



Operation Noah's 7 Year Plan for Generational Change

Introduction

About Operation Noah

Operation Noah was founded in 2001 by Christian Ecology Link (CEL) and later became a joint project of CEL and the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Operation Noah represents an inclusive group of committed Christians from across Britain, which welcomes people of faith, and none. Operation Noah was the first Christian campaign to focus exclusively on the urgent need to address climate change.

The trustees and staff of Operation Noah are cross-denominational, drawn from the Catholic, Anglican and free churches, and from across the theological spectrum. At the end of 2006, Ann Pettifor, one of the architects of the widely-praised Jubilee 2000 'drop the debt' campaign, became part-time campaign director for Operation Noah, advising on strategy and maintaining executive oversight of the organisation and its campaign. The organisation runs from its headquarters in London, and employs four members of staff in addition to the Director.

Operation Noah's supporter base is currently just over 4,000 members nation-wide. Despite its small size the campaign is reputed to punch well above its weight in terms of impact. In particular, the campaign is engaged with church leaders at a high level; the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London are both leading Operation Noah events during 2009. A full summary of achievements to date is attached at Annex 1.

Operation Noah's Ambitions for 7 Years' Time:

Initiation of 'zero-carbon' armies of informed and engaged young people making choices in their lives which factor climate change as a priority; and by example, influence others to make their choices in this way.

Church, and other faith leaders, to have re-anchored the vital interconnections of faith, so that environmental concerns once again flow from the very essence of faith.

A spread of church communities in Britain to have formally adopted standards for Low Carbon Christian Living. This means implementing changes in lifestyle practices across the community which will markedly reduce carbon footprint.

For Operation Noah's advocacy, along with that of partners, to have created a demonstrable movement for change among opinion-formers and decision-makers in Britain.

For Operation Noah to be established as a respected driver of a movement for radical change, which others including faith groups, churches and other climate change campaigns, seek to consult and act with.

Background

The climate crisis is not only an environmental crisis. It is more fundamentally a moral and spiritual crisis driven by materialism, individualism, greed and unrelenting consumption. In the view of Operation Noah's board these sins of selfishness, greed and remorseless exploitation of the gifts of God's creation, have been fuelled by a) a debt-based economy powered by 'easy' (de-regulated) credit and b) an ever-shrinking supply of finite fossil fuels.

Operation Noah's Mission and Goal

Operation Noah's mission is to inspire and support people of faith in *leading* and bringing about a radical transformation in the economy and in the lifestyles of communities all over Britain.

We exist to change hearts and minds – not just lightbulbs.

The overarching purpose of our work is to help British society achieve a transformation that constrains individualism, greed and consumption; de-carbonises the economy and protects all of Creation – not just for this generation, but future generations.

Followers of Christ have a particular responsibility for bringing about the kind of transformation exemplified in the life He lived. Operation Noah asserts that Christians have a duty to become 'Low-Carbon Disciples', and to lead their communities in living low-carbon, simpler, less acquisitive lifestyles that are both environmentally sustainable and known to enhance individual and community wellbeing.

Operation Noah supporters are guided in their work by the campaign's determination to be: **Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-driven**

We believe that people of faith draw on a solid foundation of respect for what Christians call Creation. Praise for Creation is the driving force that leads many people of faith to act urgently to protect Creation from global warming. If the

commitment to protect Creation spreads to all people of faith, and is co-joined with other campaigns, Operation Noah believes that Christians have the potential to achieve extraordinary change. We base our conviction on the history of faith-based activism. Christians and people of faith have played significant roles in the successes of other great, transformational movements: viz. the campaign for the abolition of slavery, the black civil rights campaign, the fair-trade campaign and the Jubilee 2000 campaign for the cancellation of the debts of the poorest countries.

