**A few tips on writing to your MP/MS as part of the Climate Coalition’s Show the Love campaign**

1. You must include your name and address, so that the MP/MS can see that you live in their constituency or region. (But you do not have to be registered to vote at this address– so children, overseas citizens, students registered at their termtime address and those who have recently moved can all write).

2. With this campaign, it is better to write a letter rather than send an email – although a few people may like to design emails involving green hearts. MPs/MSs are inundated with emails, so most are read only by junior staff. A letter with a green heart enclosed will have much more impact on the constituency staff and therefore on the elected member.

3. A brief personal message – written on the heart or enclosed with it – is better than a long essay. For example, if you are a birdwatcher you may have noticed changes to which birds you see due to migration changes caused by climate change. Refer to this and say how much you love birds. If you are a gardener, you will be aware of the changes in flowering times and planting times for plants and vegetables. Refer to this and say how much you love gardening or growing your own food. If you are a walker, you will have seen storm damage in local woodlands, or local buildings. Climate change means more damaging storms. Refer to this and say how much you love your local area - and so on – there are as many messages as there are people who can write them. If the MP/MS wants to know more about the topics you raise, they have researchers who can look this up on the internet.

4. As several other charities use hearts to campaign in February, the heart must be green, and make clear reference to ‘The time is now to protect what we love from the climate crisis’.

5. Please ask your MP/MS to sign the Climate Coalition The Time Is Now Declaration - <https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration>. Please also sign it yourself.

6. If you know that your MP/MS is already active on environmental issues, please thank them – everyone likes to be appreciated! Likewise if you wish to thank them for other work they are doing – but try not to distract from the message of this campaign. The campaign is primarily about what we love and are concerned about.

7. You don’t have to refer to your church membership, but if you are willing to do so it will show the depth of commitment from the Christian community.