

Salt News



The Triple Bottom Line of People, Planet and Profit is our theme for the year! Enjoy finding out more below...

This Is Our Challenge...

After some deep penetrating rain yesterday, which has thoroughly watered my hazelnut trees, the sun has come out today and the spring colours look beautiful beneath white puffy clouds.

Meanwhile, the climate in India in the last few weeks has delivered record temperatures, around 50 degrees centigrade. (*BBC News 16 May 2022*) Combined with a drought, this has killed some and is making some of the lives of some of the poorest people in the world a great deal harder. The climate induced famine in Southern Madagascar (*Phrase used by United Nations when referring to an IPCC report written Aug 21, reported by BBC 25 August 21*) has resulted in emaciated children and in other parts of east Africa the lack of rain has resulted in crop failure and the prospect of severe food shortages.

As the world warms, the vast areas of carbon locked up in the arctic areas begins, has begun, to be oxidised off as carbon dioxide. This results in more warming and more carbon being emitted, this is the runaway climate crisis effect we are on the brink of instigating. This is why scientists say what we do in the next 5-10 years will effect what happens in the next few thousands of years of the planet (David Attenborough 21Jan 19). Sir David King (Previous Chief Government Scientific climate Advisor) referred to this when he mentioned the need to avoid Tipping points on the 23 Sept 21.

The IPCC confirmed in August 2021 what scientists have feared all along that these tipping points are being reached.

These alarming climate effects,

with parts of the world becoming unlivable in, are happening with a global rise in temperature of 1.2 and within the life-time of my children the projected rise is around 3 C, that to quote **The Economist** 30 Oct 21, would be disastrous. To prevent this, emissions should peak by 2025 and then be cut by 43 percent by 2030. (*IPCC Working Group 111 report Mitigation of Climate change April 2022*) So far, the world's response to this crisis is to keep increasing the quantity of greenhouse gases we emit year on year, now 40 billion tons annually.

We in the industrialized North are causing the problem. We are literally turning up the heat on the poorest of the world in the South, refusing to take the problem seriously and even to give up on some of our luxuries such as flying, eating unnecessary amounts of meat and dairy and consuming too much.

God's natural world is suffering as well, reindeer covered in lice as the cold isn't there to kill them off, the bleaching of once amazing diverse coral reefs, the biodiversity crisis. Our beautiful world is becoming ugly.

Our children's lives are threatened by this, the Iona community refer to this as the great betrayal. Food shortages in this country and societal breakdown could happen sooner than people realise. We now need the great response: a fundamental shift in the way we run our businesses and live our lives.

I went to a lovely remembrance service in Cambridge couple of weeks ago and at the end of the service the bishop said that as the people of God, we needed to engage with the world and



Godfrey's beautiful estate in Derbyshire.

...Take on the major challenges we face.

He named three, none of which were the climate crisis. We must start talking about this more, praying about this more, requiring our political, business, church and societal leaders to tell people the danger we are in.

Others faced the Nazis, others had to bring overt slavery to an end. This is our challenge. Everything we do should be done within the context of tackling this crisis and healing God's creation. Renewable energy is part of the answer but only part.

Gandhi had it right all those years ago, we need to live more simply so others can simply live. We need a new economy where harmful businesses are closed down and new businesses which heal people and the planet emerge.

Salt can be at the vanguard of this change.

Christian Aid encourages us to look beyond the horizon and engage with the communities which are finding the climate crisis unbearable to live in. As Christians, we are commanded by Jesus to love our neighbours as ourselves. We therefore have no choice but to throw ourselves into this struggle. I believe the peaceable kingdom awaits us, where we learn to live in harmony with nature, where the 'lion will lie down with the lamb... And they shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,' ..I was also recently struck by Saint Paul's line to Archippus: 'Attend to the duty entrusted in you in the Lord's service and discharge it to the full.'

As business leaders, trying to be Godly business leaders, part of the duty entrusted to us must be to make the changes required for the healing and restoration of God's creation. I have feelings of panic that we are failing in our duty as stewards of the earth, but also believe, sometimes try to believe, that Julian of Norwich was right when she said, 'all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well'.

Godfrey Meynell is transitioning his Derbyshire estate from an organic farm to a nature reserve.

Anaemia of Deeds

I was recently at the Faith in Business conference in Cambridge. Like Salt, FiB is interested in how we live out our values, daily, in our work lives. If you are a business leader, does your Faith impact your deeds in business decisions? In his presentation, one of the speakers referenced Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work, *Strength to Love*. In this sermon booklet, King states, "How often are our lives characterised by a high blood pressure of creeds and an anaemia of deeds!" Being a fan of King, I was struck by this phrase and it has stuck with me. In preparing this short article I looked up the reference and read a bit more of the context. In typical MLK Jr. style, he doesn't waste any words, and what surrounds this phrase is equally powerful.

The paragraph begins, "One of the great tragedies of life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying. A persistent schizophrenia leaves so many of us tragically divided against ourselves." He actually relates our persistent inability to marry up what we say with what we do to as a type of schizophrenia, and the Bible backs up this thinking. In James, one of the most practical Books in the Bible for Christian living, James focuses intently on the need to do and not just say. In chapter 1 verses 5-8 he talks about the person who says he believes, but prays with a lack of faith. One translation calls this person double-minded and another says he is holding on too tightly to this world.