Operation Noah is firmly guided by the scientific evidence of climate change. We adhere strongly to the need for robust and defensible reasoning and justification in what we call for. But this means too that if the scientific evidence calls for radical action, beyond the scope of lagging political acceptability, then it is incumbent on us to uphold the truth and support such action. That is why Operation Noah's policy goal – towards total de-carbonisation of the British economy by 2030 - has been more radical than a number of other climate change campaigns which have allied behind the British government's position for an 80% reduction in the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. An important aspect of our thinking at Operation Noah is that we eschew the separation of science and religion, believing that both disciplines support and mutually reinforce one another. Simply put: *it is the scientific evidence of the extent and impacts of climate change that provide the call to faith action.*

Thirdly, we believe that people of faith have a unique advantage in society, being grounded in *hope* even in the face of extreme adversity. Climate change, being global and complex, can seem too big to engage with – a juggernaut with too much momentum behind it to stop. Individuals may feel that the little they can do in their lives will be but a drop in the ocean compared to the scale of the problem and the inaction of millions of others. That it is not possible to halt global warming, lightbulb by lightbulb.

But *faith-inspired hope* motivates Christians to continue taking positive action – in conjunction with others. Such action is motivated by the prospect of quickly building a global community / movement (Jubilee 2000 built a global community in just four years!) of both leaders and grass-root campaigners. Given our experience of past movements, we know that such a movement could be powerful enough to turn the global warming juggernaut round.

Operation Noah's Vision

Our vision is for a rapidly mobilised, highly-motivated nation-wide movement for social and economic transformation that will rapidly de-carbonise the economy. With luck this movement could be duplicated worldwide.

We see this movement of individuals and communities *living the future* by embracing 'Low Carbon Christian Lifestyles'. We will encourage households and church communities to make bold but meaningful changes in the way they live – and to foster the duplication of these changes across communities - to radically reduce emissions.

The movement will capture the moral high ground and reject individualism, greed and merciless consumption in favour of living simply and sustainably, *in community* and within our means. Above all, living within the finite limits of the planet.

Our vision does not assume that responsibility lies with individual voluntary action. Quite the reverse; we see the urgent need for community leadership and community action – more vital now than at any other time in history. For the creation of viable national and even global de-carbonisation *frameworks*, that will *enable* individuals to transform their lifestyles.

Faith communities can help build such frameworks through a 'pincer-movement' of two kinds of community action. First, community action that pressures government and politicians to legislate for, and implement, policies for de-carbonising the economy. Second: community action and choices to deliver 'bottom-up' emissions cuts.

The latter action would be yet another manifestation of people leading, so that leaders can follow. By leading within our own communities, we will remind our political leaders of demands from their people for meaningful action. We will create an upbeat atmosphere of readiness for change that will make politicians less fearful to lead, and less fearful of the hard choices on carbon use.

At Operation Noah, we believe that the time for workshops, conferences, and more policy papers is almost at an end. There can be no substitute now for action. We believe that God expects people of prayer to act as Noah did. To be bold, to stand up, to act together, and be counted when and where it matters. To take the first steps for audacious action through both advocacy and Low-Carbon Christian Living.

Operation Noah's 7-Year Plan

Drawing on our vision for galvanising a zero-carbon movement, Operation Noah's 7-year plan which follows, describes our aims and work across five areas as follows:

- Education and young people
- Pastoral care
- Lifestyles
- Advocacy
- Partnerships

We intend to expand the campaign's impact on all these areas as we go forward.

1. Education and Young People

There is hardly an issue with greater intergenerational impact than climate change, yet Operation Noah sees a paucity of opportunity for young people to properly engage in the debate over climate change policy. The ambition for our work in this area is to empower and educate young people so that they are equipped firstly, to engage in and shape the climate change debate; secondly, to make choices which prioritise concerns about climate change impacts, and by example influence lifestyle choices more broadly; thirdly, to promote the iconic, hopeful messages of the Noah story so that individuals can take bold action, can stand out from the crowd as Noah did, and can exercise leadership in protecting Creation.

Statement of ambition:

In seven years' time, Operation Noah would like to see 'zero-carbon' armies of informed and engaged young people making choices in their lives which factor climate change as a priority; and by example, influence others to make their choices in this way.

Work to date

A principal part of ON's outreach to communities in the past year has been to engage with schools and colleges in order to raise awareness of climate change among children and young people in an age-appropriate way. So far we have visited around 25 schools around the country, and in so doing have reached out to some 3,500 young people.

