



Almeley Wootton Quaker News

COP 26 Supplement

COP 26 by Sarah Nightingale Davey

Many of you know that I attended on the edges of civil society, interfaith vigil and activism at COP26 in Glasgow and also Copenhagen in 2009 and Paris 2015. We talk with great care and sensitivity when we often talk about the ‘gifts of Covid’ in amongst the pain and loss but we also know that a major gift of these times we have been living through is the growing expertise in blended experiences.

Therefore I have included many links because so many of the key experiences were also live streamed or made available to watch afterwards and each of you will be drawn to research more deeply in to different areas. However, for those of you reading this on paper, please phone me and ask me about the things that most interest you.

Quakers at COP 26

Linda Murgatroyd, is co-clerk of the Quaker Arts Network. She initiated this wonderful project – I think some of our local Friends contributed panels to it – please look in to the link, Friends : <http://lovingearth-project.uk/>

Panels were displayed in faith venues around the City . Twelve of these panels were displayed in **Glasgow Friends Meeting House** as part of their immense witness throughout the whole 2 weeks.

Glasgow Friends hosted Friends House staff including Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, plus several other organisations. They also hosted several workshop sessions every day :

<https://sway.office.com/2VI98QeL8oGnO3Kq>

I urge you to have a look, Friends at how much they offered. It was an inspirational story also of regeneration and the hard work of a few as, after the fallow time of Covid, they needed to paint the outside of the Meeting House and do much internal work and then steward and support all the sessions. They also offered morning and evening periods of quiet reflection and daily refreshments and hospitality.



Interfaith/all paths Vigils were held throughout the 2 weeks by XR Faithbridge, Buddhists and many others, in the streets and squares, by the COP entrances and also in many places of Worship throughout Glasgow. This photo (taken at 1:00am) is from the final Friday overnight vigil – mostly inside but with candlelit walks to COP – part of the COP complex illuminated in green.

Young people :

You will have seen Greta Thunberg and young land protectors from Global South nations addressing 10,000 mostly young people on the Fridays for Future March and there was also a much smaller but very impactful action on the final Friday in which all the young people within the COP Blue Zone and many others walked out of the secure areas and joined young protestors outside the fences, creating a red line in ribbons for 'a line which must not be crossed' and highlighting issues of inequality in the talks and lack of significant progress.



Camino interfaith/all paths pilgrims

"We are united by our faith that we can advocate and influence and be the change that we want for our world. We choose to walk to COP26 as a practice, an act of connection with the earth on which we walk and the people with whom we walk and the communities through which we pass; and we make our way in kinship with the peoples and creatures of the earth who are suffering and displaced by climate and ecological breakdown"



XR Faith Bridge led [Camino](#) to COP: from London / Bristol /Norwich (West column):

A month before COP a number of Almeley Quakers joined part of the Camino, with local Buddhist, Nick Sherwood and his Ginkgo to Glasgow initiative. It was planted on 10th November and adopted by Tory-glenn community woodland and regenerated spaces between a large refuse processing plant, Asdas and a well equipped children's play area.

[GinkGoToGlasgow_PressRelease_8Nov21_final.pdf](#)
[\(southshropshireclimateaction.org\)](#)

Hundreds of pilgrims were welcomed in to Glasgow with a procession and the opportunity to speak of their journeys and their reasons for them on Saturday 30th Oct. These included : [Ecumenical Pilgrimage](#) for Climate Justice coming from Poland / Sweden / Germany <https://www.coatofhopes.uk/latest-news> and [Young Christian Climate Network](#)



Young Christian Climate Network

“In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been recognition that “We’re in the same storm, but not in the same boat”. As young people under 30, we are mindful that we are on the course of another storm too; over half of all emissions have been released in our lifetimes, and global average temperatures are set to rise by several degrees over the decades ahead. The consequences of this storm will not be felt equally, but they will be felt acutely. This boat is a representation of our hope that we would [Rise To The Moment](#) and use this year to set sail towards a more just future.”



Thousands of origami boats with hopes and vision written into them were created during their relay pilgrimage between G7 in June and COP26 – they created displays in various Churches around Glasgow including the Cathedral and also in marches and rallies .

How much impact can one person have ?

One man, Jean-Baptiste Redde was absolutely everywhere – leading every rally, March and outdoor gathering, with his height and his large simply painted messages held over his head, and his time for everybody and broad smile. He told me he was teaching children about nature but had to stop and become a full time activist as he became more and more aware of the implications of the crisis. I found references to him in many newspaper articles and news reports and I know he personally impacted many who met him.



Other Events

On the first Sunday, the large Interfaith Service was **outside** in Glasgow’s central George’s Square – another ‘gift of Covid’ as it was entirely accessible to passers-by and those interested which would not have been possible in a Cathedral [Scottish Interfaith Week - YouTube](#)

On Monday 8th November in Glasgow Cathedral Dr Rowan Williams and Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, the CEO of Christian Aid, hosted **The Time is Now**: an evening of music, prayer and inspiration to work together for a world of climate justice. With Jen Morris, Young Christian Climate network, The Kingdom Choir, and others. <https://youtu.be/xHq5W6QS2CY>



Sustainable Innovation Forum 2021

COP26 was the most important climate meeting of our generation.

For 11 years, Climate Action has been uniting heads of state and multilaterals, environment ministers, business leaders, investors, and NGOs alongside the UN Climate Change negotiations, convening the largest multi-stakeholder forum: Sustainable Innovation Forum.

The 12th Sustainable Innovation Forum (SIF) convened alongside COP26, 6 years after 196 world leaders signed the historic Paris Agreement. COP26 marked a crucial deadline for countries to present more ambitious climate commitments. The UNFCCC's climate conference must set clear pathways for the transition to a net zero economy, a decisive moment for global climate action.

To create truly transformational change and accelerate the transition to a net zero global economy, greater cooperation, collaboration, and cross-sector partnerships between governments, businesses and investors must be forged at COP26 this November.

Ambition must turn to action. Promises must become plans. Visions must become reality. We have this decade to deliver a net zero future.