TAKE A CARBON FAST FOR LENT.

What is a carbon fast for Lent? For Anglicans, Lent is the time when we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing challenge and temptation. It is a time when we reflect on God’s purpose for our life. Many Anglicans take this opportunity to fast from coffee, alcohol or chocolates. But this year our challenge is deeper, to take a carbon fast – to reduce the use of carbon based fuels on which we all depend. We will take small steps for a more sustainable world, and by doing so rediscover a different relationship with God, with Creation and with one another.

Because I can change the world a little in 40 days, but I can change myself a lot!

How do I take a carbon fast? From Ash Wednesday, 5 March, to 12 April is a time of reflection and action. Each week has a theme with a prayer, a resource to read or watch, actions to take as an individual, some suggestions of community actions you can take and something you can consider doing to change the system.

Download your 40 day guide

THEMES for each of the five weeks:

If you are on facebook, join Green Anglicans then change your profile picture as a sign that you are joining the carbon fast for Lent.

You can also join Green Anglicans on LinkedIn

Or follow us on Twitter
Making a difference in God’s world

Saving energy at the Cathedral in Maseru, Lesotho

The Anglican Cathedral of Maseru has joined hands in order to create change environmentally. The Cathedral conducted an energy and water audit with young people. The audit was supported by Tsepho Hlasoa from SAFCEI (www.safcei.org.za) Results of the audit were used to gauge the Cathedral’s water and energy footprint.

In the report of the audit, electricity consumption was divided into categories, and hot water cylinders (Geysers) came out to be using about 70% of the electricity and each of the other appliances including the refrigerator, lights, equipment etc. sharing the remaining 30%.

Water usage which included the church and the accommodation centre were almost divided equally between sewage and catering. Sewage uses up to 50% water inclusive of bathrooms, toilets and water from the laundry. Catering uses up to 36% accumulated through daily preparations of meals for the accommodation centre. Cleaning and gardening share the remaining 14% of water, mostly the cleaning.

The Cathedral in response to environmental issues and climate change, has installed water tanks to reduce tap water and they make use of solar powered water heaters to cut down level of energy use.

The following recommendations were made:

- A brick or 2 litre container of water is placed in each toilet. This reduces water consumption by 2 litres at each flush
- Geyser blankets be purchased and timers put on the geysers
- All staff be encouraged to switch off lights and reduce water usage.

The Diocese of Lesotho will be having an Environmental Conference on the 31st May 2014

Ncumisa Magadla,

ACSA Environmental Network
Making a difference in God’s world

The Anglican Women’s Fellowship (AWF) takes up the challenge in the Diocese with a difference!

In Mthatha Diocese—the “Diocese with a difference”, they are already taking up the environmental challenge

Thuletu Ngudle was invited to conduct a workshop with the AWF. She works at Wessa (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: www.wessa.org.za) and her theme was “Care for the Environment—towards poverty eradication”. She covered themes such as organic gardening and worm farms, climate change and food security, and how to reach out to our communities.

She also looked at waste management, for instance how you can create work from recycling.

Let us watch the AWF take this programme forward in the Province!

Water springing forth in the Diocese of Niassa

There was great rejoicing as a well was opened at the doors of Yohanna Abdullah church in Niassa, Mozambique. This has great significance because of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well, the river of life we are promised, and the water we need daily in our community. The Church which opened last year is named after the very first Mozambican priest, Yohanna Barnabé Abdullah. The church building was opened with great rejoicing last year to serve a worshipping community of 1500 adults and with services in Yao, Nyanja and Portuguese. (Rev Helen van Koevering)

“I am not a garden person, but I will get home and plant my plot of vegetables!”

Pumla Titus, Provincial Chair, Anglican Women’s Fellowship
Kokstad’s Green Ambassadors

Engaging young people in environmental ministry is very important as it creates an early understanding of climate change as well as value of creation. We made it a competition in order to add a youthful taste and for it to be intriguing to young people. The Diocese of Umzimvubu has spotted the potential young people have in terms of changing the environmental issue.

The environmental coordinator headed an Eco-Tourism and Green Kokstad project where by homes at Shayamoya with their outstation St Francis Parish Bongweni started a garden. This initiative is done in collaboration with Scientific Roets and Yondlabantu NGO and the primary purpose of this initiative is to fight poverty and hunger.

Young people are selected as Green Ambassadors, who receive some training through Scientific Roets and always check the progress of the gardens seasonally. “Each year we always have some competitions whereby we vote for a person who has got the most beautiful garden.”

What is your Diocese doing to Combat Climate change? It is our responsibility to take care of creation and unite in greening our churches and the community. Rev Mandla Rangana, Mzimvubu Environmental Coordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A prayer for Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday take some time to reflect on your impact on God’s Earth. You can calculate your carbon footprint here:

Here is a prayer as you start your Lenten Journey

Gracious Lord, as we fast from carbon, we mourn the destruction of so much of your creation. May we take up the challenge to walk the path less travelled, to restore more of your creation than we destroy. Help us to act with love and care for all that you have created.