In our outreach work, we have found that the language of religious myth and legend is effective in engaging children on the issue of climate change, but at the same time, trying to get young students to engage with huge questions about humanity's place in creation and our responsibilities to it throws up interesting challenges.

Visit to Thetford Grammar School

On a recent visit to Thetford Grammar School in England we asked a class of around fifteen sixth formers to ponder a question: Where does humanity stand in relation to God and to the rest of the created world?

We asked for volunteers in a large school hall. At one extreme end we placed a student who was an amoeba! At the far end about 250 metres away, we asked the head of RE to signify "God." Then we introduced several other categories: a daffodil, a rabbit, a chimpanzee and finally a modern member of homo sapiens.

Many of the students had read about Darwin and evolution. What followed was a fascinatingly heated discussion. Some placed the daffodil and rabbit way down the end of the hall towards the amoeba with the chimp and human being nestling, almost next to God! Others, though, stressed a huge gulf between humanity and the rest of creation, leaving a sizeable gap between humans and God but also between humans and the rest of the natural world. Heated exchanges took place about Jesus being the bridge between humanity and God, while others wanted to place humanity way down the pecking order. The argument was that mankind had let down the planet and did not deserve such an exalted place in the hierarchy.

Plan for Development

It is certainly the case that the issues around climate change are complex, but older children and young adults are highly capable of understanding, engaging and bringing fresh perspective and ideas to the debate. We would like to see our work going beyond awareness-raising, to encouraging young people to actively take part in debate with faith and community leaders on the subject.

1. Our plan for taking forward engagement with young people starts with an expanded programme of outreach to church schools and groups, such as Sunday schools, across the country. This outreach will include ON staff and volunteer visits, presentations and prepared activities, but also development of on-line and print resources specifically targeted for teachers to use with school-children and college students.
2. As part of our outreach, we will encourage schools to draw together their threads of work on climate change, across the curriculum and wider discussion in school, with an annual climate change report, to be written and

produced by the pupils. Some schools may already be involved in initiatives such as the British Government's Climate Change Champions, or the Young Activist programme. But we see a crucial and distinctive role for promoting a holistic approach in schools that brings together knowledge, skills and practical action with critical reflection on our individualistic consumerist society, on the nature of community and on the importance of faith commitment. The annual climate change report that we aim to promote would therefore be more than an audit, or self-evaluation for the school. It would detail the school's activities and discussions around climate change during the year, and may even provide an audit of the school's greenhouse gas emissions, but it would include thoughtful, personal pieces from pupils on the societal, economic, ecological and faith context of our lives.

3. By engaging students directly through our programme of outreach to schools and church communities, we will actively identify committed young people whom we can support as they establish networks, which we are calling 'zero-carbon' armies. Our ambition is for these young people to lead by example in putting climate change at the top of their list of considerations when making decisions about how to live their lives. As the network of committed young people grows, their voices will make themselves heard in policy debates with faith and political leaders.

2. Pastoral Care

Operation Noah recognises that there are powerful messages about care for the environment in all the major religions. The climate change crisis provides the imperative for reinvigorating faith and rediscovering its wisdom to inform all that we do; and to support and offer hope to those suffering the effects of and fears about climate change.

Statement of ambition:

In seven years' time, Operation Noah's ambition is for church, and other faith leaders, to have re-anchored the vital interconnections of faith, so that environmental concerns once again flow from the very essence of faith.

The story of Noah and the flood pervades the major world religions. The powerful narrative reminds us of the effects of greed, when day to day lives, faith, relationships and the environment are disconnected from one another. It is this greed, materialism and indifference that insulates us, and others, from our spiritual needs. The need to love and be loved; to be connected to each other, not just to things and possessions. The need to be connected to the earth and all its creatures. And the need to be connected to God.

The Noah story also provides a call to action, reminding us that there are times when resolve must be strengthened, difficult decisions taken and brave changes undertaken, supported by faith and hope.

