

tearfund

Ireland

Loving Our Neighbour

**2023 Survey Results:
Irish Christians Want to
ACT on Climate Change**



Acknowledgements

Loving Our Neighbour is a report published by Tearfund Ireland to highlight research on the perspectives of young adult Irish Christians about climate change and how the church in Ireland is addressing it.

Tearfund Ireland would like to thank: VOX Magazine and Praxis for collaboration in the survey and Ruth Garvey-Williams for compiling the survey results and producing the research data. The individuals who made time to answer the survey questions and provide additional comments. Supporters who participated in focus group discussions during the summer of 2023. Ella Switzer (Masters Student Intern) who assisted with research in the summer of 2023. The members of Tearfund Ireland's Church Advisory Group for their comments, insights and discussions on the topic. Many other ministry leaders in Ireland who have shared their views. Tearfund Canada, Tearfund Australia and Tearfund (UK) for sharing insights of their own in-country research. The design team in Tearfund Canada for sharing their artwork for this publication.

This project team included Emma Lynch, Amanda Prather, and Sean Copeland. We submit this report as an offering, and pray it will facilitate meaningful conversations, deeper understanding and practical action in stewardship of God's creation and demonstrations of loving our global neighbours - now and those who will come after us.

This report is approved by Tearfund Ireland CEO, Sean Copeland, Ulysses House, 22-24 Foley Street, Dublin 1.

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Invitation to Engage

Some of the most profound teachings in history were given by Jesus. His Sermon on the Mount challenged religious traditions and commonly accepted ways of thinking about behaviour and decision-making. His teaching addressed motives of the heart and described how people will experience his kingdom. The poor in spirit will have the kingdom of heaven. The peacemakers will be called children of God. And the meek will inherit the earth.

In another famous teaching Jesus vividly combines his commands to love our neighbour and love our enemy within a single story, known as the Good Samaritan. This story leaves the hearer little wiggle-room when faced with opportunities to address the needs of another person.

These teachings are simple and clear, but they are not easy. Yet Jesus expects his followers to push beyond our common ways of thinking and embrace his perspective in our attitudes and decision-making.

In the few years I've served in Tearfund Ireland I've found myself increasingly challenged to look beyond my own perspectives. It is impossible to stand beside some of the most marginalised people in the world and not be changed. Hearing the words of Jesus articulated by someone from a forgotten community in the global south creates

a fresh perspective on Jesus' teachings.

Our partners, Christian brothers and sisters living in the global south, have been telling us about the disproportionate impact climate change is having on their ability to help their communities lift themselves out of poverty. When the Church in the global north, in Ireland, hears this cry for help, how should we respond? What would it look like to embrace Jesus' teaching of love for neighbour in the way we steward the earth?

It is in this context that Tearfund Ireland releases this report. We believe Christians of all ages and church traditions have an opportunity to respond to the challenges of a changing climate. Although many young adult Christians remain concerned, there is hope for the future.

We recognise this topic has created polarising debate; some even ask if the Church has a role in the climate discussion. It is precisely these reasons that Tearfund Ireland are engaging in this matter. When the Church is silent on societal issues the agenda is often directed by others. Tearfund Ireland believe this is an issue the Church should honestly, and humbly, wrestle with.

Our desire is to assist the Irish Church in this journey. We believe this is an opportunity for the Church to love our global neighbour as we all discover what it can look like for the meek to inherit the earth.



Sean Copeland, CEO, Tearfund Ireland

Endorsements

"This is a really important piece of research, the first of its kind in Ireland. It shows that the young people in our churches are clear that climate change is a vitally important issue, and that they are looking for Christian leadership in caring for God's creation. It is a wake-up call to all of us to provide hope, teaching and practical action to care for our planet."

-Archdeacon Andrew Orr, Chair of Eco Congregation

"Well done to Tearfund Ireland for researching and producing this thought-provoking report, reaffirming younger Christians' real concerns on a range of issues including climate change. It is both sad and shocking to read that 'young Christians are confused about their church's response to climate change'. Church leaders need to liaise and listen more, include younger Christians in our church planning and start working together now. There are positive actions taking place in some of our churches, but we need to wake up and co-ordinate local action plans as a matter of urgency, time is not on our side."