For James then, the main reason we don't follow through with our faith in our actions is that we are holding on too tightly to the things of this world, the things we can see, and not tightly enough to the things which God says are most important and eternal. Unfortunately, many of the things we value most in this world are the things which feed us; the things which make us feel better about ourselves or that make us look good to other people.

This selfishness is not a new development. It can't be blamed on modernity, post-modernity, Gen X, Y, Z or even the Millennials; it's as old as humanity itself.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Newcastle Hub for Sustainable Leader Event.

This possibility for selfishness had to be present so that choosing the opposite was also possible. Sadly, you could even say that the possibility for selfishness has become a propensity towards selfishness, as the more we practice it, the easier it becomes. The more we become attached to the praise of other humans or the stuff we accumulate, the harder we will work to ensure we don't lose them. Does this mean we should ignore it and accept it as normal? Of course not, because although it's as old as time, it's never felt right. It takes a truly deprived human being to be completely selfish, with no regret or remorse. That's because we were not made to be this way.

We were created for a different purpose; for the purposes of relationship, community, interdependence, humility, and love. If you are a churchgoer, you will recognize that the actual Creeds, as well as everything else you say you believe as a Christian, echoes this purpose for creation. Whether we claim to be Christian or not, we instinctively know this to be true, we just have difficulty living it out. We have become so attached to ensuring our own happiness and sustainability, that we too often neglect the wellbeing of our neighbour.

For whatever reason, the distance between head and heart, creed and deed, often seems like light years.

If you are a business leader, what steps could you take to ensure that your actions match your values? How can you be certain that what you know and believe to be true is played out in what you actually do?

Let us not be the people whose "Practice and Profession" are alien to each other. Let's not choose a Jekyll and Hyde existence, but instead choose the more difficult yet rewarding life of integrating saying and doing. Where will you begin?

Buddy Owen - Salt Network Manager

Reconnecting with the Regional Hubs...

It has been great getting out and reconnecting with individuals and with groups in our regional hubs. The photo on the left was taken in Newcastle where Hugh Welch from Muckle LLP hosted us in his office for our first regional gathering for over two years.

Claire Talbot-Jones from Talbot Jones Ltd shared her story of "The Painful Reality of Leadership" which was followed by a workshop on what it means to be a sustainable leader. We had a great time and can't wait to hear from Clare again at our conference in November!

The Sustainable Leader event then made its way to Edinburgh where we met at The Eric Liddell Community. We were joined by John MacMillan, CEO of the ELC and by Christian Aid Chair, Dr. John Sentamu. They both shared from their wisdom in years of leadership, which was again followed by a short practical workshop.

We hope to visit our hubs in the East and West Midlands and in London for the same event soon. If you are not part of a regional hub but would be interested in joining one, please email salt@christian-aid.org and we will connect you with your nearest, or look to start a new one if possible.



Buddy with John MacMillan, CEO of the Eric Liddell Community, Edinburgh

The Sustainable Leader Conference



Save the Date!

Cental Hall Westminster
4th November 2022

The Sustainable Leader Conference Leading values-based businesses that last

Whether it is the global covid-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis, climate change or the war in Ukraine, recent history has shown us that investing in the future sustainability of our businesses, communities and climate is essential. Future sustainability requires innovative thinking now. That's why this year, the Salt Network Conference is bringing together leading voices from business, policy, finance and development for a day of keynotes, networking and workshops so that together we can build impact driven businesses that last.

The Salt Network Sustainable Leader Conference is creating an opportunity for leaders from across sectors to engage with the key issues of sustainable leadership, sustainable organisations, sustainable finance and sustainable planet, and hear from those pioneering the way forward.

Having previously hosted contributors such as Lord Michael Hastings, Gemma McGough, Paul Polman, Amanda Mukwashi and James Perry, the Sustainable Leader Conference offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from leading voices within an limited gathering.

Throughout the day you will:

- Network with leaders, innovators, and peers.
- Hear from leading voices from across the values-based business world.
- Be inspired and equipped to lead better businesses.
- Learn more about the Salt Network and how you can partner with us to make an impact at home and abroad.

The Philanthropic Capital Investment Fund

Our fundraising for the Malonda Project in Malawi continues to have a major impact on lives of some of the world's poorest people. Last year we managed to raise in excess of £120,000 for this project through the Salt Network and the stories of impact are both heartbreaking and encouraging.

The story of Laston Banda

Mr. Banda is married with three children and life was difficult before coming to the Malonda project which promoted the production of the hybrid Mwaiwathu Alimi variety of pigeon peas as well as teaching new agronomic practices.

"For a long time I have been harvesting only two 50kg bags of pigeon peas from my 1.5 acres of land which was only ever enough to feed my family. I could only dream of having food security, and a happy family where our children are supported as they go to school."

Through the project, he joined a cooperative, learned new techniques, increased his crop by 20% and was able to start saving money. Two years later, Mr. Banda was able to buy a motorcycle for his son to use in order to increase the family's income. The motorcycle business now brings in almost £8 per week.

"Pigeon peas are an underestimated crop among farmers, they have transformed my life". - Laston Banda

This story is from the Bi-annual *Malonda Stories of Impact*

If you would like more information about the PCIF or how you can give, please email Bowen@christian-aid.org.