

## Adrian Hopwood leaves the Oxford Diocese

Rev. Adrian Hopwood, until recently NSM in the Ridgeway benefice, has now retired from this post, and is soon moving to the south west. Adrian was Chair and founding member of A Christian Response to the Environment (ACHRE). He has been a key person in the "greening" of the Oxford Diocese in the last five years, was on the steering group for the *Climate Change: How Christians Respond* conference, and organised and led the worship there. We all wish Adrian a long and happy retirement.



## Secular initiatives on climate change and sustainability

Several of us attended the day conference "Sustainable Oxfordshire" at Oxford Brookes University on 23rd April 2005. There were about 100 delegates, and much of the discussion focussed around climate change and waste management. Martin Conway, Chair of The Oxford Diocese Board of Social Responsibility, sent us report on the day, which you can read at [www.sageoxford.org.uk/sustoxford.htm](http://www.sageoxford.org.uk/sustoxford.htm)

The 2005 Climate Change Speaker Series organised by the Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN) will be a series of seven public presentations in Oxford covering a range of the issues of causes and solutions to climate change. The speakers will be pre-eminent experts in their field chosen for their reputation, profile, and the clarity with which they communicate. For details see <http://coinet.org.uk/>

## Further information

A full report on the *Climate Change: How Christians Respond* conference can be found at [www.sageoxford.org.uk/climatechange.htm](http://www.sageoxford.org.uk/climatechange.htm). This includes notes from Sir John Houghton's and Claire Foster's talks, and reports of all the workshops. Other useful sources of information include:

**Sage:** Dr Martin Hodson, School of Biological & Molecular Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP. Tel: 01865 483954.

[www.sageoxford.org.uk](http://www.sageoxford.org.uk)

**Eco-Congregation:** Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warks CV8 2LZ. Tel: 024 7685 3061. [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org).

**Christian Ecology Link:** 3 Bond Street, Lancaster LA1 3ER. Tel: 01524 33858. [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

**John Ray Initiative:** David Thistlethwaite, University of Gloucestershire, QW 212, Francis Close Hall, Swindon Raod, Cheltenham GL50 4AZ. Tel: 01242 543 580. [www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)

**A Rocha UK (Christians in Conservation):** 13 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL. Tel: 020 8574 5935. [www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)

**Climate Outreach & Information Network (COIN):** 16B Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 4BL. Tel: 01865 727 911. [www.coinet.org.uk](http://www.coinet.org.uk)

# Climate change - how Christians respond

## CONFERENCE UPDATE



## Conference a great success - now to action!

The conference on 26 February 2005 in High Wycombe was a great success, with over 220 people present from the three counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, and well beyond. The steering group of the conference have not been inactive since the conference. In particular we have created a major web report on the conference at [www.sageoxford.org.uk/climatechange.htm](http://www.sageoxford.org.uk/climatechange.htm), and emailed all those who left addresses with us at the conference.



Conference speakers David Shreeve, Sir John Houghton, Claire Foster, Rt Revd Richard Harries and Ian James.

Christian Ecology Link gave the conference major coverage on the home page of their web site. We also met to review the running of the conference, and have given some thought to the formation of local groups in areas outside the immediate vicinity of Oxford. The chair of the conference committee and Diocesan environment adviser, Rev. Prof. Ian James, gave a report on the conference to the Oxford Diocesan Synod, and had an article on it in *The Door*, the diocesan paper, where Canon Christopher Hall also gave his view on the event in his EcoColumn.

The steering group felt that it was important to keep in touch with those who attended in High Wycombe, and we thought that the time was right to produce this update. We also decided that a joint mailing with Sage, Oxford's Christian Environmental Group, would be appropriate, as many of the items in *Sage Words* and the Sage calendar will be of interest to conference attendees. As you will see, there is a lot happening on both sustainable development and climate change in this area. If you know of other developments, large or small, do let us know!