-Sue Maxwell, Member of Methodist Church

"I very much welcome this report from Tearfund Ireland, which is a timely reminder to Irish churches of the important issue of climate change. As followers of Jesus, seeking to fulfil our mandate to both steward the earth and love our neighbour, we must take very seriously the issues of creation care and climate justice, both of which should be at the heart of our response to climate change"

-Dr. Andrew Bowie, Leader in Trinity Church

"Thank you to Tearfund Ireland for highlighting the importance of Climate Change. Our poor stewardship of creation is disproportionately impacting upon the poor around the globe. The Church needs to listen to the prophetic concern of our young people. For too long we have spoken and behaved as if stewardship were primarily about how much people give in the offering at Church. According to Scripture, the most fundamental stewardship of all is to care for God's creation. Until we realise that, our approach to all our resources will be undermined and flawed."

-Nick Park, Executive Director, Evangelical Alliance Ireland





How Tearfund Ireland Works

Tearfund Ireland is a Christian development and relief organisation committed to the holistic transformation of the most marginalised and vulnerable around the world. Through relationship with local partners and the Church, our aim is to see communities flourish without hindrance of poverty or injustice.

Our long-term sustainable development work addresses the systemic nature of

poverty while our humanitarian relief is a short-term aid when emergencies arise. As a Christian organisation, we resource the Church in Ireland, to practically demonstrate their faith by engaging in sustainable development, pursuing biblical justice and advocating on behalf of the world's marginalised.

We work in partnership with others to demonstrate God's goodness, love & justice to some of the world's most vulnerable individuals & communities.

Self-Help Groups in Ethiopia (asset-based development approaches):

- Enable vulnerable women to lift themselves out of poverty
- Address gender inequality in households and local communities
- Improve food security through climate mitigating agricultural methods
- Assist in increasing resilience through disaster risk reduction initiatives

Resourcing the Irish Church for biblical justice globally:

- Biblical justice-based approaches to international missions
- Amplify the voices of our Christian partners in the global south
- Raise awareness about the harms of orphanage volunteering and the importance of creation care and climate justice

Safe and Nurturing Families in Cambodia:

- Resource churches to support and strengthen vulnerable families
- Assist the safe care and reintegration of children who have been placed in orphanages
- Resource older children who 'age-out' of residential care institutions

Resilience and Livelihood Supports for Refugees in Lebanon:

- Assisting refugee children with non-formal education and psycho-social supports
- Emergency supplies for displaced people and those affected by long-term crises



Development through working with local partners

Tearfund Ireland works with trusted, local partners who implement the projects. We believe that local partners are best placed to develop the responses to address the needs of their own communities. This method of working is commonly referred to as 'localisation'. The majority of Tearfund Ireland's partners are either church-based or para-church organisations* because we believe the local church plays a vital role in addressing the holistic needs of those within its community.

This conviction has proven true many times over. Church leaders have good relationships with civic officials and social services. At the same time, they are trusted advocates of the vulnerable within their community. Further, churches located among the poor and vulnerable understand that they must address the needs of the whole person. In Tearfund Ireland, we refer to this holistic approach as integral mission.



Why are we talking about climate change?

Tearfund Ireland's vision of flourishing communities is based on the biblical principle that the Christian message really is good news for the poor. Poverty is not merely an economic circumstance, rather, poverty is the result of the broken relationships; with God, within ourselves, with one another and with all of creation. But the good news is that these relationships were restored through Jesus' obedience and sacrifice. Jesus reconciled all things to himself, and this restorative work includes the whole of creation. Tearfund Ireland's focus on the issues facing our climate is an outworking of this foundational belief.

Another fundamental belief is our understanding of Jesus' command to love our neighbour. Through close interactions with partners in the global south, we see first-hand the negative impacts of changing weather patterns, unpredictable rains, failed crops and extreme weather events. All of which complicate the efforts to build resilience and improve livelihoods. Our partners are asking us to assist them in addressing these seemingly insurmountable challenges for the sake of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Our engagement with climate change sits at the intersection of these two convictions. One, that the restorative work of Jesus really can be good news to the poor and two, we are commanded to love our neighbour. Therefore, we are compelled to speak about the injustices burdening those in the global south and we ask the Church and Christians in Ireland to engage with us in the vital work.

