

**Sample letter to General Synod members in advance of the climate change debate at the Church of England General Synod on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**

Dear [insert name of Diocese General Synod member – Bishop, clergy and lay members]

As a supporter of Operation Noah I am writing to you to ask if you would speak in support of the motion entitled 'Environmental Issues' which will be debated at General Synod on Wednesday 12th February.

The motion, which is being presented by Canon Giles Goddard of St John's Waterloo, will highlight the seriousness of climate change, and the risks of triggering uncontrolled and catastrophic changes to the climate system as a consequence of pollution from fossil fuels.

Operation Noah warmly welcomes the opportunity for General Synod to discuss this issue now, in the light of the fifth IPCC report on climate change published in 2013, and the previous commitments made by the Church of England to address climate change in *Shrinking the Footprint* and *Church and Earth: the climate change action plan*.

In September last year Operation Noah launched a new campaign called *Bright Now: towards fossil free Churches*, calling on Churches in this country to follow Churches in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, and the Quakers in Britain, to disinvest from fossil fuel companies.

The intention of the motion, we understand, is to enable the Church of England to speak more clearly and to be more effective in its response to the challenges of climate change. I very much hope that you will be able to contribute to the debate and speak in favour of the motion. The full text is available here: <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/agendas-and-papers/february-2014-group-of-sessions.aspx>.

Following the debate on 12th February, a representative from Operation Noah will be speaking at a fringe meeting at Synod on climate change. This has been organised by Christian Aid and will enable you to find out more.

The debate will also be streamed live on the Church of England website: <http://churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod.aspx>

Further information about the Bright Now campaign is available here: [www.brightnow.org.uk](http://www.brightnow.org.uk) and a comprehensive report can be downloaded here: <http://brightnow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Bright-Now-report.pdf>

I look forward to hearing from you and do urge you to vote in support of this important Synod motion.

Yours sincerely,

[letter ends]