We find it helpful to consider what God would hope to see from humanity at this time of climate crisis, summarised as follows:

- Young people coming back to faith
- An ecumenical response

- An end to belief in the science/religion dichotomy since a proper faith response requires an understanding of the evidence
- An end to greed and individualism

At Operation Noah, we see climate change not just as an environmental crisis but more fundamentally as a spiritual and moral crisis. The grand scale of climate change reveals how modern life has become divorced from connections underpinning humanity, connections to our environment, to each other and to God. But this is where the climate crisis also offers a great opportunity, because tackling it effectively will require us to rediscover all the fundamental connections in our lives as we move to more local production, greater local, national and international cooperation, and a recognition that as individuals and societies we cannot control everything.

The recognition that prayer is not simply a call for help, but rather self-reflection and a surrender to self-limitation is vital in allowing people to come to terms with the changes wrought by climate change, and to see their part in tackling it.

Work to date

The Noah story provides a powerful allegory for the climate crisis. And the representation of Noah himself as the first “environmentalist” – custodian of the survival of all species of flora and fauna on land – chimes with the call to leadership today.

We find consistently that the Noah story resonates with church and secular audiences.

Operation Noah has produced a number of liturgical and theological resources for church leaders and communities, key among which are:

Between the Flood and the Rainbow - A Study Guide on Climate Change based upon key themes in Catholic Social Teaching. It is intended for study and reflection by adult groups. The guide contains agendas for six meetings with accompanying appendices, reflection and action sheets, reading sheets, plus a "prayers and liturgies" section.

Climate Change and Creation: An Operation Noah Briefing on the Theology of Climate Change – this paper by Operation Noah campaign strategist Mark Dowd looks at the Biblical narrative and the case it makes for taking care of God's creation - and by extension, taking action on climate change. It is intended for use by clergy, teachers, Bible study leaders and anyone else who will find such a resource useful.

Church Action Starter Pack – the pack contains the above resources along with recommendations for taking action, and resources for children.

Operation Noah also provides a guidance pack for communities to organise a day of fasting, contemplation and prayer, to help empower the community to tackle climate change. In a world in which so many feel isolated and alone in facing up to the crisis of climate change – a day of fasting and prayer can bring people together, and together make a difference. The message is that by working in community, all those that participate will be inspired, enriched and strengthened by the day, and together discover that, by recognising our limits, by deepening our connectedness to others, to the earth and to God - we regain a sense of community, well-being and leadership.

The Power of Story

In Abergavenny in Wales, the Roman Catholic Church and an audience of around 70 people turn out for a talk entitled: "It's more than changing lightbulbs." The Noah/Flood narrative features prominently. Particular stress is given to the Genesis writer's threefold repetition that the Covenant is made between God and "every living creature" on the Earth as a counter to any dangers of anthropocentrism. At the end of the talk and question and answer, a group of self-declared Friends of the Earth supporters "out themselves" as atheists. "What are you doing in a Church?" we ask them? An interesting reply ensues. "Well, we were kind of curious to see where you religious guys are up to on all this." Then a pause. "Don't get me wrong, we don't believe in God for one moment," says one of the party, "but you know this Noah bloke...well, he's kind of a hero figure, a sort of Centuries old conservationist right?"

Another pause for reflection. Then the real crux of the matter. "You see, it's a good story that engages people. That's the problem for motivating people when you're an atheist. We don't really have that much in the way of stories."

Plan for Development

1. We aim to steadily increase our theological and liturgical resources for church communities, broadening their content and take-up by congregations. Our intention is that Operation Noah supporters will introduce our theological and liturgical texts and resources to their church leaders, delivering the message that now is the time to consciously reconnect faith with the fundamentals of ecology, sustainability and care.
2. Over the course of the next 7 years, we aim to connect with 'disciples' - committed individuals within communities – who will take the core messages about faith and environmental care back to their communities and so spread support for the movement supporting transformation to zero carbon.
3. Ultimately, our aim is to establish an 'academy' which will train disciples and provide them with resources and support in their work to engage others.

3. Lifestyles

Operation Noah aims to promote the concept and practice of 'Low Carbon Christian Living'. We see this as being along the lines of a faith version of Transition Towns, meaning that it is a community, as well as an individual response to the climate change impacts of our hitherto carbon-intensive lifestyles.

