



# The Church of South India Department of Ecological Concerns

**Digital bulletin  
Eco activities of CSI Synod  
March 2021**





# LET US MAKE PEACE WITH NATURE

**“H**umanity is waging war on Nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back— and it is already doing so with growing force and fury. Biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction. Ecosystems are disappearing in front of our eyes. Human activities are at the root of our descent toward chaos. But that means human action can help to solve it.” António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Joseph says to his brothers (Genesis 45: 5- 7), “For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years, there will not be ploughing

or reaping. Do not be... angry with yourselves for selling me here.... God sent me ahead of you... to save lives by a great deliverance.” Under climate change, Nature has become “the new poor” as vulnerable and expendable as poor human beings and communities have been. Pharaoh and Joseph had seven years. The environmental crisis due to climate change has already begun. In its report, the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change carried a dire warning: “The worst is yet to come if no measures are taken to curb the ill-effects of global warming”. Let us join, work, partner, pray together, for an Eco-friendly world.

**During the lockdown period, we conducted online classes for the congregation. Following are the Youtube links to the Green lectures:**

## **Human life without Nature is impossible.**

**Rt. Rev. Dr George Stephen,**  
*Chairman of the CSI Synod Ecological Concerns Committee and the Bishop of CSI Madras Diocese:*

“Coronavirus is not the will of God. We know that it is a human blunder. God

is never against creation. Goodness is the core of creation. Biodiversity is a paradigm in God’s creation. Human life without Nature is impossible. We should change the mission work understanding the terrible situation. Let us sustain responsibilities for biodiversity and equality for justice.” Listen to the video on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/7QxEJT7RL-8>



## Nature is sending us a message

**Rt. Rev. Prasanakumar Samuel,**  
*Bishop of Karnataka central diocese:*

“It is time to wake up, raise our voices. Humanity has been placing too many pressures on the natural world. Everyone God created has space. We should not take their space. God is speaking to us through various means.”

Listen to the speech on YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/eyv464EUmYI>

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## Keep the Earth with Care

**Rt. Rev. Sharma Nithyanandham,**  
*Bishop of CSI Vellore Diocese:*

“Earth is our common home, and it is a precious gift from God. We are tenants and not owners. Hence don not exploit this Earth. Let us be life-giving agents on this Earth.”

Listen  
<https://youtu.be/NfMs5CPL1MQ>

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## Women and Nature walk in partnership

**Rt. Rev. Dr Royce Manoj Victor,**  
*Bishop of CSI Malabar Diocese:*

“Women take part in the great work of sustaining life in the universe more than anyone. They are the symbol and the representative of life producing and life conserving culture.”

Listen.  
<https://youtu.be/48nOQ4FA28o>

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## Biodiversity is not only necessary for survival, but it is also lovely.

**Prof. Dr Mathew Koshy**  
*Punnackad, Honorary Director, CSI Department of Ecological Concerns:*

“God created everything in the universe with an intrinsic value and with a purpose. Nothing in the universe created by God is neither waste nor useless. The extinction of any species will spoil the harmony of life in this universe. Without biodiversity, the health of the Planet is at stake. The higher the number of species that can be supported in an ecosystem, the higher the survival rate for every organism inside that ecosystem. Including the human species.” Listen:  
<https://youtu.be/P9OVEL49MXs>

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## Sabbath is the crown of the creation

**Rev. Dr Chilkuri Vasanth Rao,**  
*Principal, United Theological College, Bengaluru:*

“On the sixth day, we are made along with the animals. God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it. What did God create on the seventh day? The seventh-day creation is Sabbath. What was the purpose of God in making Sabbath? Sabbath is the rhythm to safeguard the created order.”

Listen  
<https://youtu.be/Dy2-BTMkum4>

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## God brings periphery into the centre

**Rev. Dr John Samuel P.**  
*Principal, Gurukul Theological College, Chennai:*

“We always read the story of burning bush from human beings’ perspectives and not from the perspectives of Nature. All the plants are interconnected and support each other.”

Listen  
<https://youtu.be/nBfvZxzFxxA>

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## Environmental Dimensions of Antibiotic Resistance

**Dr Philip Mathew**, Associate Professor, Pushpagiri Medical College, Thiruvalla, Kerala:

“Bacteria stops responding to Antibiotics. Indiscriminate use of antibiotic resulted in a precarious situation. The last antibiotic class came out in 1987. No new antibiotics are not coming out. Older antibiotics are ineffective.”