* The singular exception is our strategic partnership with an organisation which facilitates the national strengthening and development of the Self-Help Group structures within Ethiopia.

Executive Summary

Tearfund Ireland commissioned this research because we feel the issues around climate are important topics for the Church in Ireland to address.

The findings of the research reveal that an overwhelming majority (91%) of young adults in Ireland are concerned about climate change, but only a small number (12%) believe their local church is doing enough to address the issue of climate change.

Another finding reveals that a majority of young Christians believe that creation care should be an essential part of the Church's mission (83%) and of Christian discipleship (73%), but almost half (43%) do not know their local church's view on climate change.

While these findings reveal several diverging perspectives among Christians in Ireland, it is encouraging that 77% of young adult believers say their faith helps them feel hopeful about the future. It is through this perspective of hope, we believe, the Church in Ireland has an opportunity to engage in this important topic.



92% believe the climate is changing

75% believe humans are largely responsible

Who Responded

A total of **561 individuals** contributed to the survey.

An online survey distributed across Ireland in the summer of 2023 formed the basis of the research which was jointly sponsored by VOX, Praxis and Tearfund Ireland. Editor and Researcher, Ruth Garvey-Williams (VOX magazine) conducted the study. Further details about the methodology of the research is provided in the appendix.

Respondents are Christians who report an active faith.

58%

read their Bible a few times a week and more

82%

pray a few times a week or more

70%

are committed to their church

16%

sporadically attend their church

More than 3 out of 4 survey respondents are under 40.

Under 40 (18-40)

84%

Over 40

16%

Respondents from all four provinces

16%

Munster

53%

Leinster

26%

Ulster

4%

Connacht

1%

Other

Survey respondents indicated a variety of church involvement

16%

Methodist

24%

COI

27%

Catholic

14%

Baptist

15%

Independent Evangelical

16%

Presbyterian

16%

Independent Pentecostal

9%

Other Denominations



49%

of the respondents live with their parents

Finding 1:

An overwhelming majority of younger Christians are concerned about climate change

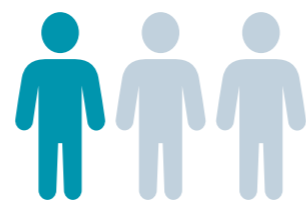
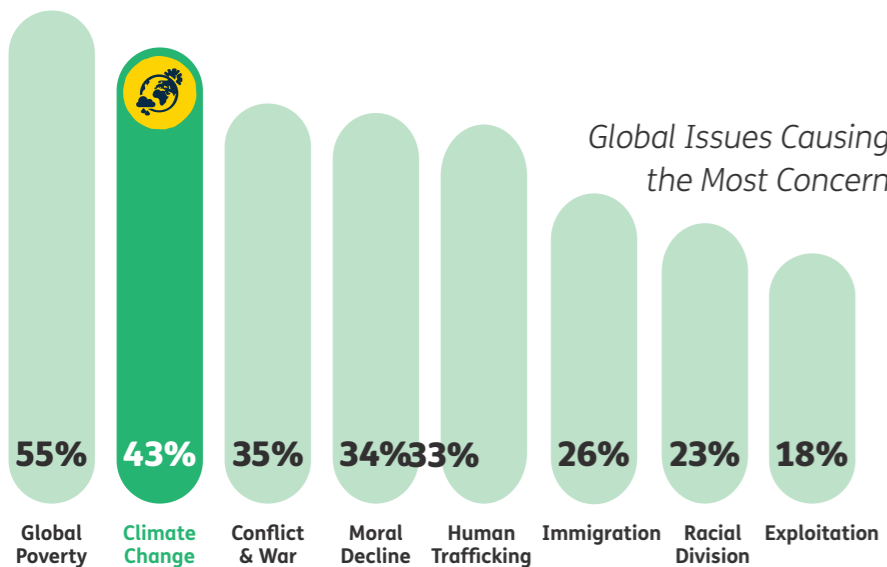


67%

believe older people are not as concerned

Over 91% of those surveyed say that they are concerned about climate change with 49% stating that they are “quite” to “seriously worried”.

