



# Hope for the world

## Climate Marching For Hope

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With Christmas just around the corner, I find it hard to believe that it was during this season Advent, nine years ago, that I took part in my first ever political demonstration – one of the early climate marches in London.

It was a wonderful experience. The sun shone on a mild December day. There was a great atmosphere amongst the marchers, and stirring speeches from politicians and climate activists.

Having come with my local sustainable town group, I was surprised to see many banners from Christian organisations, including – A Rocha, Operation Noah, Tearfund and Christian Aid.

At that time, I hadn't made the connection between my Christian faith and my concern for the environment. My political hope for a greener planet bore little relationship to my hope of new life in Christ.

But as we strolled along a gloriously traffic-free Piccadilly, one of my friends also noticed the large number of Christian banners, and commented, 'I'm so glad to have met you – a Christian who is concerned about the environment. If I was a Christian, it would be the most obvious thing in the world to care for the planet. But until now, I haven't seen Christians doing that.'

That comment kick-started my own journey to understand how caring for creation is integral to Christian faith, and how God offers the hope of redemption and renewal not just to people – but to all of creation.

I now work for Climate Stewards, a Christian charity which helps people to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint, and to offset their remaining emissions. We do this by funding projects in Ghana, Kenya and Mexico which lock up carbon through tree planting, fuel-efficient cook-stoves, and solar lamps.

I love my job, and my work gives me hope on two levels. Firstly, I see more and more western Christians making the connection between the way we live and our impact on the planet.

And as I have seen many times, being good stewards of the earth will give us increasing opportunities for evangelism. As Rob Frost said, 'When Christians take the earth seriously, people will take the gospel seriously'.

Secondly, I see how our work gives hope to our partners overseas – some of the poorest people on the planet, and the most vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change.

So as this year draws to a close, am I hopeful? Yes. As I see more and more Christians speaking up for the earth, I believe that we do have the potential to make a difference.



Trained as a chartered surveyor, Caroline Pomeroy runs Climate Stewards, a Christian carbon offsetting charity and part of the A Rocha network.

[advent.arocha.org.uk](http://advent.arocha.org.uk) (Caroline Pomeroy – 22nd December)



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