Listen:  
<https://youtu.be/xnioVrrDcqY>

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## Sustainable Use of God's Creation

**Dr R. J. Ranjit Daniels**, Director, Care Earth:

“The Bible lays down codes of conduct for humans so that they use God's creation sustainably. Sustainable use is defined as the use of any resource in a way that does not deprive future generations of its benefits.”

Listen:  
<https://youtu.be/eaJ4cGD-zGQ>

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## Heal the wounds of the Earth

**Rev. Canon Dr Rachel Mash**, South Africa:

“We are killing the living Earth. Christians are committed to healing the Earth. We need to slow down from our frantic lifestyle. We need to develop a simpler lifestyle. Earth is Lord's. Let us stand up with brothers

and sisters for healing this Earth”.

<https://youtu.be/XtnKgfuXVaQ>

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## Repentance in response to Covid 19

**Rev. Dr Praveen Perumalla**, Liaison officer to EMS, CSI Synod:

“Repentance has a beginning and an eschatological destination. Repentance is always inspiring to chose life. Let us commit ourselves in solidarity with others in response to humanity and chose life.”

<https://youtu.be/-NXaLqUpw3o>

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## Do not contaminate the earth

**Dr Thomas Biju Mathew**, University Agricultural Professor (Rtd.):

“Contamination of soil, air, water began through chemical fertilisers. Rachel Carson explained the ecological effects of pesticides in her book Silent Spring. Butterflies, birds and honeybees were affected by the impact of pesticides. Another impact is residue in food. Pesticides are entering our body also. Some pesticides are hormone disrupters also. We are the stewards of all creations of God to maintain the serenity and purity of the environment.”

<https://youtu.be/KOiQkc5TLak>

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## Pandemic to Panacea

**Rev. Dr Mothy Varkey**, Professor of New Testament, Marthoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam, Kerala:

“Turn to Nature for the issue of sustenance. God has put us at the mercy of Nature. Do we need a better

example than Covid? Turning back to God means turning back to Nature. Process Earthly resources in an earthly way. Let us strive for a Green Recovery.”

<https://youtu.be/8cKDmO-oMzw>

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## Repent

**Rev. Vinod Victor**, CSI Presbyter, Chairman, AsiaCMS:

“On three revelations from Revelations Chapter Nine. No life in the environment should be affected. There is a possibility of repent. Lament with God for true repentance.”

[https://youtu.be/lOpCF8d\\_p6U](https://youtu.be/lOpCF8d_p6U)

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## The Beauty of Jesus Teachings

“The Beauty of Jesus Teachings are that he used elements to explain the kingdom of God.” A Kannada sermon by Rev. Hemalatha John, CSI Presbyter, Bengaluru

[https://youtu.be/z8i4aFxFI\\_c](https://youtu.be/z8i4aFxFI_c)

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# A small kid, Arnie C Joyce, praying for protecting the most vulnerable people from climate change

"Gracious God, Creator of All,  
we raise our hearts in grateful praise for  
all the beauty that surrounds us.  
God of All Life, we give thanks for Earth,  
our common home, and ask forgiveness  
for all the unreasonable demands we have made on it.  
Our Earth, its many peoples, its oceans, wildlife and ecosystems  
are struggling to survive.  
Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life  
which is not centred on ourselves, but on all  
you have created.

God of all Creation,  
Today we pray for a world where extreme poverty,  
inequality and environmental exploitation are no more.  
We pray for a world where people and our planet thrive.  
God, we pray for protecting the most  
vulnerable people from climate change.  
Help us be bold and courageous in speaking up for justice.  
We pray for unity between the countries.  
We pray for justice and renewal on all the Earth.  
In Jesus name,  
Amen"

Listen to the video:  
<https://youtu.be/PcXZbRDuudk>





Through the dances, children of the Church of South India are demanding 'Listen and help' us for a safe future. The children are expressing their passion for a new eco-friendly world. Watch YouTube videos.

**1. Dance against land degradation.** The town where rice was produced has now become a graveyard. The town where the sugarcane was grown is now barren. The place with rivers and ponds where the life of the villagers flourished has now become a barren land. The rest of the space has now become a garbage dump. Air and water are all mixed with poison, destroyed forests, trees and mountains in the name of development. We need to set up associations to protect natural resources. Children from CSI Christ Church, Kulappuram in Kanyakumari Diocese.

