

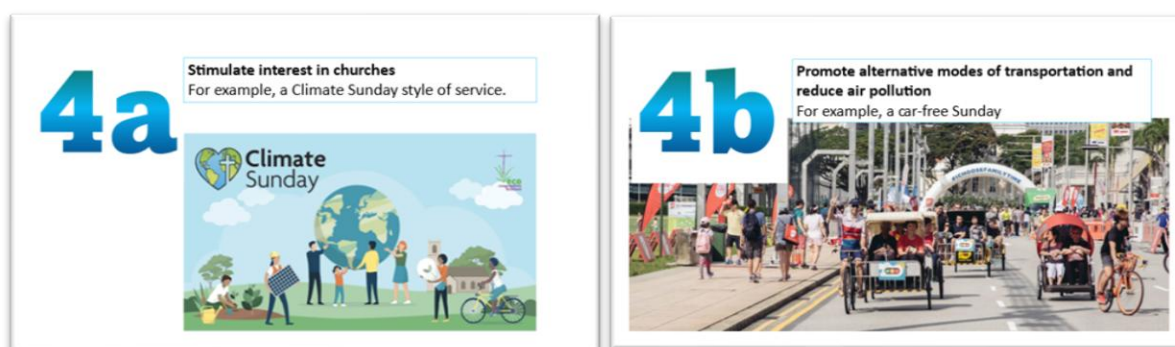
## **‘Climate Sunday’ service in SCBA, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

SCBA leadership has suggested that SCBA churches make Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April a ‘Climate Sunday’. What’s this all about? And how are we, at Rosebery Park Baptist Church in Bournemouth, going to mark it?

### **Background**

Climate Sunday was an initiative taken by a group of churches and Christian organizations in 2021, prior to COP 26 in Glasgow. ‘Climate Sundays’ haven’t formally continued since then.

However, last year, Southern Counties Baptist Association (SCBA) invited the ‘Baptist Union Environment Network’ group within SCBA to propose some ideas for what churches in the association could do in connection with ‘creation care’. We came up with quite a few ideas. Two of the ideas were to stimulate interest in churches by having a ‘Climate Sunday’ service and to have a ‘Car-Free Sunday’, and we thought these ideas could be combined.



SCBA took this idea on, and SCBA leadership proposed that we hold this Climate Sunday service on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **What we are planning at Rosebery Park Baptist Church**

#### **Getting to church**

We are encouraging people to travel to church that day by means which minimise reduce carbon emissions.

There is an organization in Bournemouth called ‘Cycling Without Age’. They operate two bicycle rickshaws

(‘trishaws’) which they use to take people on trips e.g. along the promenade. They are



happy to bring two couples to church (and take them home!) on the 27<sup>th</sup>. (You can find more information about them here: <https://www.facebook.com/people/CWA-Wessex/100064575766588/>).

Other people might come by bicycle, or by bus instead of car. One person is planning to push another person to church in her wheelchair. But we are making it clear that we understand that for some people, coming by car is really the only option.

## **The service**

We are dividing the service into two main parts. In Part 1, which will last about 40 minutes, we are having a number of 'stations' around the church which people can visit. In Part 2, which will last about 20 minutes, we will come together for a service. So that Sunday, the church will be organized with about 40 chairs in the centre of the sanctuary; the other chairs will be moved to the hall to make space for the 'stations.'

### **The service: Part 1**

The stations will divide into two main groups. One group will be more oriented towards the nature of the problem. The other group of stations will be more oriented towards solutions. Church members / attenders suggested the following stations. (So, this was a 'bottom-up' rather than a 'top-down' approach.)

#### **'Problems'**

1. Why are carbon emissions a problem? How big a problem?
2. Interview with laptop, recorded. Invitation to join a litter pick.
3. The Christian in Creation course. (This is a course which the minister of the church offered during lockdown.)
4. A peacock. We will have a very large colourful peacock made out of cardboard and painted and decorated. The peacock will be there, as it were, to represent the world of nature. People can ask the peacock five set questions, and the peacock will answer with set answers. One of the children will 'man' that station.

#### **'Solutions'**

5. Prayer! The most essential thing to do to address this issue! This will probably be a table with some verses about the environment, such as 'if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land' – 2 Chronicles 7:14, and a cork board and some pieces of coloured paper and pins so that people can write prayers and pin them to the cork board.
6. A fish / fishing boat mobile. This is something the children in our children's club made, with some help. The mobile also had some plastic pollution, but most of it has fallen off

in this picture. The person at that station will talk about plastic pollution and what we can do about it.



7. Electric cars and how they can help reduce CO2 and particulate emissions. One of our members who has recently bought two electric cars for his company will answer questions at this station.
8. Calculate your carbon footprint. One of our members who has talked about this on her radio show will help people do this.
9. The Climate Change Committee' 7th Carbon Budget. A Moorlands student who talked about this in church recently will talk about this.
10. Increasing pollinators, including a planting station.

There are some other stations we'd like to include but we have no one to man them yet. For example, how we should adapt our lifestyles and how we can help people in other countries who are affected by climate change.

## The service: Part 2

After this, we will gather for a short service. It will be just one or two songs, a very short talk by the minister, and a time of prayer.