

Please choose the planet on 2nd May: vote for the Green Party candidate

Parish of Stanton St Gabriel – Parish Council Elections

Our parish is a haven. We live in one of the most beautiful corners of the country, facing the sea and surrounded by a breath-taking landscape – looked after by hugely dedicated local farmers. We seem to be blessed. It's an extraordinary privilege to live here.

"If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon." ⁱ David Attenborough

But the uncomfortable truth we are hearing almost every day is that we face a climate and planetary crisis. Time is running out very fast. Unless we take radical, concerted, sustained action now, significant parts of the world will become uninhabitable; we will see mass migration across continents; loss of insect species, soil degradation and ocean acidification will leave us unable to feed the human population; and societies are likely to break down completely.

The World Bank reported in 2018 that countries need to prepare for over 100 million internally displaced people due to the effects of climate change in addition to millions of international refugees. ⁱⁱ World Bank

The overwhelming majority of scientists (including The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] – the UN's independent body for assessing climate change science) are united in saying that we face an unprecedented climate emergency.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, for generations to come, for species that are going extinct daily, we need to act.

"About half of all plants and animal species in the world's most biodiverse places are at risk of extinction due to climate change." ⁱⁱⁱ WWF

What has this got to do with Stanton St Gabriel? Well, everything. Of course, the 67 of us cannot change the world on our own. But we can take a stand and join the growing demand that the oceans, the wildlife, the trees, the insects, the fields, the very soil... be listened to, and respected, before it's too late.

We can turn our parish green on the electoral map and send a signal to our Parliament that our environment now has to come first. Action has to be taken at national, European and global levels. And the only way to get that action taken, is to send an urgent message to our politicians that these are the issues we need them to concentrate on now.

I am part of the Green Party's movement to turn the UK's parish, town, city and county council map green. The more councils that include Green Party members, the clearer the message we can send to Central Government. When Westminster and Whitehall hear us across the country saying clearly that there is one overriding priority – acting to save the planet now – then they will pay attention.

“Recent research suggests that human societies will experience disruptions to their basic functioning within less than ten years due to climate stress. Such disruptions include increased levels of malnutrition, starvation, disease, civil conflict and war – and will not avoid affluent nations.”^{iv} Professor Jem Bendell

I have edited and published recent research on this subject; I have studied the findings of scientists and the arguments of those who say that humans are not responsible for climate change. I am absolutely convinced that we are at a turning-point for our planet and that we can take action to reduce the impact of climate change, over-population and pollution.

Each of our votes is a small thing but, together, we can turn our parish green on the electoral map and be part of a movement to take action to stabilise carbon emissions and slow down species extinction before it is too late.

Thank you for reading,

Andrew Carey

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P.S. I have lived and worked (as a publisher) in our parish for over 30 years. As your councillor, I will listen to your wishes in relation to the A35, the local environment and all parish matters and I will represent you to the very best of my ability on the Char Valley Parish Council.

I have the greatest respect for Chris Everidge and the work that she has done for our parish and I will try to follow in her footsteps.



ⁱ BBC News (2019) available online at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46398057>

ⁱⁱ World Bank: Rigaud, K. K. et al, (2018) 'Groundswell : Preparing for Internal Climate Migration', available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29461>

ⁱⁱⁱ World Wide Fund for Nature (2018) available at: http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?324471/Half-of-plant-and-animal-species-at-risk-from-climate-change-in-worlds-most-important-natural-places

^{iv} Bendell, Jem (2018) 'Deep Adaptation: A Map for Navigating Climate Tragedy' IFLAS Occasional Paper 2, www.iflas.info. Jem Bendell is Professor of Sustainability Leadership at the University of Cumbria.