<https://youtu.be/vAOcDdZl7es>

**2. Dance against throwaway Plastic bags.** Don't tell any excuses. Carry a cloth bag in your hand. Say goodbye to plastic bags. We forgot our traditional utensils. Throw away plastics are a poison that kills the earth. Sunday Schools Children from St. Marks Church, Christinagram, Thoothikudy-Nazareth Diocese.

<https://youtu.be/tQldO-YPaWo>

**3. Dance to save Children's future.** The beauty of creation reminds you of the Goodness of God. Be a part of the solution... not the part of the Pollution. Conserve Nature to save our future. M. Thazana (Standard 3), B. Keizya Blessy (Std.5) and J. E Junomebil (Std. 6): Noyce Matriculation School, Madurai.

<https://youtu.be/6msXnXkUam4>

**4. Dance to think seriously to protect nature.** We forgot the blessings given by our Mother Nature. Greenish is going to diminish. Do not increase the anger of the sun. We may have to buy air and water in future. Think deeply. Sunday School students from St.Thomas Church, Vathakottaivilai, Thoothukudy-Nazareth Diocese.

<https://youtu.be/-Zd9gbzFeUo>

**5. Dance- a prayer to God for help.** What human beings are doing to the trees. Greenhouse gases emitted due to the development of cities cause global warming. It is time to come together. Lord, Please help us to overcome this Climatic Crisis. Children from CSI Immanuel Church, Perungudi, Chennai.

<https://youtu.be/6tufnZojwP4>

**6. Dance for protecting Nature.** Do you need shade, Rain? Cutting these trees shed my blood. You have to grow trees. Nature alone provides all the food we need. Children from CSI Allenkottai Church, Kanyakumari.

<https://youtu.be/RGmdLuWK37M>

**7. Dance for the earth, water, air.** Save our earth, water, air.... Children of OCPM Higher Secondary School, Madurai, expressing it through dance. <https://youtu.be/NSYt3C3HGFY>

**8. Dance – Understand Nature.** Nature teaches a lesson. Sunday School students of CSI Whitin

Memorial Church, Pasumalai,  
Madurai- Ramnad Diocese.

<https://youtu.be/rS3srF-cod8>

**9. Dance praising nature.** With countless praises, I glorify you always. Thanking you for the wondrous work of God. Betsy Doyle (9years) St. Peter's Church, Bengaluru.

<https://youtu.be/DUJrntoVx2E>

**10. Dance -Save our earth.** Avanthika (Std 2) and Anamika (Std 3) of CMS LPS Urakam, Kerala.

<https://youtu.be/YSuJKi1SZXc>

**11. Dance to save trees and nature.** Esther William, South Kerala Diocese. <https://youtu.be/TcJ8YC6uetg>

**12. Dance to save the planet.** Baby R Evelyn, OcPM Girls school, Madurai <https://youtu.be/x93O-SeHoGE>

**13. Dance to save the earth.** Students of Noyce Matriculation Hr. Secondary School, Madurai.

<https://youtu.be/OMI36Dlo7qw>

**14. Dance to save the earth.** The earth, we are in it together. Children from CSI St. Paul's Church Myrilaguda, Karimnagar Diocese. <https://youtu.be/dt-CgEfI910>

**15. Dance praising wonderful creation.** God made the world. Wonderful creation. Akhil Abrabram, St. John's Baptist Church, Secunderabad, Telangana. <https://youtu.be/ooo2icI1Ljk>

**16. Dance to save the earth.** Evelyn Natalya (Std. 5) St. Johns Baptist Church, Secunderabad, Telangana.

<https://youtu.be/5C-93nTB8m4>

**17. Dance to request all the people to plant trees.** N. Ujwala (Std 10) St. Mary's Aided

school, Khammam, Diocese of Dornakal, Telangana. [https://youtu.be/5DEFchr8b\\_8](https://youtu.be/5DEFchr8b_8)

**18. Dance against plastic.** Plastic is not good for us. Children from St. Mary's Aided School Khammam, Dornakal Diocese. <https://youtu.be/hrOZhxtW-zo>

**19. Dance for the rights of children.** Stop pollution, we want to live. Children from CSI Primary School Ooty.

<https://youtu.be/oZDNbKb4J5o>

**20. Dance- Interdependence.** We are dependent on each other. Avani P Pradip, CMS P G School, Kunnankulam, Kerala. <https://youtu.be/8hksYZbJRfc>

**21. Dance to save the planet.** Sunday School students CSI Holy Trinity Church, Bolarum, Secunderabad.

<https://youtu.be/-WcnxCkEYho>



## Fantastic Eco-Friendly Songs from the Children of CSI for an eco-friendly world. The songs are the prayer of the children to live with the rhythm of Nature.

