

Dear Thangam,

We are writing to you to express our keen interest in the UN CoP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. As you will know, the latest IPCC report (AR6) on climate change has confirmed the severity and urgency of the climate crisis.

At a public gathering in Bristol on 15th July, the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Rev Viv Faull, joined with Marvin Rees, the Mayor of Bristol, and other leaders, to raise awareness of this crisis. Both the City and Diocese of Bristol have taken a lead in declaring a climate emergency. Both are working towards achieving net zero carbon by 2030.

The PCC of Redland Parish Church commend and support these initiatives. We have already ensured that our new church halls building has a low carbon footprint, and we will continue to explore ways we can contribute to these initiatives.

Recently doubts have been raised about the value of holding the CoP26 Conference in November, given the costs and complications of attending during the Covid19 pandemic. Yet it is vital that this conference proceeds, and that the poorer nations of the Global South are well represented and listened to. Many of these nations are suffering the most from climate change, because of the rise of sea levels, flooding, drought and unprecedented tropical cyclones; and yet they are the nations that have contributed least to the problem. This is a justice issue.

Our plea is that the Government is persuaded to under-write the relatively small cost of enabling representatives from the Global South to attend the CoP26 Conference. This will require creative solutions for vaccination programs and travel arrangements. There is still time to arrange these. This will be a powerful sign of the UK's commitment to ensuring that this conference results in the fundamental changes that are required to respond adequately to the climate crisis.

In addition to ensuring the necessary outcomes from CoP26, we would urge you, as our MP with a significant voice in Parliament, to push the Government to make other essential changes:

- The cessation of financial support for all fossil fuel extraction at home and abroad.
- Supporting innovative technologies and systems that enable us to live sustainably. This could include schemes for tax-free funding from pensions etc, which can be allocated to specific initiatives such as the development of solutions to meet net-zero carbon targets.
- Promoting a complete change in mindset towards the natural world, to avert the widespread loss of species of flora and fauna. This must include effective cooperation between nations to conserve 'biodiversity hotspots'. The UN CoP15 Biodiversity Convention next month is another vital opportunity for the UK to contribute leadership, and to commit to effective action to conserve and restore our own endangered biodiversity.

We look forward to your response, which we will share with our church.

Your sincerely,

Vicar & Chair of the PCC
On behalf of the PCC of Redland Parish Church