*Martin Hodson, May 2005*

# Go Green Day



Teacher Richard Wood from Worcester attended the Climate Change conference, and soon after had his whole school (Bishop Perowne CE High School, Worcester) involved! Richard and his colleague Fiona Fogg sent us this report:

Pupils at Bishop Perowne have been "Going Green", as they participated in "Go Green Day", on Thursday 18 March. Pupils wore green accessories to show their support for the day. This day was planned by the Bishop Perowne Eco-schools committee (the "Green Gang") to raise awareness of some of the burning issues of today - global warming and where personal and global responsibilities meet.

Global warming is often perceived wholly as an environmental issue, and of course the environment is where the direct effects of the problem are felt. Bishop Perowne pupils were, however, viewing the issue from the point of the enormous secondary human effects, and personal responsibility for a global problem. For instance, sea level rise alone will account for a further 150 million refugees per year in the next decade, according to some estimates. This is not to mention the billions of dollars needed worldwide to

counter the effects of this and intensified weather patterns.

Assemblies and promotions including free organic chocolate encouraged pupils to sign up for at least one of the "Greening Up" tips for the day. 716 pupils and staff signed up support for one of the following:

- Wear something green
- Ditch the Car
- Switch Off
- Save Energy
- Save Water
- Save Paper
- Go Organic
- Reduce Waste
- Reuse Waste
- Recycle Waste

Just one of the measurable impacts of the day came as pupils signed up to "Ditch the Car", with some startling results:

96 pupils ditched the car and walked to school. This saved parents an estimated £50 over the day\*, and the planet's resources around 60 litres of fuel. If this same group continued to ditch the car for the whole school year, this would amount to £10,000 or 12,000 litres of fuel, the average parent saving over £100 per year - and that's just the journey to and from school. This of course is only 10% of one school - if all pupils from the five Worcester state schools ditched the car it could potentially save parents half a million pounds in a year!

It doesn't take a genius to see that small people, doing small things together make a very big impact!

\*(Based on 2 x 1.5 mile return journeys = 6 miles per day; @10 miles/litre; @80p/litre)

# Oxford Solar Initiative

At the conference Annie Batten and Tom Whitehead from the Thames Valley Energy Centre (TVEC) convinced many of us that tackling climate change begins in the home. Here Paul Robinson of Oxford City Council gives us further information on measures we can take to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock:

The Oxford Solar Initiative (OSI) is a not-for-profit partnership that helps households and organisations in Oxford financially and technically to install **solar energy systems** and a range of **energy efficiency measures** in buildings. Our objective is to significantly reduce green-house gas emissions from the area that lead to pollution and global climate change, and to make Oxford a greener city. So far OSI has facilitated the installation of 17 active solar systems, over 120 energy efficiency measures and nearly 1,000 low energy light bulbs (CFLs). Through the Oxford Solar Initiative you can get:

- Discounts up to 80% on home insulation (cavity wall and loft)
- 50% grant for Solar Electricity (photo-voltaic)
- £400 grant for Solar Hot Water Systems

By installing insulation and solar in your home you can:

- Save up to £300 per year on your fuel bills
- Reduce energy use by up to 50%
- Generate your own power
- Cut harmful carbon dioxide emissions

We can also help by providing a dedicated report on how to save energy in your home. Our discount scheme has

very low prices for loft insulation (£50 for 250mm in an un-insulated loft of a 3bed semi, £100 for gas heated) and cavity wall insulation (£50 for an electrically heated three bed semi, £125 if gas heated). Both measures are non-intrusive during installation.

For more information please call the Oxford Solar Initiative on 01865 252197, e-mail me on

[probinson@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:probinson@oxford.gov.uk) or visit: [www.oxfordsolar.org.uk](http://www.oxfordsolar.org.uk)

If you could help raise awareness of sustainable energy issues by placing Oxford Solar Initiative leaflets in your church, please get in touch. For people outside of Oxford City, please contact the Thames Valley Energy Centre on 0800 512 012.