**Sunday School of CSI Whitin Memorial Church, Pasumalai:** “Amazing friends are God’s creations. Animals and birds are given by God”.

<https://youtu.be/qECnHhTzkvw>

**Children of Noyce Matriculation School, Madurai:** “Here we go round the mulberry bush. Save the earth.”

<https://youtu.be/XMckvRbFB4g>

**Children of All Saints Church, Subramiyapuram in Thoothukudy.** Less Plastic waste or no fish in the sea. Something has to be done.

<https://youtu.be/jCh1DhdAcY>

**Jerome George Thomas, CSI St. James’ Church, Muscat.** The earth is my home. I promise to keep the earth beautiful.

[https://youtu.be/\\_eOBeyCWVmE](https://youtu.be/_eOBeyCWVmE)

**Sreeya Srijith, who is studying in Standard 3 at CMS LP School, Urakam, Kerala.** Respect our planet with kindness. Let us see what we can do to save the planet.

<https://youtu.be/STVAabo8emY>

**Anna Rose studying in standard 2. CMS LP School Urakam, Kerala.** Reduce Reuse Recycle waste.

<https://youtu.be/HW-qs1ldqc8>

**Children of Allenkotai CSI Church Kanyakumari diocese.** The flowers of the trees are mesmerising

<https://youtu.be/OyGCKWS1nMU>

**Akshaya Paul, St. Johns Baptist Church, Secunderabad.** Let us see what we can do

<https://youtu.be/IGApUOMGIWM>

**Children of BEM LP School Payannur.** Save the planet for me and you <https://youtu.be/JBGmt2SBT38>

**Sunday School Students CSI Church, Secunderabad.** The Planet is a happy place.

[https://youtu.be/tB3\\_7P1PSu8](https://youtu.be/tB3_7P1PSu8)





## Climate Change. We think Globally and Act Locally. Here are some of Green, innovative activities going on in rural churches and schools.

### **Thoothukudy Nazareth Diocese.**

Active ecological work all over the Diocese.

[https://youtu.be/xJ\\_hfiPoLoQ](https://youtu.be/xJ_hfiPoLoQ)

### **CMS High School Pallom, Kerala.**

The students and teachers are actively working to make the school campus green even in the lockdown period.

<https://youtu.be/9jGo5ChUUIQ>

### **CSI Girls High School,**

**Pasumalai, Tamilnadu.** The vegetable garden of the students.

<https://youtu.be/mUc8Gg6zqL8>

### **BEM UP School, Thrikkederi,**

**Palghat, Kerala.** Shiva and Surya studying in primary school explaining carbon footprint in a simple way.

<https://youtu.be/-66SEulQiNs>

### **CMS LPS Urakam, Kerala.**

Observing the growth of plant and harvesting by the primary school children.

<https://youtu.be/6yHWf2bA5D4>

### **St. Hylda's School Chengalpetta,**

**Tamilnadu.** The beautiful campus.

<https://youtu.be/s-yvooI5BnQ>

### **Sunday School, Secunderabad.**

[https://youtu.be/6TAojNz5\\_YY](https://youtu.be/6TAojNz5_YY)

### **Devarappalli Jemima,**

**Vijayawada, Andhra.**

[https://youtu.be/Y\\_ogk66PxqO](https://youtu.be/Y_ogk66PxqO)

