with Christmas won't change. I have in mind not the images of sleigh bells, reindeer and presents with bows on, but the imagery of darkness and light. Candles, fairy lights and fireplaces are set against dark winter nights. Light in the darkness is a reassuring thing for human beings generally I think, something people warm to.

With 2020 having been a dark year for many in different ways, news of a COVID-vaccine will be received by many as a 'light at the end of the tunnel'. But the darkness of sin, death and judgement needs an even brighter light than any human-made vaccine. And at Christmas we remember that in Jesus God provided just that. The Christian hope of Messiah's birth means the coming of the One Who described Himself as the 'Light of the world' (John 8:12, NIV).

Whatever shade of darkness you feel you are facing at the moment, the Light of Christ is bright enough to overcome it....so trust Him with it all this Christmas and always.

St Christopher's Church

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Memory Verse

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

(Matthew 1:23, NIV)

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