

### Follow-up and response

As you listen and reflect, certain things may strike you. Find out more about these later, discover if there are any groups or organisations that can provide more information. There are many practical ways of responding and all kinds of groups are active around the country.

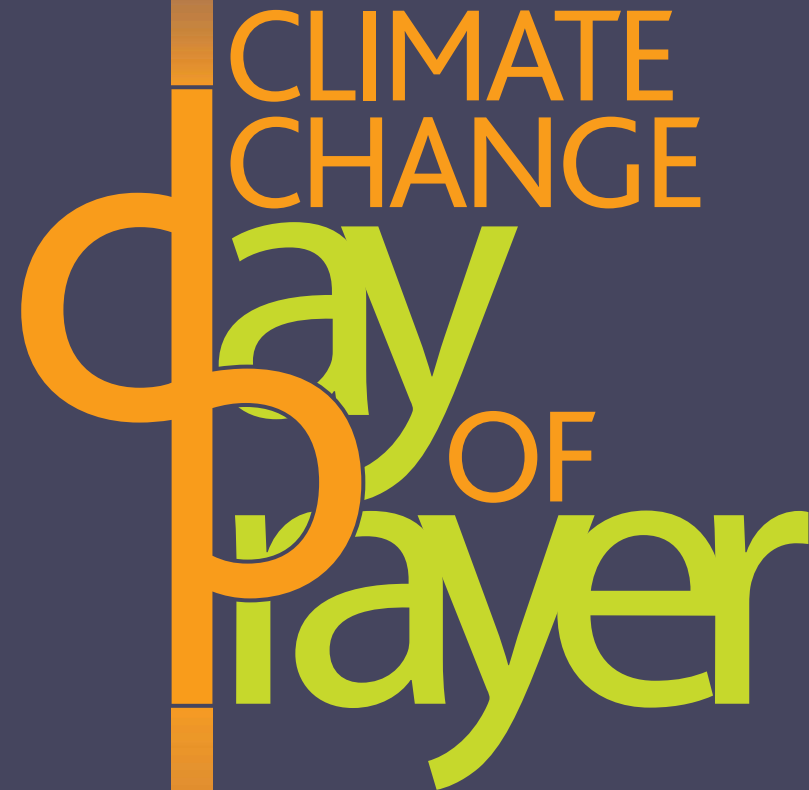
Before you leave, please take a few moments to sign the petition, to write down any personal messages to Gordon Brown and to pick up more information.

Remember that this is a key time in our history and that this is a key year. **You** can make a difference. Please do it.

Thank you for supporting this Day of Prayer. We would be glad to hear from you concerning your reflections. Please email these to: [dayofprayer@operationnoah.org](mailto:dayofprayer@operationnoah.org)

### Supporting organisations

A growing number of organisations and denominations are supporting the Day of Prayer initiative. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) are hosting the materials on their website and Operation Noah are coordinating events and responses. Please check [www.operationnoah.org/resources/groups/day-prayer](http://www.operationnoah.org/resources/groups/day-prayer) for further information.



Welcome  
sheet

## Introduction to this Day of Prayer

Welcome to this special time. In our busy, pressured society we rarely make the time to stop, listen and reflect on life. As a society we live in unusual times with fast moving communication and technologies, a global financial crisis, unsustainable environmental pressures and climate change bringing rising global temperatures with far reaching consequences on global weather patterns. This year's COP 15 talks in Copenhagen are of huge significance: an opportunity for the nations of the world to reach binding agreements on cutting back carbon emissions to slow the rising global temperatures. Without bold and science-based agreements being reached, we face an uncertain future.

Where are we heading? Will our general response to these crises continue to be one largely of apathy and resignation? Can we, as insignificant individuals, do anything to bring about pressure on our decision makers? This time of prayer will provide information, quotes and personal experiences to help inform and challenge us. The times of silence will help us to reflect on what we hear and consider their consequences for us and for others.

## Tips on meditation

Meditation is an unfamiliar experience for most people. Before you begin, take time to sit comfortably. Place both legs on the floor and allow each part of your body to relax – starting from your feet up to your head, consciously tensing and relaxing each part of your body. Then you can focus more easily on prayer.

If you are staying for the whole time of prayer, or for an hour or so, allow yourselves a short break to get up, move around and maybe have some water. This will help you continue to focus without getting stiff or sleepy.

You may decide to fast during this time, allowing pangs of hunger to remind you of the importance of what you are doing.

## Background facts

- Since the industrial revolution began in the mid 18th century, people have been benefiting from the use of fossil fuels: coal, oil and gas. They are an amazingly powerful energy source and have transformed the way we live. However, their use emits carbon dioxide and levels in our atmosphere have risen sharply, resulting in an increased greenhouse effect and rising temperatures.
- Global temperatures have risen by 0.8 degrees centigrade since 1900 and are on course to rise over 2 degrees more by 2050 at present rates of increase. Though they sound small, these increases are averages and are much higher in the Polar Regions – already causing the thawing of ice sheets, glaciers and permafrost.
- Rising temperatures results in more unpredictable weather, stronger winds, more intense rainfall and longer periods of drought. Hurricanes and cyclones are likely to be more powerful, causing structural damage.
- Oceans cover much of the earth's surface. They act as a massive heat store as the earth warms. Much of the present warming has therefore resulted in a rise in ocean temperatures, delaying the full impact of global temperature rises on the earth's surface. They have also been soaking up considerable quantities of carbon dioxide, causing the oceans to become slightly more acid. However they are close to reaching capacity, and this will intensify the speed of global warming.
- Wildlife is suffering in many ways. Some species can adapt; many cannot. The warming oceans are impacting corals, causing bleaching. A major study recently published in Nature found that 15 to 37% of all species in six areas studied may be threatened with extinction as a result of climate change likely to occur between now and 2050
- A recent report from the global Economic Forum tells us that an estimated 300,000 people each year are already losing their lives as a direct result of climate change, largely in the poorer countries of the world. Responding to climate change isn't a future option; it's an urgent necessity.

