

InSpire Hope4Creation

Bringing opportunities for meaningful action on climate change to church communities in Oxford.

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th September 2021

The purpose of the InSpire Hope4Creation (H4C) programme is to support church communities in developing a response to the climate emergency which feels meaningful and appropriate to their context.

Motivation

Concern about climate change is rising. For many people this goes hand in hand with feelings of powerlessness and the question “But what can I do?” Answers in the public domain are usually limited to consumer actions or activism; often, they do not feel very doable or meaningful.

Yet, there are other ways we can get involved in climate action (beyond consumer and activist actions), as members of a community and as citizens.

In this programme, jointly developed by the Climate Action Unit and the Hope4Creation Foundation we will support you to develop the know-how to lead your church community on a journey to develop ideas for climate action which are meaningful to the mission of your church community.

Overall Programme Overview

Planned to coincide with Climate Sunday at the University Church, the InSpire Hope4Creation programme brings together participants from churches in the central Oxford area. Each church community will be represented by at least 2 people. The overall programme consists of the following steps:

- A weekend in Oxford consisting of sessions and activities spanning Friday evening 6pm to Sunday 1.30pm.
- Following the weekend, cross-church action learning groups will be set up to explore the activities that you are experimenting with in your communities. These groups will work together to understand challenges and identify further opportunities for change.

Weekend Programme

As the first step of the InSpire Hope4Creation programme, the weekend has the following objectives:

- To explore connections between your understanding of theology and practical climate action
- To incorporate a Christian response to environmental issues including: Lamentation, penitence, faith and works, and the theology of hope.
- To understand the diversity of opinions of what constitutes meaningful climate action (and how this creates both challenges and opportunities in your community)
- To understand the challenges of delivering climate action:
- How do those challenges manifest themselves?
- What are the reasons?
- How can we better navigate the challenges?
- To learn practical tools to engage your community in delivering climate action.
- To begin to explore your plans to engage your community in climate action.

Practical Details

The Climate Sunday Eucharist at 10.30am at the University Church will form part of the programme. All participants are invited to join that service. The weekend course will also include short morning and evening prayers from the early Christian tradition, a shared reflective walk, a focus on the importance of Sabbath.

Sessions will be run jointly by Dr Kris De Meyer and Lucy Hubble-Rose (UCL Climate Action Unit) and the Rev'd Charlotte Bannister-Park (Hope4Creation), with support of the Environmental Theologian Revd Margot Hodson, Director of the John Ray Institute, and the World Development Adviser for the Oxford Diocese, Maranda St John Nicolle. The UCL Climate Action Unit works to change how scientists, policymakers, civil society organisations and citizens engage with each other about climate change. The Hope4Creation Foundation disseminates information and designs courses for faith groups to focus on theology, education and engage in climate-positive action.

The activities will take place face to face in Oxford, at the Cherwell Centre, 14-16 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6BQ and at the University Church.

The course runs from Friday 6.00pm to Sunday 1.30pm.

Friday night dinner will be provided at The Cherwell Centre.

Saturday night dinner will be at college/or local restaurant in Oxford.

Sunday breakfast and lunch in the Old Library at the University Church.

The price per participant for the weekend course is £25 and that covers all meals, which are vegetarian/vegan.

If you would like to attend then please contact:

The Rev'd Charlotte Bannister-Parker at: charlottebannisterparker@gmail.com.