

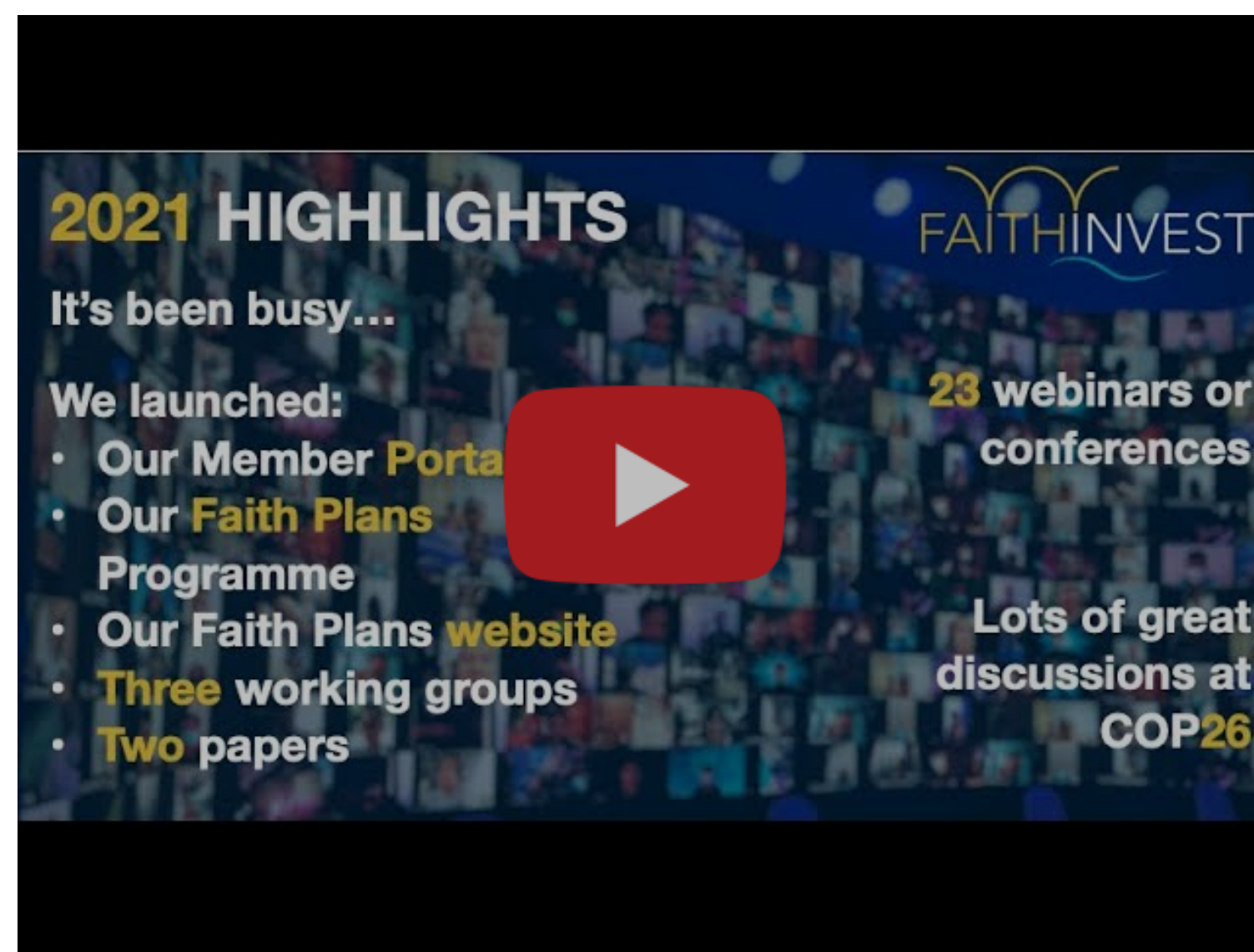


Now is the auspicious time

We look back on a busy and packed year with our two-minute video showing our highlights of 2021 – click below to watch. And we're looking forward – because despite the tumultuous nature of the past year, we are full of hope and optimism. Read why:

- [‘The power of hope’ – Martin Palmer](#)
- [‘Now is the auspicious time’ – Lorna Gold](#)
- [‘Investing in line with your values’ – Nana Francois](#)
- Highlights of our great media coverage over the year
- Faiths Rising: Climate action beyond COP26

WATCH NOW



Whew! It's been a busy year. Watch our two-minute 2021 Highlights video

As a difficult year draws to its close, Martin Palmer is feeling hopeful

It's been a momentous year for all kinds of reasons, not least the ongoing Covid pandemic and the recent UN climate conference, COP26. But also because of an announcement two months ago which, while it made a quieter splash than the other headline topics of the year, nevertheless contained something truly ground-breaking – and hopeful.