“I am concerned as it is especially affecting people in poorer countries and God made us stewards of the earth so we should care and be involved.”
-Survey Respondent



More than 1 in 3 young Christians said that climate change is among their highest concerns – second only to global poverty.

CLIMATE CHANGE. CLIMATE ACTION. CLIMATE JUSTICE.

We've all heard these phrases used but do we really understand the difference between them?

Climate Change is the long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts could be a result of natural activity or human activity.

Climate Action describes the efforts to mitigate or combat the effects of a changing climate. These efforts range from individual initiatives all the way to societal, national and international collaborative actions.

Climate Justice is the principle that the changing climate has a greater impact on those who are the most vulnerable to the changing weather patterns and the shocks of extreme events, so there should be an equitable approach to reversing the disproportionate impacts.

Creation Care is the biblical principle that Christians are to steward all of God's creation. This is based on the belief that everything was created by God, who declared it good, and gave humanity responsibility to care for and tend all of his creation.

In Tearfund Ireland, we believe the discussion should also include discipleship. Our ongoing spiritual transformation is not individualised but occurs in relationship. In our ever-connected world Jesus' command to love our neighbour (Mk 12:29-31) must also include the most vulnerable and forgotten communities around the world. Therefore, a discussion on how we demonstrate love for our global neighbour must also include a conversation around climate justice and creation care.

Finding 2:

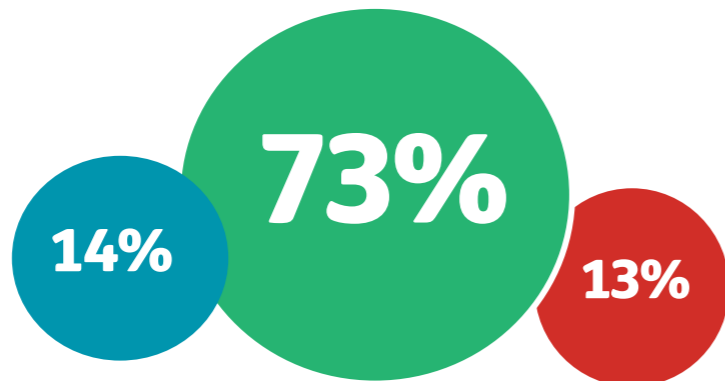
73% Young Christians believe it is important to act right now



“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

1 Corinthians 12:26

Importance of action



- Need to take action right now
- Need to take action in the next five years
- Happy to wait to tackle climate change

“Climate change is a threat multiplier, exacerbating natural weather disasters and amplifying social crises. It stands between us and a better future in every sense of the word.” – **Katharine Hayhoe, Christian, Climate Scientist**

How Climate Change Affects the Vulnerable

If we believe all people are created in the image of God, how does this influence our response to the vulnerable and marginalised?

Scripture tells us that our Trinitarian God chose to create people in his image and likeness. Therefore, since people are created to reflect the image of God, how should we relate to each one as an ‘image bearer’?

In Tearfund Ireland our work of international development and humanitarian relief puts us in position to celebrate the amazing resilience and creativity displayed by many of our fellow image bearers. But we also mourn with the multiplied thousands who are vulnerable to the shocks and effects of extreme weather.

One such place is in Borena, Ethiopia where people depend on livestock and agriculture to survive. But after an unprecedented three years of drought, grazing lands and water sources have dried out, crops have failed and livestock has perished. As a result, millions of people are at the risk of starvation.



In the past year Tearfund Ireland, along with Tearfund Canada and the local Ethiopian church, responded with emergency food supplies to 13,000 families.

We are grateful to have been able to provide this life-saving food, but our actions are only a brief respite for those families. What is required is a long-term solution that address the source of the problem.

Until there is full climate justice, we have also assisted in training to enable these families to develop climate resilient agriculture practices.

For those living in extreme poverty, climate change is a life-threatening emergency. This is an issue of justice. Those who have done the least to contribute to the problem are suffering the most because of it.

When we reflect on the fact that each person has been created “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:26-28) we recognise the inherent value of each person. Acting justly and demonstrating love compels us to not only respond to the needs of our immediate communities, but also to the needs of our global neighbours.