We look to church leaders to lead a movement towards Low Carbon Christian Living. An example of an initial practical, but also symbolic, expression of leaders' commitment would be for them to move out of large, draughty houses, including old vicarages, to modern, energy efficient homes.

Statement of ambition:

In seven years' time, we aim to have encouraged a spread of church communities in Britain to formally adopt standards for Low Carbon Christian Living. This means implementing changes in lifestyle practices across the community which will markedly reduce carbon footprint.

For Operation Noah, a key tenet of the need for a transformation in our economy and society is that lifestyle transition must be redistributive. Adjusting to and mitigating climate change through changing lifestyles will inevitably involve costs which are clearly much easier to bear for those with wealth or on high incomes. Further, the damaging impacts of climate change within the UK as well as in poor countries of the world, are known to be more deeply felt by the poor, who, to give just one example, live in lower quality housing with less access to insurance.

There are deeply rooted social justice elements in caring for each other and for creation. In implementing Low Carbon Christian Living Operation Noah would actively support initiatives to help those on low incomes, such as car pooling, community gardening, support for retrofitting homes, and energy sourcing through renewables.

Work to date

As a first, deeply symbolic step towards Low-Carbon Christian Living, Operation Noah launched its *Reclaim Christmas* campaign in the autumn of 2008. This campaign is a clarion call to our supporters to engage in a simpler, more sustainable celebration. The campaign was launched by the Bishop of Birmingham, with a major series of events in his community. It is intended that the *Reclaim Christmas* campaign will spread more widely year on year as we actively engage more participants.

'Reclaim Christmas' Launched in Birmingham, England

After an early morning carol singing session at a recycling centre in Birmingham, caught on camera by the local BBC TV crew, the Bishop of Birmingham cycled off into the mist with his entourage in the direction of St Philip's Cathedral.

Around a hundred people attended the cathedral. The service began with a "lament for Creation", a liturgy which built in themes of repentance and renewal. Then we cleared the decks for the "great green give away." More than 350 presents had been donated by local parishes: scented candles, unread books, CDs and DVDs, arty calendars. In tune with the anti-consumption theme of Operation Noah's Reclaim Christmas campaign, we'd asked people not to buy more this year, just simply to look at their possessions and concentrate on excess. We were amazed at the high quality of the offerings! And so were passers by, who were cajoled into spending a few minutes inside God's house in the first weekend of Advent to enjoy a warm drink and a free gift. "What's the catch?" many asked. "No catch," came the reply. "Just come in out of the cold for a few minutes." We explained what we were doing to incredulous looks. A group of visiting Muslims from Cairo went away with coloured napkins, smiling away and talking of wonderful Abrahamic hospitality. Other local people, initially guarded, left after a chat, saying: "you know I have lived here fifteen years and I have never been inside this place. Isn't it beautiful?!"

Plan for Development

1. We aim to grow the *Reclaim Christmas* campaign year on year by raising awareness across communities via staff and volunteer visits, speaking engagements and through our website. Our ambition is to establish a movement of people around the country who are advocates for a simpler, less

consumer and more celebratory Christmas. With a movement being established, the momentum for changing attitudes to Christmas and to ending the culture of buying needlessly will gain sway.

2. Over the course of the next year, we intend to develop the concept of Low Carbon Christian Living, and to develop appropriate standards, actions and resources to support communities in radically reducing their emissions. We will draw on lessons learned from the Transition Towns initiative and other community activities. We will develop a detailed manifesto which will guide people in cutting their emissions *right now* by as much as 80% to reflect the government's target for 2050 and so demonstrate to leaders and politicians that this level of reduction can be done without delay.
3. Following the development of a manifesto for Low Carbon Christian Living we will, within the next eighteen months start to roll out a programme for implementation. This will involve offering faith communities the leadership challenge of being prophetic, cutting their emissions by 80% now, ie: to the equivalent of 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year, way ahead of the government's schedule for doing so. We recognise that this will not be easy, but believe that by working in community, dedicated people of faith can and will rise to the challenge. We will collect testimonies and witness statements from people engaged in the experience to document not just the practical, economic implications of Low Carbon Christian Living, but also the potential well-being effects of living more simply and engaging in community.

