

## The Time is Now – What a day it was!



12,000 people from all over the UK came to Westminster to lobby their MPs on climate change and the environment. The lobby day was a tremendous success with over 1,500 incredible CAFOD supporters coming along. A big thank you to all (especially those of you who got up early to come!)

The start of the day welcomed leaders from all the major faiths in a Walk of Witness. Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, spoke of how, "We come as people united in faith, united in our relationships and united in our world ... humanity still has the ability to work together for our common home."

Twenty-five schools attended, with nearly 500 students coming to have a say on the future of their world. "If we come together as a big group, we might be able to stop climate change" was the hope of one of the pupils from Sacred Heart Wandsworth.



At 2pm everyone sounded alarm clocks - a message to leaders that they can't keep pressing the snooze button!

Over 350 MPs came out to meet their constituents and talk about how the UK will achieve net-zero, as well as urging them to pass new laws that restore nature, cut plastic waste and improve air quality.

The day was the biggest lobby of MPs the UK has ever seen. The UK government has committed to net zero by 2050 but we need to see drastic changes now to achieve this ambition. Sign our new petition to make sure our MPs start taking actions to achieve net zero!



Visit [cafod.org.uk/climate](http://cafod.org.uk/climate) and share the new petition

## Faith in Action days

Join us in November for a Faith in Action day, "Love is Civic and Political: Our Faith and the Common Good". Exploring the links between faith and politics, we'll reflect on Scripture and Church teaching and how we can play a more active role in politics.

The Faith in Action Days are an opportunity to put our faith into action. Come and be inspired by likeminded people campaigning here in the UK and overseas.

There is a full list of dates and locations on the enclosed invitation.

Book your place at [cafod.org.uk/events](http://cafod.org.uk/events) or call: **0303 303 3030**



## Have you got...

### » 2 minutes?

Read your enclosed invitation and decide which Faith in Action day you'd like to attend.

### » 5 minutes?

Check out the highlights from *The Time is Now* on our live blog [cafod.org.uk/thetimeisnow](http://cafod.org.uk/thetimeisnow)

### » A few hours?

Organise a Creation Celebration during the Season of Creation, 1 September – 4 October. Online resources are available at [cafod.org.uk/climate](http://cafod.org.uk/climate)

# Your Creation Celebrations!

All over England and Wales, you have been organising and attending Creation Celebrations in your parishes.

At St Joan of Arc in Highbury (right), almost 200 parishioners signed the petition for the UK government to commit to net zero by 2045.



CAFOD supporters from St Francis de Sales church in Southwark (bottom left), went on a 5-mile pilgrimage.

They prayed and reflected as they went, before returning to their church for a Creation Mass and petition signing.

The government has taken a step forward by setting the long-term target of ending our contribution to climate change in law. This is a brilliant step, but we need policies to get us on track and slash our emissions now. Our new petition calls for ambitious and urgent policies to make this a reality.

Creation Celebrations are a brilliant way to get your parish involved, and as the Season of Creation approaches, you'll have the perfect opportunity to respond to the urgent needs of our common home.

» Organise your Creation Celebration in time for the Season of Creation  
[cafod.org.uk/climate](http://cafod.org.uk/climate)

## Fast facts!

- **12,000** people turned up to talk to their MPs at the *The Time is Now* lobby.
- This included almost **500** students from **25** schools.
- **351 MPs** came out to meet their constituents.
- **Media coverage** saw 30 national hits (including broadcast), 357 news articles and a CAFOD primary school interviewed by BBC Newsround!
- #TheTimeIsNow had **14,800** mentions on social media.



## Parish bulletin text:

### Add an announcement for a Creation Celebration:

Creation Time starts on September 1. This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. We will hold a Creation Mass and shared meal on **(day)** at **(time)** in church. Pope Francis calls us to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of Creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to [our] care..." **Please come.**

## Meet Emma...

**Emma Gallagher is a CAFOD Climate Champion and volunteer. Read about how she has been inspired by her faith to get involved with CAFOD.**



As an 18-year-old philosophy student, I'm often asked why I believe in God. For me, evidence is all around us in the natural world. The intricacy and complexity of nature and how it all works together can only point towards a Creator.

That's why I believe so passionately in campaigning to protect the earth. As humans we are destroying our God-created common home and it is only humans who can work to restore it to its original beauty and balance.

Being a Climate Champion allows me to reach people in nearby parishes and communities and raise an awareness of how we need to take drastic action on climate change.

At the recent *Time is Now* mass lobby I was able to talk to my local MP. I was nervous but standing alongside 40 other people from my constituency gave me the confidence I needed to know I was part of a bigger movement. The only way we can expect to see change is if we make sure people with the power to make change know we care.

» Promote volunteering to young people in your parish  
[cafod.org.uk/climatechampion](http://cafod.org.uk/climatechampion)

## CAFOD Campaigns Update – July 2019

You are signed up to receive this update as a CAFOD Campaigns volunteer. For queries or to order resources, contact CAFOD Campaigns hotline: 020 7095 5692 or [campaigns@cafod.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk)

Photo credits: CAFOD