



Entwined – Life with Jesus in a changing climate

The Holy Spirit is drawing people with a heart for climate justice towards Jesus, writes Dave Gregory, convenor of the Baptist Union Environment Network

THIS IS WHY WE'RE CREATING A NEW DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE THAT WEAVES IN A BIBLICAL VISION OF SHARING IN GOD'S LOVE OF CREATION

Perhaps like me, you've been hearing lots of stories about people just turning up at church. They may have had little contact with the Christian way of life previously, but for whatever reason they have a sense of wanting something more in life.

Maybe new folk have been turning up in your church recently out of the blue. I had the joy of meeting someone like that recently. I had been invited to speak on Climate Justice at one of the larger churches in our Baptist network. At the end of the service, a young adult approached me. Six months before they had walked into the church on their own and gave themselves to the Lord.

It turned out that they – like many in their generation – were anxious about how climate change and the environmental crisis might erode their hope for the future. A few years before, they had been involved in the large climate demos in our towns and cities. What amazed them that day was that someone was speaking about how God shared their

passion for creation, both people and its creatures.

In this time of growing expectation and excitement over what God is doing in people's lives across the nation, I wonder how many people the Holy Spirit is drawing towards Jesus who like the person I spoke has a heart for climate justice? Who, along with many anxieties people carry today, are fearful as to how climate change might affect their future?

Does our gospel speak about it? And how might we nurture discipleship that is fit to share in God's mission in the changing climate of the 21st century?

Entwined, a collaboration between BUEN – the Baptist Union Environment Network and

YART – the Baptists Together Young Adult Round Table – looks to meet this challenge. It aims to widen the discipleship path we envision people towards as they follow Jesus. From one shaped by a personal relationship with God through Jesus and sharing in a local church's life and mission, to one that, alongside these vital aspects of the gospel, weaves in a Biblical vision of sharing in God's love of creation.

Funded by a Mission Forum grant, *Entwined* will be a fresh approach to inviting people discover life shared with Jesus in the early 21st century. Among its fragmented relationships with self, others, and creation, it will nurture a following of Jesus that brings healing and wholeness to each of these.