On October 4, representatives of most of the major faiths of the world, including the Pope, signed a [statement](#) which, for the first time, agreed something unique. Rather than just calling on governments to take action on climate change, they also pledged to do so themselves.



They each agreed to develop practical plans – ‘bold plans’ – through which each faith would use its own resources to work pragmatically and systemically for people and planet. They also made a specific commitment to move their investments into what has become known as faith-consistent investing. All this is hugely encouraging.

[READ MARTIN'S FULL REFLECTION](#)

Now is the auspicious time, writes Lorna Gold

Someone bought me a t-shirt as a gift this year. It depicts a scene from Back to the Future, that iconic 1980s movie featuring Michael J Fox as Marty McFly. The slogan on the t-shirt reads: ‘Marty, whatever you do, don't go back to 2020’. I think we could add 2021!

These have been two tumultuous years where lives have been turned upside down. Nobody has been untouched by coronavirus and its relentless ability to disrupt our sense of normality. It has left us all exhausted with the constant unknowns and unwanted surprises.



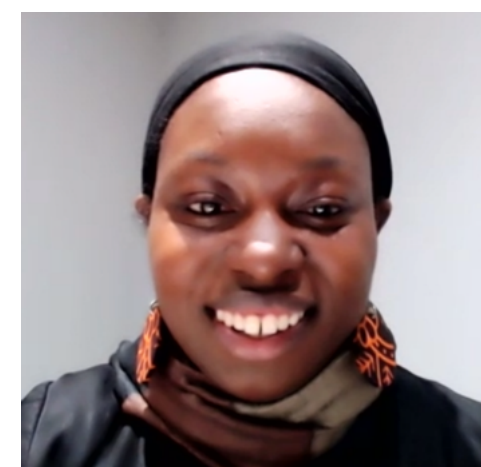
While the pandemic has dominated headlines, arguably even bigger crises have continued to deepen. Among these, the climate crisis, in particular, became more pressing in 2021. Yet despite the urgency of the situation, the UN Climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, failed to deliver.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg said of COP26: ‘We need to understand that nobody is coming to save us’ – and I agree with her. In the face of all this, perhaps Marty McFly would be right not to time travel to now. Why would anyone want to wake up in the middle of this crisis? Yet why is it, that despite this, I feel more hopeful than ever?

[READ LORNA'S FULL REFLECTION](#)

Throughout 2021, our focus has been on helping you invest in line with your values, says Nana Francois

Since we launched FaithInvest in 2019 – just in time for the unfolding COVID pandemic – we have focused on how we can best help our faith-based asset owners align more of their portfolios with their values. We talked with many of you to understand the key challenges in your various efforts:



- **Governance and direction**, strengthening linkages between faith leadership and investment leadership
- **Resourcing limitations** and the need for time- and scale-efficient solutions if teams are to take on the additional complexity and responsibilities of faith-based investing

- **Fragmentation** of investment pools, requiring pooled solutions to solve for whole portfolio needs and
- **Impact Investing** – of great interest but with challenges in establishing mandates and accessing and diligencing supply