Earth Hour—Saturday 29th of March

Today Global Earth Hour happens from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Switch off all electrical appliances, lights etc. for one hour. Gather friends this evening to share a meal that does not require electricity to prepare, and enjoy the hour of darkness together. Connect here!
Meeting your Diocesan Coordinators

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa is answering God’s call to care for creation and to combat climate change. Honouring the fifth mark of mission “To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth” the Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network was formed to promote Environmental Ministry. The network includes the Provincial Coordinator who works with a steering committee to support the ACSA Environmental network as a whole. Almost all of the Dioceses have now appointed Diocesan Environmental Coordinators. Please be in contact with them to see what is going on in your Diocese.

**Angola:** Antonio Nascimento
kidimambeko@yahoo.com.br

**Cape Town:** Rev Dr Rachel Mash
rmash@mweb.co.za

**Christ the King:**
Ven Reg Gersbach
reggersbach@gmail.com

**False Bay:** Rev Jonathin Pieterse
johnathing@yahoo.ie

**Free State:** Rev Jessica Mc Carter
mccarter@vodamail.co.za

**George:** Canon Eugene Le Fleur
eugenelefluer@afrihost.co.za

**Grahamstown:**
Rev Simphiwe Silwana
ssilwana@ufh.ac.za

**Highveld:** Rev Des Smit
des.smit@live.com

**Johannesburg:** Rev Tim Gray
tingray@global.co.za

**Diocese of Lebombo**
Boaventura Litsur
boa.litsur@yahoo.br

**Kahlamba:**
Rev Xolani Thethelwa
z.ntliale@gmail.com

**Lebombo:** Boaventura Litsur
boa.litsur@yahoo.br

**Lesotho:** Tumelo Hoohlo
hoohlots@ecoweb.co.ls

**Matlosane:** Brenda Diseko
bdiseko@anglogoldashanti.com

**Mpumalanga:**
Canon Celestino Chishimba
chishiomi@yahoo.com

**Mthatha:** Rev Mlungisi Ndima
bransbykeycollege@telkomsa.net

**Namibia:** Caroline Steyn
bishop@anglicanchurchnamibia.com

**Natal:** Ven Andrew Warmback
warmback@dionatal.org.za

**Niassa:**
Rev Helen Van Koevering
diocese.niassa@gmail.com

**Pretoria:** Salome Leseyane
mleseyane@gmail.com

**Mzimvubu:** Rev Mandla Rangana
mandla@scientificroets.com

**Port Elizabeth:**
Lay Canon Betty Bala
nomathembabala@gmail.com

**Diocese of Saldanha Bay**
Rev Colin Moodaley
cmoodealey@uwc.ac.za

**Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist**
Riaana Kirkpatrick
riaana.ecosense@gmail.com

**Diocese of Swaziland**
Maria Mbelu
tomarku@realnet.co.sz

**Anne-Louise Gaisford**
Diocese of Zululand
zlddio@netactive.co.za

**Vacant**
: Kimberly and Kuruman
: Mbashe

**MEET OUR INTERNS!!**

Michelle Hall
“Ever since I was a little girl seeing the destruction of this world disappointed me, since that day I was determined to make a change.”
michelle@jaei.org.za

Ncumisa Magadla
"The thought of an environmentally peaceful society is the drive behind my effort, I wait for the day where all will be as God created."
info@greenanglicans.org.za
The challenge we face....

WHAT WILL THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE BE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA?

Rising temperatures will lead to more periods of drought and heavier rainfall when it does come

Impact on food prices: Maize will be particularly badly impacted, with a reduction in yields of up to 25%. Wheat, barley, sorghum as well as apples pears and grapes will be impacted significantly because of reduced rainfall and increase of pests. Soil will also be degraded by flooding which leads to a loss of fertile topsoil. Livestock will be impacted, heat can reduce milk yields and conception rates and cattle feed will become more expensive. Fish stocks will be depleted as many types move to cooler areas. There will be an increase in ‘red tide’. Storms will damage estuaries and fisheries, and there will be fewer viable fishing days.

Impact on water. Because of increased evaporation and less rain fall there will be less water available for irrigation and drinking water. Rising sea levels have already been recorded all along Southern African coastlines combined with more extreme weather events. With water more scarce and more evaporation, water quality will deteriorate, as pollutants such as chemicals, fertilisers, petroleum become more concentrated. This will lead to an increased incubation and transmission of water–borne diseases. Because of increased intensity of rain and flash floods there will be overflowing sewers, often discharging into rivers.

Impact on health: People will be impacted by storms, cyclones and extreme temperatures. Following floods there is a risk of cholera and diarrhoeal diseases. We will also suffer from the effects of heat stress which increase the death rate and respiratory diseases. Flooding and drought may lead to food shortages and malnutrition. Mosquitos and ticks are affected by climatic factors, malaria and tick bite fever will spread to regions bordering current malaria areas which are presently too cold for transmission. As air pollution increases (sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene, lead etc) it will lead to eye irritation, respiratory infection, increase of TB etc. the combination of heat and air pollution will increase cardiovascular disease (heart disease).

How much the temperature will rise by 2050 depends on how much we as a global community can reduce our carbon emissions. On the current track, average temperatures will rise by a massive 5-8 °C. As a global community if we can reduce our emissions and keep the amount of carbon dioxide molecules in the atmosphere to below 450 parts per million then the rise in temperature will be between 2.5-3°C.

Climate change is real — what are you going to do about it?

Ref: Sanbi—Long term adaptation scenarios research, download here}