Being made in the image of God shapes our relationship with the whole of creation. As followers of Jesus, through whom all things were made, let’s strive together to protect and restore his creation.

Finding 3:

Young Christians believe care for creation should be part of the Church's mission

83% believe care for creation should be an essential part of the mission of the Church

73% believe care for creation should be an essential part of Christian discipleship

67% believe care for creation should be an essential part of the Christian gospel



"Our acceptance of the God-given mandate to care for the earth is an expression of obedience to Jesus' command to "love our neighbours" - not only those down the street but "down time" as well. It's those who live in the years beyond our own who stand to benefit the most from our faithful and responsible stewardship."

~Tim Healy, Associate Lecturer in Theology, Ministry and Biblical Studies;
Alphacrucis College, Auckland, New Zealand

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord, you his servants;
praise the name of the Lord.
Let the name of the Lord be praised,
both now and forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to the place
where it sets, the name of the Lord is to
be praised.

He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He settles the childless woman in her
home as a happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord.

Psalm 113

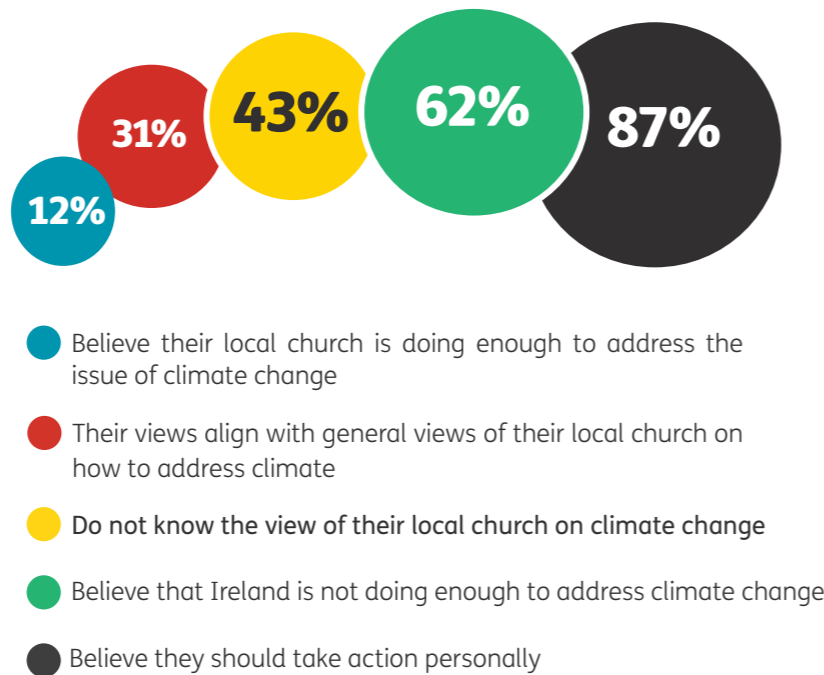
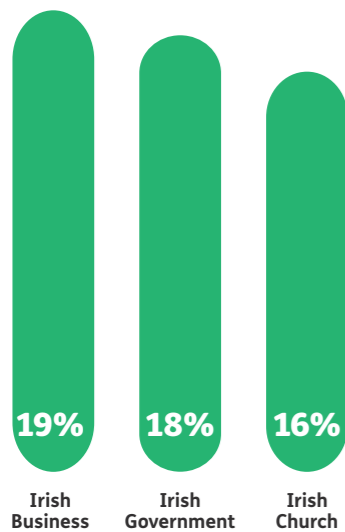
The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,
who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

"Creation care is not an optional add-on to Christian discipleship, but an essential part of it. We cannot claim to love God without loving what he has made." – **John Stott, Author and Theologian**

Finding 4:

Young Christians are confused about their church's response to climate change.

Who should take action?



Only 16%
of respondents reported their church supported relief & development work that addresses the impacts of climate change

"The original and most basic task of humans is to glorify God and creation care is a big part of that." – Survey Respondent

Caring for Creation as both Discipleship and Mission

We were introduced to a family in Ethiopia who are reliant on the crops from their small farm. Lebisio, the father, grew up in a farming household as did his father before him. For generations, the family harvested crops for their own food and, by selling vegetables at the local market, provided affordable food for the community. But in recent years Lebisio's region has experienced season after season of failed crops because of drought and erratic rains. He told us, "Climate change has made farming so difficult that even farmers must beg for their daily food."

