



Press Release

For Immediate Use. 14/10/2021

Climate Action comes to Wakefield

Wakefield is coming together on Friday October 15th to send a message to World Leaders heading to Glasgow for COP26.

A group of climate activists are walking from Spain to Glasgow, and arriving in Wakefield at 12 noon where they will be greeted by the Mayor, the Bishop, young people and others, at a rally organised by Just Transition Wakefield, to be held on the Cathedral steps.

Explaining why the Cathedral is supporting the event, Bishop Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield said "Climate change is a great threat to our world. Many people will suffer over the coming decades if action is not taken now to reduce carbon emissions causing global warming of our planet. Now is the time for urgent, radical and responsible action. Transforming the present situation requires the international community to act with greater ambition and fairness, in all aspects of its policies and strategies. It also requires individuals to change our behaviours."

Stuart Boothman from Just Transition Wakefield said "It is clear from the support from the Council, the Cathedral, Wakefield College, from schools and the many people who have contacted us about the event, that this issue is hitting a chord with everyone."

Adele Wright, Head of Curriculum for Hospitality and Catering at Wakefield College said "We are delighted to support the Spanish Walkers on their journey from Madrid to Glasgow in order to attend CoP26. This is a great opportunity for our Hospitality and Catering students to cater for this event by providing lunch for the walkers before they embark on the next leg of their journey".

Stuart went on to say "A team of craftivists have been busy making our new banner which will have its first outing on Friday – it is going to be a vibrant and colourful scene with flags, banners and speeches. So many people have worked so hard to make this happen, especially

the walkers themselves – we want to thank each of them personally. This will be a great event!”

The rally will be held on the Cathedral steps, starting at 12 noon.

ENDS

Notes to the Editor

- In the past 30 years, global emissions have doubled, and are still rising. The world is currently on track for 2°C of warming around 2030, and over 4°C of warming before the end of the century. This would be a humanitarian and ecological catastrophe and must be avoided at all costs.
- Please see attached the press statement from the Spanish group.
- COP26 is the name given to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) talks. COP stands for Conference Of the Parties – an annual conference of all nations signed up to the UNFCCC. This is the 26th such conference that should have happened in 2020, but was delayed by the Coronavirus Pandemic. See <https://ukcop26.org/>
- The event in Wakefield is supported by Wakefield Council including a welcome by the Mayor, Tracey Austin and Deputy Leader Jack Hemingway, a welcome by the Bishop, and a meal cooked by Wakefield College.
- As well as the Mayor, the Bishop and Cllr Hemingway, there will be speakers from local schools, from other young people from a range of backgrounds, from Trade Unions and from other people – who all come from Wakefield and support immediate climate action.
- Just Transition Wakefield was created in May 2019, following the With Banners Held High festival that year. See <https://justtransitionwakefield.org.uk/>
- Just Transition Wakefield started as an alliance between Wakefield and District TUC and Wakefield Friends of the Earth, but now counts many organisations and individuals as active members (as well as the thousands of trade union members represented by Trades Council).
- Just Transition Wakefield is pushing for the transition to a zero carbon economy to be socially and economically just – so that no-one is left behind as green jobs become the norm.
- Just Transition Wakefield also works with similar groups across the region, specifically through the Yorkshire and Humber

COP26 Coalition, through the West Yorkshire Association of Trades Councils and through the regional Friends of the Earth network.

- Please contact the council press office for comments from Cllr Hemingway and the Mayor Cllr Tracey Austin:

pressoffice@wakefield.gov.uk

Contact for further comment and detail:

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