4. Media and Advocacy

Operation Noah benefits from the background and track record of two members of its staff in particular. Ann Pettifor, Operation Noah's Executive Director, is renowned for her expertise in advocacy and mobilisation having led the hugely successful Jubilee 2000 movement at the end of the 1990s. Meanwhile, Mark Dowd, Campaign Strategist, worked for many years on flagship BBC programmes including Panorama and Newsnight, before turning to independent documentary making.

Both Ann and Mark bring to Operation Noah not only expertise in media and advocacy but also an extensive network of contacts across Christian groups and leaders, other faith communities, print and broadcast media, and political leaders.

Statement of ambition:

In 7 years' time, Operation Noah's ambition is for our advocacy, along with that of partners, to have created a demonstrable movement for change among opinion-formers and decision-makers in Britain.

Work to date

With Church leaders: In its short two-years of campaigning, Operation Noah's networks have brought the campaign to the table with the offices of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops of London, Liverpool and Birmingham. As a result, Operation Noah played a key role in organising the speakers for the Environmental Plenary of the Lambeth Conference of Bishops last summer.

In addition, Operation Noah has been asked to deliver keynote addresses, including at the United Reformed Church General Assembly, and the Diocese of Bradford Synod.

With government and MPs: Operation Noah, along with other NGOs, has been invited to participate in meetings at Downing Street with the Prime Minister and his adviser on climate change.

In the approach to the Copenhagen International climate change negotiations in December 2009, Operation Noah has sent briefing materials to all MPs researchers in the House of Commons, as well as to the offices of a number of the Lords. This was followed up by a briefing meeting in the House of Commons attended by 28 MPs' researchers. Attendees listened to a presentation about Operation Noah's 2009 ARK campaign in the run-up to Copenhagen, and watched a film of the ARK launch event in Cardiff in January 2009.

With the media: Articles by and interviews with Operation Noah staff have been published across church and mainstream print media, including regular pieces in The Church Times, Ekklesia and The Guardian, as well as on BBC radio and television channels, for example, Mark Dowd, Campaign Strategist, was interviewed in the first of a BBC1 series at Christmas 2008 entitled *Christmas Voices*.

Christmas Voices

Coming at the time of the credit crunch, the Reclaim Christmas theme caught the media imagination. BBCTV were planning a four part series, Christmas Voices, presented by opera singer Lesley Garrett, and instantly latched on to what was happening in Birmingham. They asked ON's Mark Dowd to present short film about the campaign which centred on a local Christian couple who had pledged this year to make hand-crafted jewellery with their two young children and also support local charity shops by looking for bargain gifts on their shelves. "It's not just a cost-cutting exercise because money is tighter this year," they said, "we find that we are doubling the number of people we are giving gifts to because we are keeping it simple." The film was shown on BBC1's 10am prime time morning religious affairs slot and Mark was asked to debate the merits of the campaign with BBC Radio 4 Moral Maze's Claire Fox. She tried to paint the initiative as mean and puritanical, but was countered by Operation Noah's good humour and the presence of ON's special Christmas gifts: hand-made, scented effervescent bath cubes!

Plan for Development

1. Operation Noah will continue to build an effective case for rapidly de-carbonising the UK economy, marshalling arguments drawn from latest scientific evidence as well as work around the wellbeing gains of simpler living, and living in community with each other, with our faiths and with our environment. We believe that by truth-telling, grounded in strong evidence, together with 'low-carbon living' as an example to others, we will achieve a growing influence on leaders and individuals who are concerned about climate change and understand that a robust response is needed.
2. Our advocacy work will continue through all our outreach activities to engage individuals as well as opinion-formers in the media and decision-makers in the church, local authorities and government.

5. Partnerships

At Operation Noah we understand that churches and faith communities work well together when presented with a simple template, a clear direction, and a common goal which resonates truthfully for different groups. To achieve a shared mission we believe there is a role for a pioneering and inspiring body that others respect and seek to consult. We believe that Operation Noah can fulfil that role because it is a fresh, independent organisation that dares to push the boundaries further perhaps than more established campaigning organisations. We believe Operation Noah is able to occupy neutral ground while pressing for a truthful, and therefore more radical, response to the climate crisis.