Tearfund Ireland, through our local partners, were able to assist Lebisio and other small farmers with climate mitigating agricultural

practices. Another farmer who received the training a few years ago, Nigist shared her gratefulness, "I endured years of darkness, hunger and death, but God dragged me out of deepest poverty. I thank God for those who heard about our suffering and responded."

The mission of the Church must address the holistic needs if there is to be whole-life transformation that enables individuals and communities to experience life to the full. The Church in the global south, the majority world, understand this concept and they can help us learn how to incorporate creation care into our discipleship and approach to mission.

"We are told that Jesus died, not just for the forgiveness of sins, but for the redeeming of the entire creation, to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, and bring all things together under him. The work of Christ on the cross has far-reaching social and cosmic consequences."

*–Melba Padilla Maggay, Founder of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church & Culture, and Micah Global Ambassador
(see Romans 8:19-22, Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 1:9-10)*

Finding 5:

There are many opportunities for the Church to engage with young Christians on climate justice.



“My faith makes me feel hopeful about the world’s future”

77% agree

79% of young Irish Christians surveyed believe their faith has an impact on their concerns for the future.

How can we live out our faith in practical, tangible ways?

Actions Young Christians Would Like their Christian Denomination to Take:

Provide support for local church action

45%

Supporting public campaigns.

37%

Develop Bible Studies or other educational materials

25%

Form an action group

24%

Opportunities to Shine

Jesus proclaimed, “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12)

Later, he told his followers, “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)

In this clear delegation of responsibility Jesus gave a practical illustration of how a student is expected to become like the master. Some may find this perplexing, unsettling, or daunting. But Jesus offers a yoke that is easy.

Christians are inherently people of faith, hope and love, which influences the way we view our world and our future. The results of the research in Finding 5 are not only good news, but they provide a foundation for the next step.

When much of the wider media commentary around climate change is presented in a manner that could cause great anxiety, people of faith have an opening to bring hope into the discussion.

This is an opportunity for the Church in Ireland. If we can build on the hope and the faith expressed by those surveyed, we could help address the anxieties and concerns held by thousands.

Jesus said that his followers are the light of the world and he exhorted us to not allow our light to be hidden, but to let it shine. Perhaps choosing to engage in this conversation would be a beneficial, relevant way to love our neighbour and let our light shine.

“His intent was that now, through the Church, the multifaceted wisdom of God would be made known...”

~Ephesians 3:10

Embracing the Opportunity

Young Christians are keen to connect their faith to their concern about climate change

There are a number of ways the Church in Ireland can embrace the opportunities gleaned from this research.

First let's make the time to really listen to the concerns of our younger brothers and sisters. The original survey simply asked questions to which they responded so it would be reasonable to presume that further conversation would reveal much deeper insights.


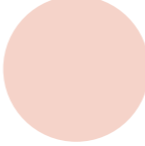


Second listen to what Christians from the global south have to say. Tearfund Ireland can help facilitate this part of the discussion.

Finally ask the Holy Spirit to speak with you and guide your next steps in the topic.

Perspective of Church Leaders

Although the survey was not directed toward church leaders, we have had conversations with a number of church leaders since receiving the results. Most have welcomed the results, a few have expressed being confused about the complexities of the topic, some have asked why Tearfund Ireland is spending time on it, and others have asked how the issues of climate relate to their work in leading a church.

To bring this conversation forward, we suggest it is important to acknowledge:

-  The load church leaders already carry – some feel unable to take-on another issue.
-  There are differing views on how much priority should be placed on climate matters
-  Many would like their church to do more but are unsure how to proceed.
-  Many would like to address climate change but are concerned about causing division within their congregation.

We're Here To Help

Suggested take-aways for conversation:

a) Remove the Barriers:

Remove the politicisation and polarisation around the climate discussion, to create safe spaces for the conversation. Identifying common ground is a helpful place to begin.

b) Be Gracious and Intentional:

Be aware that we all have our biases. Do your best to set aside any preconceived ideas and attempt to genuinely listen to those who have a different view. Respect and humility are important values to hold.

c) Address the Knowledge Gaps:

Often, people of an older age group express feeling overwhelmed by the amount of information, varied opinions and seemingly contradicting 'facts' around the topic. Church leaders, in particular, find it helpful to have clear theological teaching and information from trusted believers working in the field.

