



## Radical Presence in Chelmsford Diocese

This free 7-week programme of conversations is now offered to Christians of any denomination in the area of the Chelmsford Diocese.

Conversations in small groups take place on Zoom each week for seven weeks at 7:30pm on Tuesdays starting on 9 June.

If you would like to join the conversations, please register [using the link](#) at the end of this flyer.

### Who is arranging the programme?

The people facilitating this programme are John Clifton, PCC member and Andrew Tople, administrator from St Stephens Church, Colchester. John is a member of Green Christian and was involved in piloting Radical Presence.

### What is Radical Presence?

- Green Christian launches a platform for Christians to develop mission and advocacy for a world at the 'tipping point'
- 'Radical Presence' is a new course of seven online group conversations on the pandemic and its aftermath
- The programme equips church groups to harness the national mood for social change.

As Britain debates how it will emerge from lockdown, the charity Green Christian has launched *Radical Presence*, ([www.radicalpresence.org.uk](http://www.radicalpresence.org.uk)), an initiative to help churches build a more sustainable, just and compassionate world after the pandemic. The online initiative will foster ambition to tackle the crises of environmental breakdown, inequality and polarisation, and help to build support for a 'just recovery'.

## The context

The pandemic has come at a critical time in the climate and ecological emergency, with the postponement of COP26, the United Nations climate summit which was due to take place in Glasgow this November. But it has also provoked unprecedented readiness for change: a recent YouGov poll found [only 9% of the population](#) want life to return to 'normal'. *Radical Presence* enables these longings to find their voice among Christians in the UK.

## The conversations

Over seven sessions, *Radical Presence* stimulates conversations in small groups which draw on the Bible, Christian faith, experience, science and analysis. Groups have the option to record key points from their discussion to help inform Green Christian's activities and campaigning. In this way *Radical Presence* will help build a consensus to guide the nation's emergence from lockdown, and will equip Christians for mission and advocacy in a changed world.

## Comments and commendations

**Paul Bodenham**, who led the development of *Radical Presence*, said:

*It's becoming clear that there is no longer a 'normal' to go back to. In fact 'normal' was the cause of many of our problems. People are expressing a 'hunger and thirst for righteousness' with an intensity I've never witnessed before. With Radical Presence they will discover that they are not alone, and that together we can mobilise change. If there is any way to honour those whose lives have been lost, it must surely be in our efforts to build a better society. But we need to be quick – if we leave it until church doors are unlocked we may miss our chance.*

**Professor Sir Ghillean Prance FRS, VMH (Founding Director of The Eden Project):**

*Radical Presence is a truly needed programme at this time of uncertainty. .... we are at a decisive time where we have the opportunity to take a new and better pathway. I hope that many people will take up the opportunity to use this helpful material and that it will lead us towards the radical change that is needed.*

**Bishop David Atkinson, a Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark:**

*In 'Radical Presence', the mixture of biblical reflection, prayer and social and political engagement help us to see this 'kairos' moment as one of opportunity and choice.*

## Register to take part in the conversations...

[Click here to register](#) to join.

You will receive an acknowledgement immediately. Joining instructions together with further information will be issued during the week beginning 1 June.