### **Children from Secunderabad,**

**Telangana.**

<https://youtu.be/ZnjRXR5RGEE>

### **Agnes, Trichy, Tamil Nadu.**

<https://youtu.be/FuMy7Oe3OhY>

### **CEZMLP School, Tripunithura, Kerala.**

<https://youtu.be/LXoTnvEFdyg>

### **CMS PG High School, Kunnankulam, Kerala.**

<https://youtu.be/Wh5AvJ4CTD4>

### **St. Francis LPS Fort Kochi, Kerala.**

<https://youtu.be/5OOSBUhkpQs>

### **St. Andrew's girls HS School, Ramanathapuram.**

<https://youtu.be/M4YeJYsL3LQ>





## Following Projects got the awards of the CSI Synod

**Malabar Christian College, Calicut**  
<https://youtu.be/TpJSj9emWhg>

**CMS College, Kottayam:**  
<https://youtu.be/rq1kJsZfiw>

**Bishop Heber College, Trichy:**  
<https://youtu.be/feqOboxGuNg>

**CMS Lower Primary School, Ennooramvayal, Kerala:**  
<https://youtu.be/KmVbolCGgBc>

**CMS High School Mundakayam:**  
[https://youtu.be/5ch\\_\\_KW9vno](https://youtu.be/5ch__KW9vno)

**OCPM School, Madurai:**  
<https://youtu.be/ycMZAqDBgg8>

**Noyce School, Madurai:**  
<https://youtu.be/rvttdSanG10>

**CSI Girls High School, Pasumalai:**  
<https://youtu.be/ABHO4yYkVas>

**Intellectually Challenged School, Madurai:**  
<https://youtu.be/264yeF2-Dos>



# Climate Justice Campaign on COP 26

## Organised by the Church of South India, Department of Ecological Concerns

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference. It is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from 1 to 12 November 2021. This Summit will be an important milestone on the road to COP26. It will be a chance for leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the Paris Agreement and to come together in support of the multilateral process. This Summit will provide a platform for leaders ready to come forward with announcements under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, adaptation and support. Since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the COP26 is set to be the first global stocktake. This process is the backbone of the Paris Agreement on climate change designed to bring countries progressively in line with trajectories compatible with limiting global temperature increase to well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C.

We are at a critical moment in history. The clock is ticking on climate action. Temperatures are soaring. Storms are raging. Furthermore, crops are failing. Moreover, if we do not take this chance, every single one of us will be affected. Church has a part to play along with the Governments to work for net-zero emissions. For a brighter future for our children and grandchildren, we have to act now.

### **Aim**

The CSI is campaigning for Climate Resilient Schools and Communities. As COP 26 is taking place in 2021 at Glasgow, the CSI Department of Ecological Concerns is using this opportunity to draw attention to Climate-resilient Communities and Schools, under the banner of the Climate Justice Campaign on COP26. The COP26 shall be an inspiration for the project.

### **Background**

The Church of South India, having a membership of 4.3 million, has been actively engaging in Climate Justice Ministry since 2011. Since 1992, the CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns seeks to create awareness among all people about environmental and ecological concerns and thereby to care for God's Creation. The CSI endeavours to encourage people to refrain from the abuse of Nature's resources and to strive to keep the Earth a habitable place for all, by encouraging parishes to incorporate ecological concerns in their order of worship and include both advocacy and direct action for social justice and the integrity of creation in missional activities. We encourage the active participation of all people of goodwill through prayer, partnership, and involvement, which will help humanity to return to an eco-friendly lifestyle.

The Church of South India, Department of Ecological Concerns, is empowering congregations to take a prophetic stand against Climate injustice. We support any development that fulfils the requirement of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Department focuses on educating various sustainable development goals of the UN, through Eco-Ministry, campaigns for Climate Justice ministry, Green Protocol and Green School Programme.



As a church community, we believe that God creates all life on Earth. As a part of our Christian faith and discipleship, we have to ensure the protection of the environment and the sustainable and equitable use of resources. We know that the decisions made at COP26 will impact upon all of these things and we therefore 1) would like to join with our mission partners in their projects in connection with COP26, 2) Organise a series of programmes during the next one year 3) build 23 Climate Resilient Communities or Schools in South India.

### **About the Project**

We are planning a series of lectures through Zoom for the members of 23 Dioceses in five states of South India from November onwards. It will be a 45 minutes class with 15 minutes for discussion. Zoom recording will be shared with all the WhatsApp groups. Summary of the presentations will be given as notes to volunteers in black and white. We are also planning to launch a big programme like Rally or seminar in all the 23 centres of South India (planning stage only) on 1st November 2021 when the COP26 begins. We anticipate that the Climate Justice campaign on COP 26 will help us in implementing 23 model Climate Resilient Schools or communities in 23 centres in South India in 2022.

