

As I write this message we have just come to the end of the COP26 and I suspect, like many of you, I am just beginning to understand what has and what has not been agreed.

I am no scientist, but it seems to me that while there has been agreement on some things, like the reduction in methane emissions and a plan to reduce reliance on coal, there is an awful lot that has not been agreed. I find myself wondering what Jesus might say if the politicians had to report back to him?

There is no doubt that we have a responsibility to take better care of this beautiful world. I was struck by these words in one of the hymns today (Sunday):

'Earth's fragile web of life demands  
our reverence and our care,  
lest in our folly, sloth and greed,  
deaf both to You and others' need,  
we lay our planet bare'

Our church is currently working hard to reach the next level of the Eco-Church certification. The idea of this is not just to reduce the resources we use and the impact of our building, but to make us stop and think before we do anything. To reflect on whether there is a way to achieve something without causing as much damage. It may well be that our politicians' lives are so complex that they are unable to negotiate a new way of life, but if our church can do it then so can we as individuals.

So, this week I issue you with a challenge. What change can you make in your life that will better protect the future of this beautiful planet? If you need some food for thought, try Leviticus Chapter 25.

I leave you this week with these words from another hymn we sang on Sunday:

'Help us to sow  
love's precious seed  
in word and deed,  
that peace may grow'

Blessings,  
Linda