

The St Bridgets with Caldy Church Greensheet will be reinstated in its monthly form. This will be available online within the newsletter, and a small amount of printed handouts. As in the past the material will be taken from information made available to the general public. The Greensheets give an informed view on a subject which will have an ethical or eco context, and may be suggested by someone or be about current issues. Their function is to raise awareness on matters which may or may not be of interest, and give enough information for you to look into a subject more thoroughly should you want to.

The Octobers 2021 Greensheet is about the COP 26 conference being held in the coming weeks in Glasgow. The information is taken from the official COP 26 site; <https://ukcop26.org> where you can find out more.

## **COP26**

### **What is a COP?**

#### **A pivotal moment in the fight against climate change.**

In November, the UK, together with our partners Italy, will host an event many believe to be the world's best last chance to get runaway climate change under control.

#### **COP26 is the 2021 United Nations climate change conference**

For nearly three decades the UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits – called COPs – which stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority.

This year will be the 26th annual summit – giving it the name **COP26**. With the UK as President, COP26 takes place in Glasgow.

In the run up to COP26 the UK is working with every nation to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change. World leaders will arrive in Scotland, alongside tens of thousands of negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks.

Not only is it a huge task but it is also not just yet another international summit. Most experts believe COP26 has a unique urgency.

To understand why, it's necessary to look back to another COP.

## The importance of the **Paris Agreement**

COP21 took place in Paris in 2015.

For the first time ever, something momentous happened: every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees, to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and to make money available to deliver on these aims.

The Paris Agreement was born. The commitment to aim for 1.5 degrees is important because every fraction of a degree of warming will result in the loss of many more lives lost and livelihoods damaged.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries committed to bring forward national plans setting out how much they would reduce their emissions – known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or 'NDCs'.

They agreed that every five years they would come back with an updated plan that would reflect their highest possible ambition at that time.

Glasgow is the moment for countries to update their plans. The run up to this year's summit in Glasgow is the moment (delayed by a year due to the pandemic) when countries update their plans for reducing emissions.

But that's not all. The commitments laid out in Paris did not come close to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, and the window for achieving this is **closing**.

The decade out to **2030** will be crucial.

So as momentous as Paris was, countries must go much further than they did even at that historic summit in order to keep the hope of holding temperature rises to 1.5 alive. COP26 needs to be **decisive**.

**COY16**

COY16 is the 16th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Youth.

Organised in collaboration with YOUNGO, The Official Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it is one of the largest entirely youth-led global youth climate conferences in the world.

The conference takes place from 28-31 October 2021, days before the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as Conference of the Parties, in the same host country as the COP.

COY serves as a space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP and their life as local and international Climate advocates.

The Conference is organized by 7 Working Groups and Coordinators in 152 Countries whose main objective is to gather local Youth Statements and raise the voices of the global youth to the United Nations decision making process.

To contribute information or suggest a subject for the Greensheet please contact Sally Cashen on 0151 625 5970