

SOUTHERN SYNOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Church and Society Newsletter

Time to Act

It was very good to see a number of Southern Synod United Reformed Church members marching on Saturday 7th March. The Time to Act march was seeking to highlight the effect of climate change and the steps people could take to reduce our impact on the planet.

The folk from St Andrew's Brockley have recorded the day on their blog

<http://standrewsbrockley.urch.org.uk/time-to-act-on-behalf-of-gods-earth/>

Earthyear:the Reflection

A number of people met on Saturday 28th February at Emmanuel URC, West Wickham for a quiet day designed to enable thought to be given to climate change as it effect creation. Led by Rosalind Selby, principal of Northern College, the group reflected on the impact on ALL those living on the planet at this time, human and other than human.



Earthyear:the Conversation

Make a note in your diaries for

Southern Synod Church and Society together with Brighthelm URC have organised an international conference on the facts, impact and consequences of climate change.

Confirmed speakers so far are from Kiribati, Tuvulu together with Secretary of State, a member of Humanists for a Better World, Christian Aid, Rosalind Selby and others.

It is a limited ticketed event and application can be made via the website www.earthyear.org





Earthyear:the Pilgrimage

The United Nations COP21 talks take place in Paris between **30 November to 11 Dec 2015** and there are plans to organise a walking and cycling pilgrimage in order to join up with other faith groups from around Europe to demonstrate our hope for a successful outcome at these talks.

"It will be an opportunity to honour our faith and show deep love and concern for the future of God's planet", said Jean Leston, at a recent planning meeting.

The likely dates for setting off will be around **20/21 Nov** for walkers and **23rd** for cyclists to arrive in Paris by **28/29th** to join in a mass civic march ahead of the opening of COP21. Other events are in the planning phase and it is hoped that Notre Dame will host an ecumenical service during the first week of December.

The way to keep in touch with these developments is via the website www.earthyear.org

Use the website to register your interest or contact Peter Stevenson on 0207 708 0294

Earthyear:the Study Day

Revd Dr Richard Goldring is working with Revd Alex Mabbs on a training day to be held at Bighthelm in Brighton on **Saturday 4th July 2015** where the biblical and theological will be explored.

Going under the title "Faith in a Changing Climate: Rediscovering the community of creation" the day will include practical ideas - it's not going to be all theory.

Other events

Thursday 23rd April 2015, 6:30 (doors open 6:00)
 St Faith's Chapel, Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, London
 Climate Change and the Common Good: The Cultural Challenge
 Free admission but requires booking Climate Change and the Common Good: The Cultural Challenge
<http://www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk/Events/Climate-Change-and-the-Common-Good-The-Cultural-Challenge>

Wednesday 17th June 2015

Starting with a service at 12 noon and going on to the Houses of Parliament to lobby newly elected MPs to get commitment ahead of COP21. The event ends with a mass rally at 4:00
<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Events/Climate-change-lobby>

