



The Parish of St. Mary York

# Faith in Action

*Building hope for tomorrow in the face of climate change*

## Are we being good ancestors?

Guest Author: Hannah Westner

Because of the perilous state of our world right now, never before have we, as individual humans, had the ability – or the responsibility – to have a life-altering impact on the future through our everyday decisions and actions.

What we do every day matters ... a lot ... to our children and grandchildren and our other future descendants.

As an amateur genealogist who has traced my ancestors back for 6 or 7 generations to about the 1600s (I know, I know, I'm just getting started) I hope that my descendants in 2150 and later (6 or 7 generations from now) have the luxury of looking back on my life. And I hope they can say that I made a positive difference.

And today I can make that positive difference without needing to make a huge voyage to a new world. I can have an impact by choosing to buy fewer things, I can turn down my heat, I can turn off my car instead of letting it idle, I can vacation nearby instead of flying far away, I can grow my own food, I can write my MLAs and MPs to encourage them to make wise decisions.

In church we honour God as the creator, and give thanks for the Earth, our common home. But if we then return to our everyday lives and routinely consume large amounts of resources, and “foul our nest” by upsetting countless parts of the ecosystem, we are not really living out our faith.<sup>1</sup>

If I change nothing today, my descendants won't have any choice at all but to fight wars over water, or to become environmental refugees fleeing flooding or fire or worse. Today we still have choices. Let's use them wisely and work for positive change - reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, protecting natural resources, leaving oil in the ground, and fighting for justice for our neighbours.



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<sup>1</sup> Jim Antal. 2018. Climate Church, Climate World. Rowman & Littlefield <https://www.jimantal.com/book>