



The Environmental Challenge

Why does it matter?



Brian Cuthbertson
Head of Environmental Challenge
Diocese of London

“Titanic will founder!”



“A mathematical certainty”?

How bad, how fast, how soon?



“It is the summer sea ice loss passing the point of no return, leading to unstoppable catastrophic Arctic methane feedbacks sooner or later... puts us in a state of planetary emergency today.”

John Nissen, AMEG Chairman

“The fall-off in ice volume is so fast that it is going to bring us to zero very quickly. 2015 is a very serious prediction and I think I am pretty much persuaded that that’s when it will happen.”

Prof. Peter Wadhams, Leading Arctic Expert, Cambridge University, January 2012

“Dramatic and unprecedented plumes of methane – a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide – have been seen bubbling to the surface of the Arctic Ocean by scientists undertaking an extensive survey of the region.

The scale and volume of the methane release has astonished the head of the Russian research team who has been surveying the seabed of the East Siberian Arctic Shelf off northern Russia for nearly 20 years.”

The Independent

Climate change is irreversible



Says who?



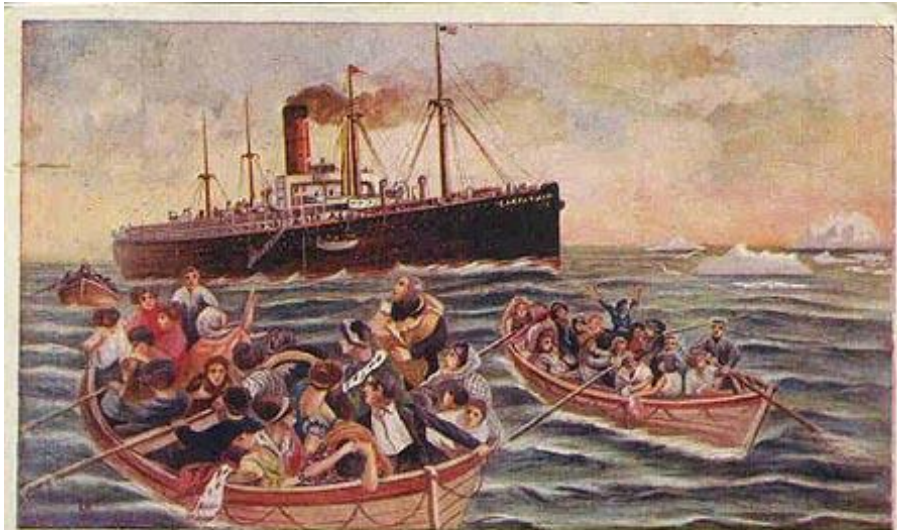
“A [new scientific study](#) led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reaches a powerful conclusion about the climate change caused by future increases of carbon dioxide: to a large extent, there’s no going back.

The pioneering study, led by NOAA senior scientist Susan Solomon, shows how changes in surface temperature, rainfall, and sea level are largely irreversible for more than 1,000 years after CO₂ emissions are completely stopped. The findings appear during the week of January 26th 2009 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

‘Our study convinced us that current choices regarding ... emissions will have legacies that will irreversibly change the planet,’ said Solomon, who is based at [NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory](#) in Boulder, Colorado.”

NOAA
(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

There is no Carpathia



The arrival of "S. S. Carpathia" after the disaster - April 15th 1912



So why does this matter?



“We began by thinking climate change was a problem for our grandchildren; then we discovered it was a problem for our children; finally we realised it’s a problem for us.”

The Rt Hon Joan Ruddock MP

Can we make any difference?



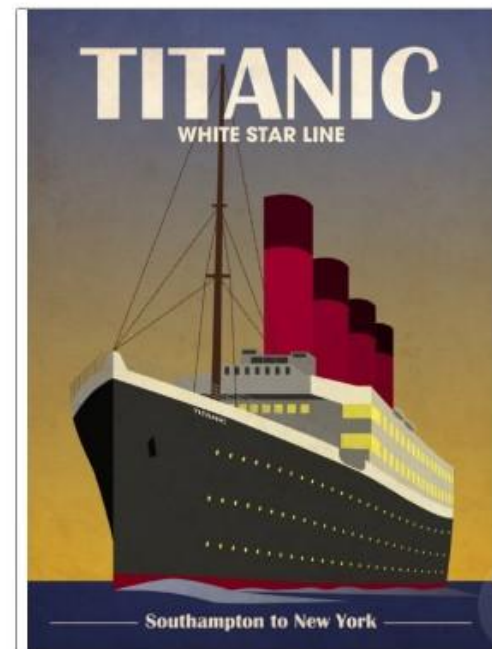
“A robust, quantitative assessment of our predicament suggests that urgent and radical reductions in emissions from developed nations are required now and throughout the coming decade, with substantial action from the rest of the world very soon after.”

Dr John Broderick,
Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research,
in the New Statesman

Role models?



- The Captain?
- The shipping company?
- The shipbuilder?
- The owner?
- **The band?**
- **Jack and Rose?**



Sustainable lifeboats?



Or more like this?
St John Wembley – zero carbon Vicarage

“There are still grounds for hope”



“Climate change is one of a matrix of trends in our environment, each with the capacity to devastate economies, societies and ecologies. All must be tackled together, with speed, determination and perseverance.

The nature and scale of the challenges ahead demand renewed respect and reverence for the natural world, united to practical, determined and unwavering action over the coming years – and generations ...

Most importantly, our hope for a safe and sustainable future is firmly grounded upon the commitment of God to his creation and to human beings, ‘made in his image’.”

Church and Earth 2009-2016





THE PLANET NEEDS

YOU"

Thanks for listening!

(and let's switch off the lights
when we leave)





The Environmental Challenge

Not quite the end yet!

Brian Cuthbertson

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