### **What is Resilience**

Resilience is strengthening human and non-human systems' ability to withstand and respond to changes in the Earth's climate. It can be seen as a way to bridge the conceptual divide between mitigation approaches to climate change on the one hand and adaptation approaches on the other.

Mitigation is to address climate change by cutting down greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to avoid the gravest effects of a changing climate, humanity needs to limit the average global surface temperature to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, but preferably 1.5°C. In order to do that, we need to cut our greenhouse gas emissions above 50 per cent by 2050, lest we face serious risks, including more intense storms, droughts, and heatwaves, all of which pose looming threats to human civilisation and the environment.

On the other hand, adaptation acknowledges that, even if we immediately cut our carbon emissions altogether, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases would remain well above normal levels for decades to come. In short, we need to adapt to a changing climate, or else we risk severe damage.

Adaptation approaches vary based on geography, time, funding resources, levels of political support, and dozens of other factors. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to adaptation.

Resilience recognises that mitigation and adaptation are two sides of the same coin.

We will need both mitigation and adaptation to surmount the enormous challenge of climate change.

The CSI Synod has taken up Climate Justice Ministry as a project by giving training to Clergy and teachers.

Then we have taken up the Green Protocol Campaign. Though environmental damage and degradation were considered among the worst elements within a vision of the future, sustainability was still not considered as a factor for progress. Hence, the benefits of integrated environmental, economic, and social development need to be better communicated, particularly in terms of how they relate to sustainability within one's lifestyle. Implementation of Green Protocol provides a unique opportunity to inform and empower young people—and all people—to create sustainable lifestyles and communities. In the life and ministry of the Church, the CSI would like to promote sustainable development practices and to build power for change.

We are planning to take up Climate Resilient Schools and Communities, which is different from the Green School Programme. In the Green School programme, students are doing auditing on air, water, waste, energy, land and food. They are relating it with their curriculum and preparing their School for a Green rating.

In climate Resilient Schools and Communities, the students at the School are practising the Green Protocol of CSI, Carbon neutrality, mitigation and adaptation. These Children will have to transform their houses in the same way they do in schools—a community transformation through students. We are planning to create some community resilient model schools and model communities by 2022.

CSI Department of Ecological Concerns conducted lectures on COP26. Following persons addressed:

**Mr Chandrabhushan, CEO of iForest:**  
<https://youtu.be/54TlsYxwkx0>

**Dr Alagappa Mosses:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/drmathewkoshy/videos/3689882417718268>

**Mr Shibu K Nair**  
<https://youtu.be/2by4FyRmWKS>

**Mr Nidhin Davis:**  
<https://youtu.be/gzm91jSrtj4>



# The twinning programme of CSI Schools with UK Schools launched

The School Twinning Programme's overall purpose is to provide opportunities for mutual learning and transformation for Students, Teachers and school communities within the schools of the CSI and the schools of Oxford Diocese in the UK through an exchange of ideas and practices around environmental issues including energy conservation, environmental protection and tackling climate change. This pilot phase involves ten primary schools from the CSI Green School programme and ten from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE). The fundamental purpose and outcomes of STP will be to promote mutual learning, strengthen relationships and promote the exchange of knowledge between students and teachers. That knowledge exchange and mutual learning will focus mainly on environmental concerns across the curriculum. However, to be successful schools will also wish to engage in a broader education and cultural engagement to understand the respective contexts more fully. All communication between teachers and pupils will occur within the schools' proper authorised channels and overseen by the designated lead teacher/Headteacher. It is anticipated that the project may involve teacher exchanges and visits. It is also hoped that the twinning will also strengthen institutional ties between educational establishments within the CSI and the Diocese of Oxford. At the end of the two-year pilot, a joint learning review will be conducted. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Learning Review, a future plan of action will be developed regarding the next phase and expansion.

