



THE EPWORTH DECLARATION

We have gathered here today, 5th October 2019, to formulate a human response to the climate emergency proclaimed by the British government.* We recognise our responsibility as members of a nation which by 200 years of intense industrial activity has made a heavy contribution to global warming: the great prosperity this has given us is at a great cost to the labouring classes and the two-thirds world. We have done little to alleviate the inequality and poverty which steadily increases. We applaud the philanthropic work which has accompanied the industrial revolution. We recognise the achievements of our politicians: the firm commitment of the Department for International Development (DfID) to Agenda 2030 and the offshore energy giants of Walney and East Anglia One and now the Scottish Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm.

But our government, in thrall to the military, financial, pharmaceutical and other conglomerates, is hopelessly blinkered and timid. Without a dramatic change to our collective consumption of earth's resources and our individual carbon footprints, the predicted collapse of civilisation is inevitable. We confess that despair is a serious moral failing. Inspired by Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, by Greta Thunberg, by Agenda 2030 and Eco Church and for the sake of our children and grandchildren, and in the name of all people of faith and goodwill, we humbly commit ourselves to pursue a cleaner, safer, happier world for the benefit of planet Earth and the good of all humanity.