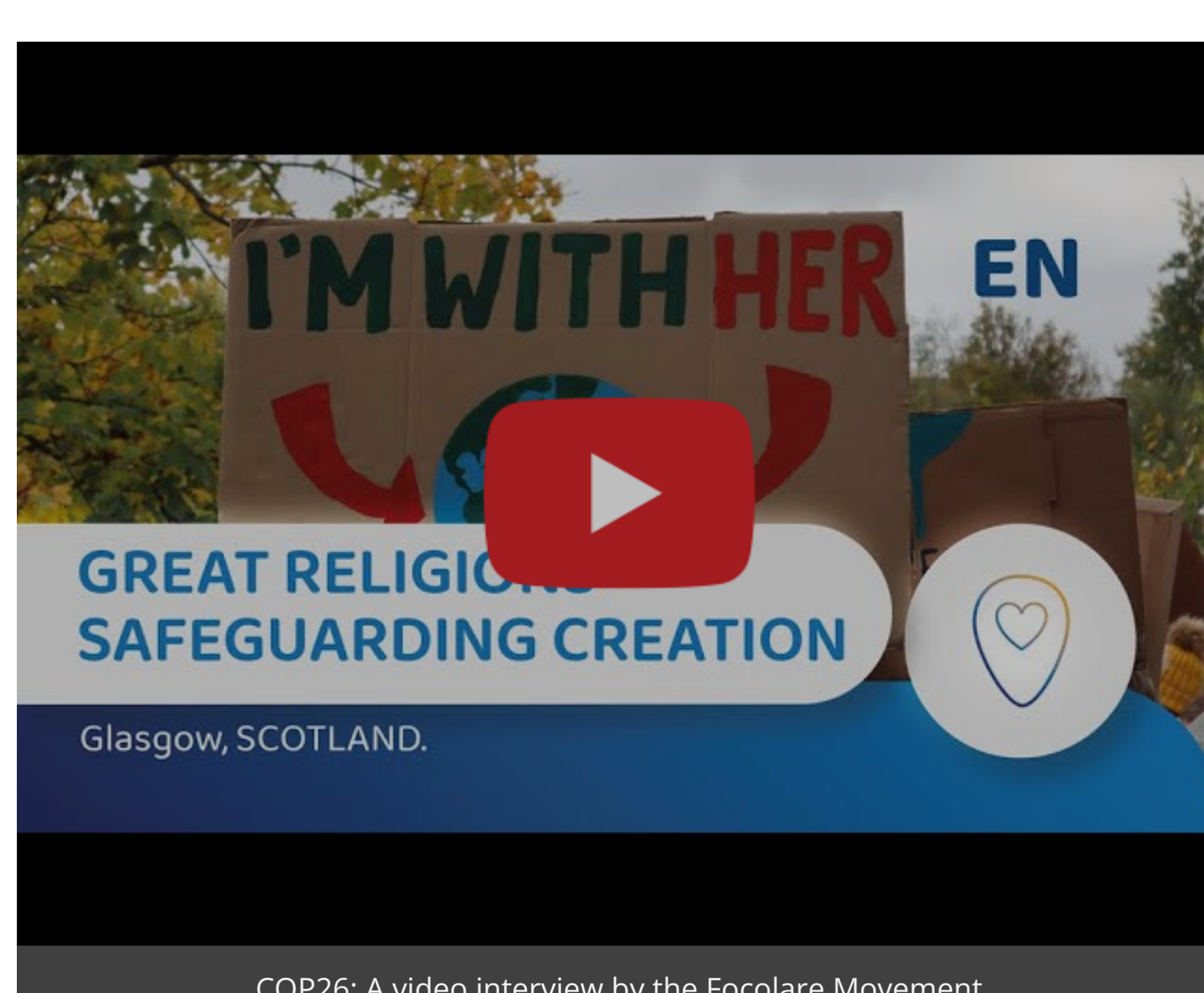
[READ NANA'S FULL REFLECTION](#)

We've had some great media coverage in the last year. Here are some recent highlights