## **The methodology of the Programme**

The Principal/Head Teacher will announce the twinning programme to the senior-most class students in primary school. They will explain the other school details in the UK and introduce the students studying in that school. The Coordinator shall ask each student what they want to communicate with them. They will consolidate all the comments and send them to the other school. The designated lead teacher/Coordinator has to write letters through emails for the students. The following matters may be in the letter: students to introduce themselves, their ambitions and goals, the cultural background of their place, salient features of their schools, what type of values they want to highlight in their future life, which type of eco programmes/projects in their schools, share sustainable values like water conservation, energy conservation, reducing waste, reusing waste, ecological problems they are facing etc. The Coordinator has a responsibility to show the letter to HM before sharing it with the other school. The Coordinator ensures that personal needs, request for anything, bad remarks about anything must be avoided

## **Kerala Schools twinning with Oxford Schools**

- 1) CMS Lower Primary School, Ennooramvayal (366 students)-Holy Trinity Church of England School Marlow (355 students)
- 2) BEM Lower Primary School Payannur (560 students)- Shinfield St Mary's C of E



Junior School (360 students)

**3)** CMS Lower Primary, Urakam (270 students)- Marlow C of E Infant School(180 students)

### **Tamilnadu Schools twinning with Oxford Schools**

**4)** CSI Nursery and Primary School Ootty (278 students)- Grazeley Parochial C of E Primary (200 students)

**5)** OCPM Girls' Higher Secondary School, Madurai(60students) -Burghfield St Mary's Primary School (210 students)

**6)** CSI Vestry Nursery and Primary School, Musiri (175 students)-Trinity St Stephen C of E First School, Windsor (148 Students)

### **Andhra and Telangana Schools twinning with Oxford Schools**

**7)** CSI Aided Primary School, Bhadrachalam (24 students) - Little Marlow C of E Infant School(79 Students)

**8)** CSI PRIMARY SCHOOL (ENGLISH MEDIUM), Nandyal(117 Students)- The Mortimer Federation of St John's and St Mary's 384 across federation (168 Infants, 216 Juniors)

**9)** CSI Bishop Joseph Memorial High School, Katrapally(247 Students)- St Peter's C of E Middle School, Windsor(257 Students)

**10)** CSI English Medium Aided Primary School, Eluru. (75 Students)-Great Rollright C of E School (104 Students).

## **Background on partners**

### **School Twinning Programme (STP)**

The honorary director of the CSI Department of Ecological Concerns visited USPG in May 2019. During the meeting, School Twinning was discussed with the possibility of connecting schools from the UK with schools of CSI that are involved in the Green School programme. While discussing with the honorary director, it was felt that it would be helpful to explore School Twinning Initiative (STI) with Schools of one of the Church of England Dioceses in the UK.

The STP concept was shared with the ODBE who expressed strong interest to involve some of its primary schools. Subsequent meetings were held with CSI and ODBE, which resulted in the identification of and pairing between ten schools from CSI and ODBE.

### **The Church of South India**

The Church of South India is a united and uniting church. It was founded in 1947, following Indian independence. Its motto is drawn from the prayer of Jesus Christ in John 17:21, 'that they all may be one'. In its mission statement, CSI affirms that the Church is the servant of God to carry on the mission rooted in Jesus Christ and based on Scriptures. The Church, through her mission, expresses solidarity with the broken communities for a new hope to face the challenges of life. The Cross continues to be the sign of hope

for the witnessing Church, which strives towards Unity, Peace and Reconciliation as a vibrant channel of God.

The Church of South India (CSI) is the first Church in India to make environmental concerns a key focus of its mission. They partnered with the Centre for Science and the Environment, a leading NGO based in New Delhi, to prepare an environmental curriculum and methodology for the 'Green Schools Programme' to be implemented in schools across the region. The Programme started in 2017, offers students the opportunity to engage creatively in thought-provoking and activity-based work centred on the environment. It aims to encourage environmental conservation, and the reduction of waste; monitor the consumption of natural resources; assist schools to adopt a more environmentally friendly approach; and improve the health and well-being of school children and teachers.

### **The Diocese of Oxford**

The Diocese of Oxford was founded in 1542, created from the Archdeaconry of Oxford, one of the eight archdeaconries carved out of the vast area covered by the diocese of Lincoln which stretched from the Humber to the River Thames. The Diocese of Oxford covers the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.

The vision of the Diocese of Oxford is to be a more Christ-like Church, contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world. It feels that this world is changing in new and unprecedented ways; we must think afresh about inequality, our communities, and what it means to be human. It believes that it needs to be the best Church they can be in such a time as this: a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world. The Diocese of Oxford believes the Church has a biblical basis for caring for the earth which God made for His glory and His people's sustenance and delight. Climate change and environmental degradation are among the greatest challenges facing the earth and its people today and will impact every aspect of human life and the natural environment. The Diocese of Oxford is involved in a wide range of environmental initiatives and provides members of the community with speakers, facilitators and resources. For example, the diocese has produced a book called 'For Creed and Creation: A simple guide to greening your Church, which contains practical suggestions for making a church more energy efficient.