Much of our thinking on this issue stems from experience of the Jubilee 2000 movement. Jubilee 2000 highlighted how different groups can ally purposefully behind a shared mission, raising the seas for everyone involved so that their individual campaigns and activities in their own specific locations have a place in a wider movement.

Statement of ambition:

In 7 years' time, Operation Noah's ambition is to be established as a respected driver of a movement for radical change, which others including faith groups, churches and other climate change campaigns, seek to consult and act with.

Work to date

Operation Noah has demonstrated that it has the energy and imagination to bring together different groups in common cause on climate change. Our ARK campaign events, so far held in Cardiff, London and Doncaster, not only bring together church groups, but also other faith groups, local schools, local authorities and campaigning organisations including WWF, Oxfam and Christian Aid.

Partnership for the ARK

Joined-up campaigning is something that Operation Noah has been especially good at. Perhaps being tiny in size is an asset in that traditionally larger NGOs do not feel threatened by our presence! So in Cardiff in Wales this January, as we launched our "Ark Campaign" on a local lightship owned by the Welsh churches, ON mustered an alliance of CAFOD, Tearfund, Christian Aid, WWF, Churches Together, Oxfam and the Evangelical Alliance of Wales. The symbolism of the Ark was a flexible instrument that bound both religious and secular, conservationist agendas.

Since the event in Cardiff, a similar approach has been used in Doncaster in the North of England, the parliamentary constituency of Ed Miliband MP, the British Government's Energy and Climate Change Secretary. More than seven members of the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition joined forces on a local rally, a service in St George's Minster and an hour-long Q and A with the Cabinet minister. Green Party members rubbed shoulders with local Baptists and Quakers.

Joined up campaigning – we need more of it.

Plan for Development

1. Operation Noah will maintain and expand its productive dialogue with a range of partners in the religious, scientific and campaigning communities to facilitate information-sharing and to maximise opportunities for engagement in partnership.
2. We will work over the next 2-4 years towards defining a common or shared high-level approach and top-line message on climate change, which resonates faithfully with the public, media and policy-making audiences, behind which a grand partnership of organisations can ally and a genuine movement for change can be mobilised.

Operation Noah Management and Resources

The Board of Directors of Operation Noah provides dedicated leadership and direction for the campaign. The Board has a membership of 15, drawn from across the Christian denominations. Over the next 3 years, we intend to broaden representation on the Board to include those of other faiths, and none. Our intention is for the campaign to benefit from as wide a range of perspectives as possible, albeit with the common mission to see bravery in policy reform from faith and political leaders which will successfully maintain the liveability of the planet.

Operation Noah is currently staffed by the Campaign Director, the Campaign Strategist, Parliamentary Affairs and Campaigns Officer, Web Campaigns Officer, and Research Fellow. All members of staff are currently part-time. We would like to see a steady expansion in staffing levels over the period of the next 7 years, in order to increase Operation Noah's outreach, profile and impact.

After 2 years of campaigning, our supporter base currently numbers around 4,500, nationwide. We will of course work hard to expand our membership, through our physical and online outreach to communities and individuals.

Our funding comes primarily through sizeable donations from grant-making foundations and private individuals. Our strategy is to become self-financing through our membership at the earliest opportunity. We are heartened to see a sustained increase already in supporter donations and proceeds from some of our print resources, but we expect to continue to rely on grant-making organisations for several years, although to a decreasing extent within 2 years.

Conclusion

To sum up this strategic report, Operation Noah has achieved a remarkable amount in 2 short years of campaigning. The campaign is well known and well respected among senior church leaders, who are making space in their diaries to host and lead Operation Noah events. The campaign is also steadily and consistently growing its grassroots constituency.

Our plan for the next 7 years is ambitious. We want to expand our current activities and add new ones to generate a groundswell of support for and action on reform to our lifestyles and economic systems which are commensurate with the challenge we face from climate change.

We look forward to the next 7 years with a strong mission to protect Creation, great hope in the face of evidence that the challenge is mounting, and faith that humanity will do what is required to turn around the juggernaut of climate change.