**Let your love shine in 2020**

Jemima Parker, Diocese of Leeds Environment Officer

There are so many ways of showing love. You may think of Christians showing the love of Jesus through acts of compassion and service, or by their patience and perseverance in testing times. But changing your electricity supplier might not come top of the list! However, this simple act can be a surprisingly significant act of kindness.

About half of our electricity in the UK is still produced by burning fossil fuels (mostly gas and oil) to make steam to turn turbines. We need to stop burning fossil fuels as they produce carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, which is trapping too much of the sun’s energy in our atmosphere, leading to global heating.

That threatens all the things I love; my children, coffee, spring lambs in the Yorkshire Dales, sandy Yorkshire beaches, horse chestnut and beech trees, migrating birds and my warm dry home. All of them will be affected in the coming decade by climate breakdown and we all need to do something to limit its impact.

Our personal actions matter, they impact other people and nature for good or bad. We are accountable to God for all our actions and we can have more impact than we think, as other people will follow our lead.

That’s why our Bishops and others across the Diocese are pledging to *Make a Difference: Make a Pledge,* using the *10 Pledges* to commit to personal actions that help to live out our belief that we are called to care for God’s creation. From eating a couple of meals a week of locally produced food, to finding out how to drive more efficiently, the *10 Pledges* give you an action a month to help reduce your carbon footprint.

The first pledge, is to switch to a green energy tariff. It’s not a big deal, but it can make a big difference.

There has been a big shift in the last 10 years. In 2010, coal, gas and oil were used to generate more than 10 times as much electricity as renewables. Since then electricity generation from renewables has more than quadrupled to around 40% of all UK electricity.

To continue the transition away from fossil fuels, energy companies need more investment and a clear message from consumers that we want our electricity from clean, renewable sources, such as solar, wind and hydro.

By switching to a 100% renewable electricity tariff you stop giving money from your energy bill, to companies who invest in burning fossil fuels and start supporting the development of more low-carbon energy generation. You can sometimes get a better deal too while you are at it.

So, show you care about your future and all the things you love in Yorkshire, and beyond, by taking the pledge to contact your electricity supplier. You can find the full list of pledges and let us know how you get on at [www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/what-can-i-do](http://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/what-can-i-do)

Let your electric love shine!