### **USPG**

USPG is the Anglican Mission Agency, founded in 1701. It partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. It has historic and long-standing relationships with Anglican churches worldwide. USPG acknowledges the climate and ecological emergency, which is already a reality for millions of people worldwide – with many members of our Anglican family



acutely impacted. We recognise the interconnectedness of God's planet and people. We understand climate and ecological breakdown as a threat multiplier that increases vulnerability to issues such as food and water insecurity, conflict, migration and gender inequality among others. As Anglicans striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth is integral as we play our part in God's mission.

<https://www.facebook.com/drmathewkoshy/videos/3873893645983810>



**Climate Change and the CSI. Talk by Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackad:**

<https://youtu.be/t7BSQSS6ShA>

**Eco-activities of the CSI Synod:**

<https://youtu.be/OR5Cg637CsY>



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# Water Warrior 2021



World Council of Churches



## Video Documentary

The Department of the Ecological Concerns of the Church of South India (CSI) Synod, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (WCC-EWN) solicits the videos of innovative water conservation programmes. The project should be related to water initiated by the diocese/the members in that diocese/ CSI Schools. Seven Minutes duration. The programme has to be explained, giving titles on the video in English. The project holder has to give an affidavit stating the work is original. Local parish vicar/ HM of School/ the Diocesan authority has to attest in a separate paper



## Stories on water

Stories on water. This is for students up to the age of 17. Language -English. Word limit 1000. Typed word file, giving double space. Students studying in CSI Schools (any religion) and CSI Students studying in other schools can participate. Entry should be attested by the Head of the School/the Vicar of the parish he/she belongs. The Student has to give an affidavit stating that it is his original work



## Photography

Photographs showing water scarcity or Water pollution or a subject related to water in India. Name of the place, Details regarding the subject of the photograph, Type of Camera, Details regarding the photographer, date on which it is taken should be mentioned along with the entry. This is open for all. Entertain pictures from India during the period from 1st January 2019 to 15 March 2021. Any person in India can participate

We will select the best three entries from each section, and cash awards will be given. Our ecumenical partner, the WCC EWN has kindly agreed to sponsor the awards. The CSI Synod and WCC EWN reserve the right to publish the selected entries wherever suitable. The applicant should not copy any material from anywhere for this competition. If the applicant violates the copyright regulations, he/she has to face legal implications.

We want to promote only the original work of the applicant. Along with the entry, the applicant has to specify his name, age, Profession, residential address, parish/school and the diocese he/she belongs to, Bank account details. We entertain only soft copies. The decision of the Department of Ecological Concerns will be the final word regarding these competitions

**The Last Day to get the entries is 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. World Water Day celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> in your institution or area can be included. A soft copy has to be sent to [csi.oikos@gmail.com](mailto:csi.oikos@gmail.com) If you need any clarifications, kindly contact the Director by WhatsApp: 9847275754**

**1. Water is an essential building block of life. It is more than just essential to quench thirst or protect health; water is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social, and human development**

**2. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 Billion people living without access to clean and safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.**

**3. This year the theme of WWD is "Valuing water". Even though water is priceless, market economies value water at trillions of dollars. However, for faith-based organisations, water has a strong spiritual and ethical value. We need to preserve and protect water from being commodified and promote water for life for all.**

**4. Today, 1 in 3 people live without safe drinking water. By 2050, up to 57 billion people could be living in areas where water is scarce for at least one month a year. Climate-resilient water supply and sanitation could save the lives of more than 360,000 infants every year. If we limit global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels, we could cut climate- induced water stress by up to 50%.**

**5. Extreme weather has caused more than 90% of major disasters over the last decade. By 2040, global energy demand is projected to increase by over 25% and water demand is expected to increase by more than 50%. Church of South India, Department of Ecological Concerns, in collaboration with the WCC EWN is requesting all the churches in India, especially the Dioceses/CSISchools to celebrate World Water Day by arranging suitable Programmes.**

To know more about the work of World Council of Churches, Ecumenical Water Network please visit the website: <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/ecumenical-water-network> and subscribe to receive its newsletters and other updates here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/ecumenical-water-network/ewn-subscription>

**Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad, Hon. Director, Ecological Concerns Department, CSI Synod**