

People's Emergency Briefing — St Saviours Church Mayoral Address 22-09-26

- Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us for this important **People's Emergency Briefing**.
- I warmly welcome fellow councillors, parliamentarians (thank you Daisy), community leaders, environmental groups and residents.
- As Mayor, my role is politically impartial. Although I also bring my experience as a Green councillor, tonight is not about party politics or assigning blame. It is about evidence, shared responsibility and action.
- The climate and nature emergency is not simply an environmental issue. It concerns our health, homes, food security, economy, national security and the resilience of our communities.
- We must be honest: climate change is not waiting somewhere in the distance. **It is happening now.**
- It is too late to prevent every consequence or reverse all the damage—but it is emphatically **not too late to determine how severe those consequences become.**
- Every fraction of a degree matters. Every tonne of carbon avoided matters. Every habitat restored, home protected and community better prepared matters.
- Governments, councils and major institutions must act at the necessary scale. But we must never underestimate our own influence—as residents, consumers, employers, volunteers and voters.
- Through my parish council work, I have seen what can be achieved through tree planting, river monitoring, habitat restoration, water conservation, litter-picking and community stewardship.
- These are only examples. Across St Albans, numerous environmental and community groups can help us turn concern into practical action.
- Tonight, I invite each of us to consider three commitments.

1. Reduce your impact

- Choose one significant and measurable change—not twenty token gestures, but something meaningful.
- Improve your home's energy efficiency. Drive or fly less. Walk and cycle more. Eat a more plant-rich diet, reduce food waste, or buy less and repair more.
- Ask yourself:

What is the most significant realistic change I can make within the next three months?

2. Strengthen local resilience

- We must prepare for hotter summers, drought, flooding, pressure on food supplies and further biodiversity loss.
- Consider your home's vulnerability to heat and flooding. Support vulnerable neighbours during extreme weather. Conserve water, care for trees and create space for nature.
- Join local projects involving rivers, clean air, community gardens, flood resilience or habitat restoration.
- Ask yourself:

What can we do together to make our neighbourhood safer and more resilient?

3. Multiply your influence

- Personal choices matter—but their greatest power comes when they spread.
- Talk constructively about what you have learned. Bring someone else into the conversation. Encourage your workplace, school, faith group or community organisation to make a practical commitment.
- Ask councillors, MPs and public bodies—respectfully but persistently—for evidence-based action, investment and accountability.
- Most importantly, join and support established community and environmental groups. None of us needs to face this challenge alone.
- Ask yourself:

Who else can I involve—and what decision can we influence together?

Closing

- We must **think globally and act locally**.
- An ocean is made up of individual drops of water. In the same way, one personal action may appear small—but multiplied across a community, a country and the world, its impact becomes considerable.
- What we need this evening—and long beyond it—is **critical and kind thinking, followed by massive action**.
- My mayoral theme is **Belonging Through Service**. When we join a group, serve a cause or become active in our community, we gain a profound sense of belonging.
- That belonging enriches our lives—but it also connects our efforts, amplifies our influence and greatly increases our collective impact.
- So, let us leave here determined to:

Reduce our impact. Strengthen our resilience. Multiply our influence.

- The film has given us the briefing. Let tonight be the moment when information becomes intention—and intention becomes action.
- Because individual action matters—but individual action, multiplied through community, can become a movement.



Matt Fisher

- Councillor Matt Fisher

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF
THE CITY AND DISTRICT OF ST ALBANS