**The C Word! (Carbon)**

What is all the fuss about? Well, in a nutshell the world has 512 Giga-tons (512,000,000,000) of carbon dioxide (CO2) that is left in our global “carbon budget” for humanity to emit before global tipping point when temperatures will rise above 2°C, causing a global meltdown, especially in the poorest communities.

Allow me to elucidate. CO2 enters the atmosphere, and stays there, blocking some UV from reaching the earth, and stopping the reflected UV from leaving the earth, giving us a blanket around the world, causing a temperature rise.

Simple? No! What about Methane you may ask. CH4 is 80 times more potent than carbon BUT it is short lived in the atmosphere (if you count 20 years as short-lived). 

Everything we do has a carbon footprint. Here are a few to think about:

10g or less– Emails, a web-search, drying your hands, aplastic bag, a pint of water

10-100g – Ironing a shirt, cycling a mile, a banana, an hour’s

100g to 1kg – a mug of tea/coffee, a mile by bus, a punnet of strawberries, a letter, a shower. 1kg rubbish, driving a mile, a pint of milk, 1kg cement

1kg to 10kg – a paperback book, a bottle of wine, taking a bath, a burger, a box of eggs, 1kg rice, leaving lights on, a pair of trousers

10kg to 100kg – a pair of shoes, a night in a hotel, being cremated, a carpet, 1kg cheese

100kg to 1 tonne – insulating a loft, a mortgage, a computer (and its use), a necklace

1 tonne to 10 tonnes – heart bypass, PV panels, return flight to Hong Kong, 1 tonne of fertilizer, a person

10 tonnes to 100 tonnes – a new car, a wind turbine, a house,

100 tonnes to 1million tonnes – having a child, a swimming pool, 1 hectare of deforestation, a space shuttle flight, a university

More than 1 million tonnes – a volcano, a bushfire, a war, a country and so on..

(lots of assumptions in this lot, you need to get a copy of the book-see below)

So do we stand a chance? A slim one! Short of blocking volcanoes we can all do a little bit. Half of the world’s food and protein goes to feeding animals so we can eat them. And animals have a very high carbon footprint.

I did not make these figures up, they come from a book, How Bad are Bananas, by Mike Berners Lee a world expert on carbon footprinting, and the person who has helped the Diocese of Leeds put a carbon footprint programme for churches together. So please think about this, and when asked to help with the church carbon footprinting, please do so with God’s grace. It is His planet not yours.

Andy Ive

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