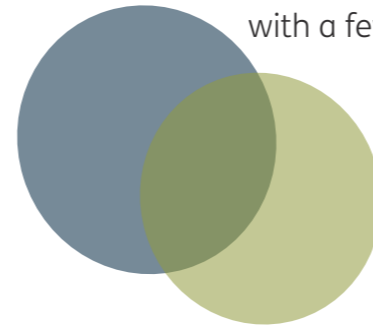


d) Narrow the Conversation:

Climate justice is a substantial topic and can mean different things to different people. Clarify your understanding and what you hope to learn or achieve.

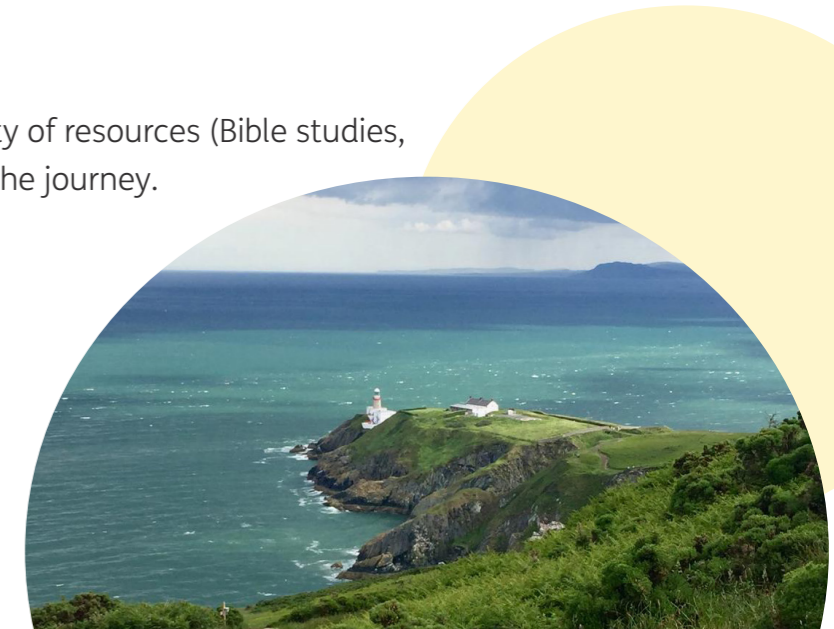
e) Consider Starting Small:

Rather than attempting to address issues in a large group or public forum, consider starting with a few trusted friends over a cuppa.



f) Find Trusted Resources:

Tearfund Ireland can help provide a variety of resources (Bible studies, video clips, books, etc) to help you along the journey.



**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.**

~Matthew 6:9-10

Resources

TEARFUND IRELAND WEBSITE:

Development Education, Climate Justice:

<https://www.tearfund.ie/get-involved/resource-hub/development-education/climate-justice/>

Christianity and Climate Change Film Series with Katherine Hayhoe:

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series>

CIYD Climate Justice Toolkit (CIYD and Tearfund Ireland):

<https://www.tearfund.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Climate-Toolkit-FINAL-2022-Sept-2022.pdf>

Living JUST:LY edited by Jason Fileta (Micah Challenge and Tearfund)

<https://www.tearfund.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Live-Justly-Global-Edition.pdf>

WEBSITES:

ECO Congregation Ireland: <https://www.ecocongregationireland.com/>

Evangelical Alliance UK: <https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/initiatives/changing-church/climate-change>

Green Anglicans: <https://www.greenanglicans.org/>

Laudato Si: <https://www.laudatosi.org/action/>

Lausanne Creation Care Network: <http://lwccn.com/>

Micah Global: <https://micahglobal.org/page/resources-external>

Renew our World: <https://www.renewourworld.net/resources>

Show your Stripes (images of global temperature rise by country): <https://showyourstripes.info/c/europe/ireland/all>

The World Evangelical Alliance Sustainability Center: <https://wea-sc.org/en/home>

