"I encourage churches to invite their wider community and show this film – it's a wake up for us all. Its message to care for climate, people, nature is so urgently needed, not least so that we might live and act as Jesus would have us be."

Rt Rev Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich and lead Bishop for Environment for the Church of England

National Emergency Briefing

A call to action for Churches

"I welcome this resource in the hope that churches are encouraged to screen the *People's Emergency Briefing*, and feel able to unite with others and participate in much needed action to care for creation."

Rt Rev Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford and lead Bishop for Environment for the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

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Church Resource Pack

National Emergency Briefing

Introduction

The National Emergency Briefing (NEB) calls on the UK government to give a national televised briefing on the climate and nature crisis followed by a national emergency response of the kind we saw in WWII, which experts agree is needed to address the full scale of the crisis.

A Westminster event was held in November 2025. It featured leading experts who briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy.

A compelling documentary film, the *People's Emergency Briefing*, has since been produced. It contains footage of that event and is being screened across the nation at civic centres, cinemas, community halls and churches. It aims to support a parliamentary call for a televised briefing and educate people of the full scale of the crisis and show what the response needs to be.

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Why should your church host a screening?

The Church has historically played an important role at times of national crisis. From providing much needed pastoral care, being a place of refuge as well as challenging the government of the day on issues of justice and morality.

The climate crisis is both a global threat and a national one and, as the film makes clear, it affects every aspect of society, from health and wellbeing to food and national security. There is clear evidence that emergency action will strengthen our national and economic resilience and improve lives. The National Emergency Briefing is designed to help create a societal tipping point towards the genuine emergency action now needed.

The Church is collectively the largest civil organisation in the country and therefore we have an important role to play. As Christians our concern is underpinned not just by the threat to our own interests but by core Christian principles of caring for God's creation, Jesus' command to love one another and responding to human need.

While the climate crisis will affect all of us, it is important to remember it is the poorest communities in the world who are most impacted and least equipped to deal with the consequences. The NEB aims to further strengthen global action through the leadership of the UK's response.

Hosting a community screening

The primary aim is to engage as many people as possible with the facts about the climate crisis and ways we can respond. Churches are well placed to host these screenings and we strongly encourage you to explore the excellent resources available from NEB along with their facilitation guidance. Alongside those, here are some suggestions for churches hosting the community:

- Ensure people receive a warm welcome and a positive experience of church - this might be the first time some walk into a church building.
- In order to maximise the opportunity you might consider offering refreshments, having a strong volunteer presence, strategically place church members in the discussion groups and use the opportunity to promote other community events you may be holding.
- Think about who will host the event and if you are having a public discussion / Q and A afterwards, ensure it is effectively chaired by a competent facilitator.
- If you have your MP or Council representative there, try to ensure they are shielded from people who may wish to use the opportunity to target or lobby them. This is not a hustings event and MPs and politicians are invited to the viewing to participate like other members of the public.

Check out the NEB screening guidance ›

Hosting a screening for a church audience

The film is a powerful and potentially shocking revelation about what is happening to God's creation. It is vital that as many people as possible are given the opportunity to watch and better understand what is happening, but as people of faith you may want to offer a space for spiritual reflection.

If your screening is public, open and available for the wider community, you may want to offer a separate occasion after the screening, to allow those with faith to process and reflect in fellowship with others. Or if you choose to host a screening purely for the local church community in the first instance, you might want the follow-up discussion to encourage time spent in prayer, lament, confession and with Scripture as part of the response to what people have watched and heard. The NEB facilitators guide is excellent, so please see the suggestions below as supplementary and/or supportive, rather than alternative content.

Here are some ideas to help you facilitate a screening or follow-up occasion with a faith audience in mind:

- Open and close in prayer, acknowledging and welcoming the different views, emotions and perspectives of those in the room.
- Give space for quiet, personal prayer and reflection – provide paper for journalling or drawing, offer Bibles, and don't be afraid to allow a good amount of time (15-30 minutes) for silence before discussion or group reflection.
- Draw people to relevant parts of Scripture – perhaps have suggested verses or readings readily available, or invite people to contribute Scripture they feel drawn to. You may find these helpful:
    - Emotional responses – sadness (John 11:34-35, Ecclesiastes 3:1-4) anger (Mark 11:15), doubt or disbelief (John 20:25), repentance (Daniel 9).
    - Beauty of the natural world (Psalms 8 and 104).
    - God in relation to his Creation (Genesis 1, Deuteronomy 24:19-22, Leviticus 25, Job 38, Isaiah 35, Revelation 22:1-4).
- If it feels appropriate, you may wish to offer a prayer of confession, such as this Prayer of Repentance by Climate Intercessors.
- And finally, the unique role of the Church in a time of emergency is to hold on to, and to offer, hope. You may wish to end by drawing on the hope we have in Christ, his resurrection and God's promise to heal and reconcile his whole creation, and that we, as Christ's Church, are empowered to live out this faith and hope in the gift of the Spirit (Rom 15:13).

Some discussion questions for faith audiences:

- How do you feel about the film? How is your reaction to the film connecting with your faith, if at all?
- How do you view your relationship with God's world? Is your view affected or altered by the film, or not?
- The film ends with some practical things to do next. What do you think your church community could do as part of a response?
- Is there a role for the Church at times of national emergency? How could this church be part of that?

Further helpful resources:

Creation Care Prayers by C of E ›

Prayer Resources by Pray and Fast for the Climate ›

Lament and Hope by Revd Jon Swales ›

Doxecology by Resound Worship ›

Care of Creation Prayers by CAFOD

A Grief Circle by Green Christian

Promotional Resources

There are a number of promotional resources on the NEB website.

Green Christian have produced some additional resources which may be helpful for a church setting:

Parish Magazine Article template

Wording for PCC or Church Council

Next Steps

The recommended next step from NEB is to arrange a follow up meeting one to two weeks after the screening as well as some additional actions you could explore as a church. See the Next Steps section on the NEB website for more information.

Further to this and to get your church talking about the climate and nature crises you might want to explore the following organisations and resources:

- Green Christian
- Live Simply by CAFOD
- Church of England Environment Programme
- Operation Noah
- Joint Public Issues Team
- Eco Church by A Rocha UK
- Climate Campaign by Tearfund
- Hope for the Future
- Zero Hour Campaign

“The positive response from churches to the invitation to host and facilitate engagement with the National Emergency Briefing reflects a deep concern with the ways in which climate breakdown is impacting our local communities and the whole of humanity and a desire to develop collaborative responses that make best use of the experience, expertise and resources of a diverse range of partners, in shared recognition of the urgency of the challenges.”

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Photo credit: David Britton / Operation Noah

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