

makes no reference to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), or to the overwhelming majority of climate scientists who support the IPCC's findings. It conveys no genuine sense of urgency. It lays no stress on the importance of lobbying. Its reading list includes Lomborg's notorious *Skeptical Environmentalist* (2001), but excludes Mayer Hillman's *How We Can Save the Planet* (2004).

The motion before Synod was similarly flawed. However, the debate was introduced by Archbishop Rowan Williams, and he was able, to some extent, to rescue the situation, thanks largely to the number of people who lobbied Synod members before the meeting.

"He that would do good must do it in minute particulars. General good is the plea of the scoundrel, hypocrite, and flatterer". There was no lack of "general good" during the debate, but precious little in the way of "particulars"; so that the formal request from the Diocese of Southwark for guidance on reducing CO₂ emissions met with no response.

But what matters is the outcome in the year ahead. How many bishops will publicly reject air travel for holidays, and urge their flock to do the same? How many will join the Kyoto march and other demonstrations? How many will publicly place this whole issue at the head of their agenda, instead of, as at present, near the bottom?

In effect, Christians echo St. Augustine's cry: "Lord, makes our lives sustainable, but not yet." Can we, in the judgement of hard realism, expect that to change in 2005?

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The report 'Sharing God's Planet' is available from Church House Publishing at £5.99 ISBN 0 7151 4068X or download from www.cofe.anglican.org/info/papers/sharinggodspanet.pdf or from CEL's website where there is a direct link from the home page.

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You describe yourself in the same Foreword as a "somewhat wayward and unorthodox Christian". Is this still an accurate description?

Yes, inasmuch as I am not a very regular churchgoer and pretty unorthodox in some of my beliefs, e.g. on life after death. But, yes, I do call myself a Christian – with a bit of tree hugging thrown in for good measure! I have met recently with both Rowan Williams and Bishop Jones to discuss these issues and they are obviously keen to use the upcoming Synod debate to encourage the church to see stewardship as an intrinsic part of faith rather than as an add-on. I am hopeful things will change.

What would you like the churches to do to further the goal of sustainability?

One can't expect everyone to do everything, but the three priorities I recommend to any Christian or Christian community are the following:

- first, climate change: **get involved!** In this respect, I think Operation Noah is really important; it provides a powerful, simple mechanism for all Christians individually and as congregations to get really stuck in.
- second, the development agenda: work to bring development and environmental issues together.
- and thirdly, putting one's own house in order: I think the Eco-Congregation initiative is very important and provides a model for congregations to get caught up in the whole sustainability agenda by looking at the way they are managed and run.

As a Patron of CEL what advice would you give them?

I am a great admirer of CEL. The way they have kept the issue alive in the churches, when many would have wished to see it buried, is marvellous.

But to whom are we appealing through CEL?

I see some churches today as being dynamic and bringing in young people, whilst others are rather crusty and just hanging on. CEL has got to find ways into this "young", vibrant church.

We must find ways of making this idea of stewardship something very attractive to young people. I am aware that many such churches are on the evangelical wing of the church, which has often been the most suspicious of ecology. I was fascinated by Bishop Jones' recent book, which tried to allay such worries.

What do you do as a family to try to become greener?

We try and do all the basics. I do most of the cooking for the family, so I do the food buying, and as we are lucky enough to be able to afford it we buy organic whenever we can. We eat less meat than we otherwise would. We think a lot about energy efficiency in the home, insulation etc (I'm looking into the possibility of getting a little wind turbine on the roof!). We cycle a lot, and try to minimise car use – I don't have a car, my wife has one for her work. (By the way, I'm very interested in the proposal for personalised carbon budgets as advocated by Mayer Hillman in his *How We Can Save the Planet*. This is an area we can all look at).

There is probably a lot more we could do, and we are **not** in the hair shirt brigade. But I like to think that our "footprint" is a great deal less than it otherwise would be. We must find ways of making this idea of stewardship something very attractive to young people.