

# Mike's message .....

## COP26

As this magazine goes to press in the last week of October attention is beginning to turn towards the COP26 summit in Glasgow.

The churches are deeply involved in COP26. The Church of Scotland (a Presbyterian church) is leading the churches role with the ecumenical group Glasgow Churches Together co-ordinating activities that include worship, advocacy (keeping the pressure on governments to act), and even hosting Climate Guests - as many campaigners are heading there too.

COP26 stands for 'The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties' and run from 31st October - 12th November. It's expected that at least 120 Heads of State will be there and its the biggest conference that's ever been held in Glasgow.

Why are the churches involved in COP26?

Combating Climate Change is an urgent issue. Changes in climate affect everyone, but the poorest nations and peoples are affected most. Deserts advance and destroy already struggling farming communities and livelihoods. Sea levels rise and flood whole cities and other communities? Two areas most affected by these are sub-Saharan Africa and the Ganges Delta in Bangladesh. The latter is densely populated and, as close to sea level, very vulnerable. Elsewhere in south Asia the Maldives are in danger of losing their existence all together.

Climate change, and rising sea levels, have other effects too. Millions of people are already having to move. Millions more will follow. There will be pressure on food and clean water supplies. In turn that destabilises whole areas of the world leading to violence and war.

In the Gospels Jesus teaches us that we are to 'Love God and love our neighbour as ourselves'. Our neighbours are all the inhabitants of this planet. We need to take actions that can lessen the effects of Climate Change. Here at The Cotteridge Church we have an Eco-Group working to see how we, as a church community, can make changes to reduce emissions of CO2. That involves things such as improving our recycling and reviewing how we provide heat and lighting.

Please pray for COP26 and, after 12th November, for the implementation of measures to reduce CO2 emissions. Pray also for each other and yourselves in helping with the task. We have a global community, let us care for this planet - our only home.