BOOKS:

Just Living: Faith and Community in an Age of Consumerism By Dr. Ruth Valerio

Making a World of Difference by Rev. Dave Bookless and Renew our World (Free to download)
<https://www.renewourworld.net/resources?active=making>

Research

1.1 FOCUS OF THIS STUDY

This report documents the perspectives of young adults from across Ireland including both Millennials and Generation Z. Our aims were to:

- Listen to the views of young adults about faith and life.
- Find out why some have left the church and others remain passionate about their faith.
- What is important to young adults and how this could shape the church of the future.
- In partnership with Tearfund Ireland, to explore views on Climate change as part of an international survey of young adults.

1.2 WHY DO WE NEED THIS RESEARCH?

VOX magazine's study of Millennials and the Church in 2015 highlighted vital challenges and important learning for Christian churches in Ireland. However, since then there have been seismic changes both in Ireland and across the world including the marriage and abortion referendums, Brexit, a Global Pandemic and the significant impact of adverse weather patterns (e.g. floods, wildfires, etc.). Churches of all denominations have felt the effects of these events with many reporting a significant drop in attendance since the ending of lockdown restrictions. Anecdotal evidence points to many churches hemorrhaging young people and particularly those aged between 18 and 40. Other churches have reported successful young adults' programmes.

The danger is to draw conclusions from past research or depend on research conducted in other countries. However, VOX magazine, in partnership with Praxis and Tearfund Ireland was convinced that a new Irish study was vital to hear the voice of young adults in 2023.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

An online survey formed the basis for the research, gathering anonymous contributions from 561 people from across Ireland and Northern Ireland. This enabled us to gather a combination of quantitative and rich qualitative data through open comment sections.

1.4 ETHICS STATEMENT

Editor and Researcher Ruth Garvey-Williams (VOX magazine) conducted the study on behalf of Praxis and Tearfund Ireland. All efforts were made to ensure the highest ethical standards for both the gathering, analysis and reporting of data. All participants did so voluntarily. The online survey was conducted anonymously, and responses analysed using summary data to ensure qualitative comments were not linked to any individual respondent.

All raw data is stored on a password-protected computer and is only accessed by the researcher. Graphic designers involved in visualising the findings were only given summary data reports to work from.

1.5 COMMENT DATA ANALYSIS

When considering the qualitative data, if more than 10% of respondents added comments to any question, the comment data was analysed in detail using the following protocol.

- Comments were extracted and listed in a spreadsheet.
- Each comment was reviewed individually to extract all descriptive terms and keywords
- These were then reviewed to create summary categories for recurring comment themes.
- This process resulted in a list of recurring thematic categories for the comments sections, and how frequently those categories were represented in the comments.

1.6 LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

While all possible efforts were made to reach out to a wide cross section of young adults across Ireland by distributing the online survey links through a range of networks and by promoted posts on social media, inevitably some groups will be missed. It was noted that there were significantly less responses from Connacht and Ulster (ROI) than from Leinster, Munster and Northern Ireland. One serious omission from the study was a question around ethnicity, leaving a gap in the data set.

1.7 DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 561 people responding to the online survey. More than three quarters of respondents were from the target age group – under 40 years of age (84%) with 16% describing themselves as over 40 – this older group was retained for the purpose of comparison as this proved helpful in the 2015 study.

Let Us Pray

Our God, you hold our lives in your hands. You have promised to give us a new heart, and to put a new spirit in us.

We pray: renew us every day.

Forgive us where we have failed to be good stewards and to be good neighbours.

Give us the courage to think beyond our own lives; to live and consume responsibly so that our near and far neighbours can experience their full dignity, and that we can help restore and admire the beauty of our communities and of this earth.

Our God, you hold our world in your hands. You hear your creation groaning but you have promised to liberate it from its pain.

We pray: renew our world.

Forgive those of us who haven't used power wisely. Give us and our leaders the courage to think beyond our own economies; to seek genuine partnerships so that all people can experience the fullness of life, and that our planet is known to be the common home for all creation and future generations.

Amen.

Written by: EU-CORD

Inspired by: Ezekial 36:26, Romans 8:20-22

Reflections

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it."*

~Psalm 24:1





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