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**Press Release 26/10/21**

**Cathedral Bells to Ring out for Climate Justice**

Worcester Cathedral is joining in the nationwide call for churches to ring their bells, ahead of the United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow next week.

The Ring Out For Climate Change campaign is being led by Edward Gildea, a Christian Aid climate campaign organiser, who is asking churches to ring their bells as a warning of the climate emergency and to mark the start of the conference.

The Dean of Worcester, Peter Atkinson, said: “Here at Worcester Cathedral, we believe that today is a time of real national crisis and so, on Sunday 31st October our young ringers will be sounding our bells to warn the people ofWorcesterof the threat we face.

“Extreme weather events have already affected us in Worcester through flooding, and as Christians we are deeply concerned with the millions around the world who are being profoundly affected.

“We are proud to join this initiative to sound the alarm for climate justice, as we work towards our goal of becoming an Eco Church.”

The UN Climate Conference, CoP26, will see 196 world leaders and an expected 20,000 delegates meet in Glasgow and work together to commit to a reduction in emissions to avoid a climate emergency.

It comes just months after the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change described global warming as a ‘code red for humanity.’

The bell ringing campaign has already been endorsed by the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, the CoE’s lead bishop on the environment, who will join the delegation in Glasgow.

He said: “Church bells have traditionally been rung through the centuries to raise the alarm for local communities. The recent ‘code red’ report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an alarm call for us all.

“I am happy to endorse a nationwide ‘ring out for climate change’ as a symbol of warning, but also of hope, that this conference will lead to action for us all, like Jesus, to tread more gently on our single island planet home and care more for those already adversely affected by climate change, especially in the economically poorest places on earth,” he added.

As well as this special ringing, Worcester Cathedral is carrying out a number of initiatives in the coming weeks to show its commitment to the climate crisis.

Half term at the Cathedral is ‘Cop-tober’ and features family craft activities focused on the environment and nature; during the COP26 conference, there will be a dedicated prayer space and prayers offered every day for the conference attendees; members of the Cathedral Eco Group and community will take part in an Ecumenical Walk of Witness through Worcester on the National Day of Action for COP26 (6 November), walking between local churches, offering readings, prayers and reflections.

**[ENDS]**

For press enquiries about Worcester Cathedral, please contact sarahbowyer@worcestercathedral.org.uk.

**Notes to editors**

Worcester Cathedral has been a place of Christian worship and prayer for fourteen centuries; the present building dates back to 1084 and is dedicated to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Described as possibly the most interesting of all England's cathedrals, especially architecturally, Worcester Cathedral was founded in 680. Saint Oswald then built another cathedral in 983, and established a monastery attached to it. Saint Wulfstan began the present building in 1084 replacing the earlier cathedrals.

The Cathedral's attractions include King John's Tomb, Prince Arthur's Chantry, the early 12th Century Chapter House, St Wulfstan's Crypt, medieval cloisters, magnificent Victorian stained glass and spectacular views from the top of the Cathedral tower.