



Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

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Churches Together in the Merseyside Region statement on COP28

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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Wednesday, 29th November 2023

Dear Prime Minister

As ministers for His Majesty's Government gather for COP28, the Christian communities of Merseyside offer our support and prayers. We praise the positive work that has been done at a regional, national and international level. As part of the global Christian community, we are concerned about the effects of the 'climate catastrophe'¹ and the disproportionate effect this is having on the poorest people in the world.

On Merseyside we applaud the local leadership. These are just 3 examples of many actions taking place:

- **Cool 2 - Wirral Council's Climate Change Strategy:** This recognises the unique and important role that faith communities play in taking action on climate change including carbon reduction, enhancing biodiversity and engaging worship communities.
- **Liverpool City Region (LCR) 5 Year Climate Action Plan:** The Climate Partnership features the Climate Portfolio leads from all 6 Borough Councils and partners from health, business, education, energy, activist, local authority, faith and VCS sector, together they have created a 5-year action plan, signed off by the Metro Mayor with the agreement of all 6 Borough Councils.
- **Local Nature Partnership (Nature Connected):** This is the advisory body in the LCR, with resident consultation undertaken and phase one mapping of the existing species and priorities underway.

However, at a national level we acknowledge the challenges raised by a recent Environmental Audit Committee². In June 2023, an assessment by the Climate Change Committee stated that the prospects of the UK meeting its own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) had "worsened since last year". The Committee asked that further statement on NDCs is published in the lead up to COP28.

¹ António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

² 8 November 2023 - Prospects for UNFCCC COP28

Presidents

The Most Rev'd Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool
The Right Rev'd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool
The Rev'd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of the Liverpool Methodist District
The Rev'd Geoff Felton, Moderator of the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church
The Rev'd Phil Jump, Regional Minister, North West Baptist Association
Major David Taylor, Divisional Commander, North West and Isle of Man Division, Salvation Army

On an international level, funding from wealthy countries to developing countries has been insufficient.

Therefore, as you prepare for the forthcoming meeting, we ask that you:

- Continue to support regional and local initiatives, allowing leadership to emerge at all levels, in line with the principles of subsidiarity.
- Do all you can to meet the NDCs, both in the UK but also by leading partnerships with other nations to reduce emissions and keep within stated goals.
- Support poorer and more vulnerable communities in the face of the devastating effects of climate change.

Pope Francis in *Laudate Deum* writes “the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level.”³ As a joint Christian community we continue to pray for you and His Majesty’s Government as you represent us, and provide leadership, at this significant COP28 meeting.

Signed

The Reverend Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of the Liverpool Methodist District

Right Reverend Julie Conalty, Suffragan Bishop of the Church of England Diocese of Chester

The Reverend Geoff Felton, Moderator of the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church

The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool

Right Reverend Thomas Neylon, Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Liverpool

The Reverend Phil Jump, Regional Minister, North Western Baptist Association

Major David Taylor, Divisional Commander, North West and Isle of Man Division, Salvation Army

Reverend Dr Tani Omidoyi, Senior Pastor & Chair of Love and Joy Ministries UK

The Right Reverend Dr John Perumbalath, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool

³ *Laudate Deum*, paragraph 69