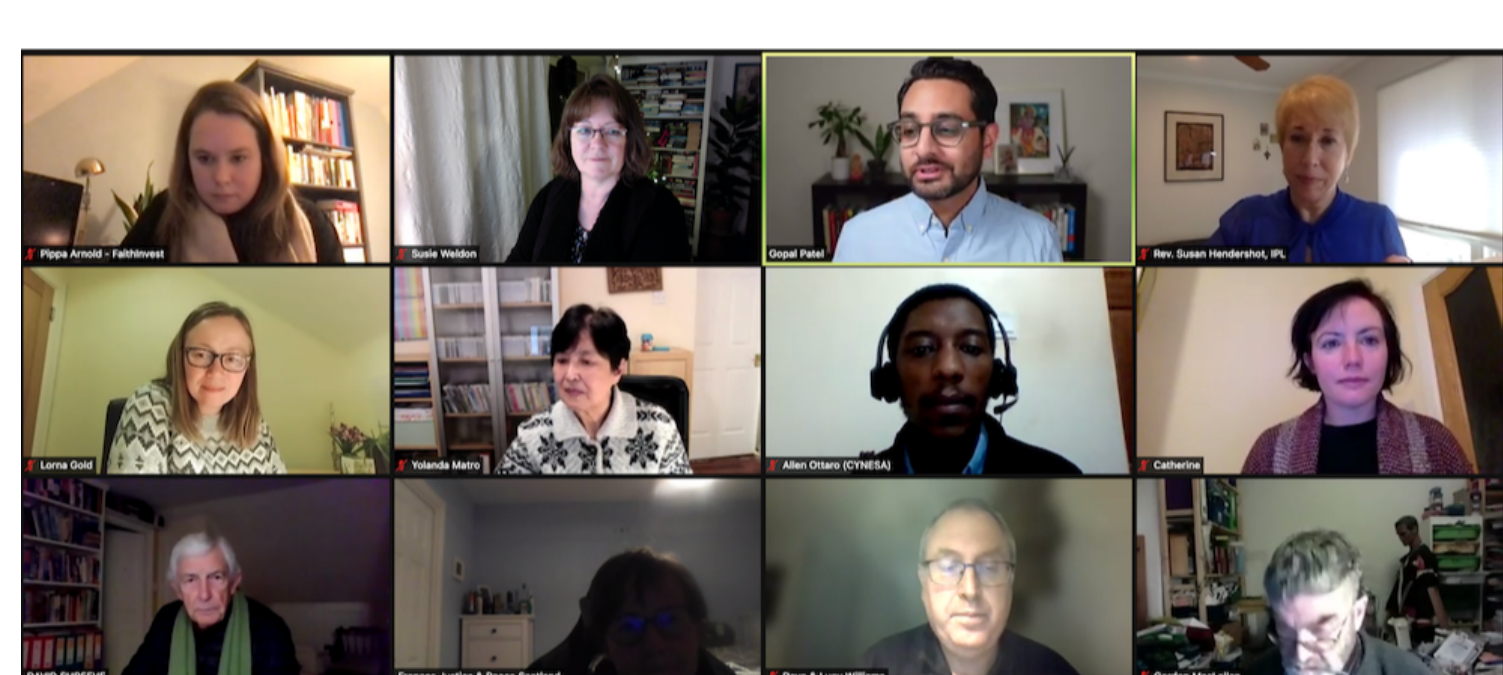
- **17 November** – [‘How faith-based asset owners can advance sustainable banking as shareholders and customers’](#), published in **Impact Alpha**, the globally influential business media platform, which reaches more than 70,000 professionals and influencers every day through its newsletter, The Brief
- **29 November** – [‘I think we are on the cusp of a very great change’](#) – Martin Palmer on COP26 in a video interview (see below)



- **30 November** – [‘Faith-based finance and the fight against climate change’](#), published in **Devox**, which reaches 830,000 international development professionals a month through its newsletters and gets 1.5 million page views of its website per month
- **3 December** – [‘New program aims to mobilise faith finances, assets for stronger climate action’](#), published in **National Catholic Reporter**, the most read Catholic news site globally
- **10 December** – [‘La forza delle religioni per l'ambiente’](#) (‘The power of religions for the environment’), published in Italy's Citta Nuova magazine



We've also had some great online meetings – including our last gathering of 2021: ‘Faiths rising – Climate action beyond COP26’



More than 50 people joined FaithInvest's Faith Plans team on Thursday December 16 for an evening of reflection on what next for climate action post-COP26. They discussed how faiths around the world are creating Faith Plans to use their assets, investments and influence for the benefit of people and planet, as part of our [Faith Plans](#) programme.

- **Gopal Patel**, Director of Bhumi Global
- **Dr Lorna Gold** – Director of Movement Building with FaithInvest
- **Rev Susan Hendershot** – President of Interfaith Power and Light
- **Allen Ottaro** – Executive Director, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa

Afterwards FaithInvest CEO Martin Palmer said the evening had been great: ‘It flowed with ideas, enthusiasm, insights, even humour!’

If you missed the meeting, you can find it on the [webinar catch up](#) page of the Faith Plans [website](#).

FaithInvest supports faith-based asset owners to align their investments to their faith values. We support the rapidly growing movement of faiths actively using their investments and other assets to create a better world – for the benefit of people and planet. Visit www.faithinvest.org for more information.

