

Quotes

► **Archbishop Rowan Williams**

“The Earth is a gift of God to all creatures. Clearly our human duty is to appreciate it, cherish it, celebrate it, take care of it, and share it, not just amongst ourselves but all creatures of God, present and future”



“I once suggested that one necessary contribution to a better awareness of these issues was to make sure we went out of doors in the wet from time to time.”
Archbishop Rowan Williams at Operation Noah lecture, 2009.

► **Pope Francis:**

“Our Earth – our common home – is like a sister with whom we share our life. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted upon her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.” From paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Pope’s encyclical *Laudato Si’ – On Care for our Common Home*. *Laudato Si’* is excellent for quoting from, with 246 paragraphs/mini-topics.



► **Wangari Maathai: (d.2011) Kenyan Environmental activist**

“I know there is pain when sawmills close and people lose jobs, but we have to make a choice. We need water and we need these forests.”



What would you say?

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GC Rainforest Fund

Wildlife on our planet is beautiful and precious. Could your church hold a fund raising event to save habitats and species?

GC is seeking 100 Churches to each raise at least £100 for a habitat conservation project. £100 can save one acre of rainforest.



Tell us when you have donated, and we will print it on our website. So far (Nov 2017) 15 different Churches have taken part.

Projects we support:

1. **World Land Trust**
2. **Cool Earth**
3. **A Rocha** (this Christian organisation includes forest projects in Kenya, Ghana, Asia and Peru).

£100 can buy:

- One acre of rainforest or other endangered habitat through World Land Trust or Cool Earth
- Half the cost of a bee-keeping kit and training
- Plant 500 native tree seedlings
- Enable a class to visit the forest – thus inspiring the next generation – through A Rocha

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Saving Wildlife and biodiversity: part 2

Jesus said:

“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?”

Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.”

(Matthew 6: 26, 28 & 29)

Quotes for discussion

Why does “Saving Wildlife” matter to Christians?

... read more



Saving wildlife and biodiversity

Earth's wildlife decreased by ½ in the last 40 years, as measured in over 3,000 vertebrate populations. Loss of biodiversity is the most important ecological change / disaster we are currently suffering (says the Stockholm *Planetary boundaries* analysis) – even more than nitrogen oxide pollution and climate change.

This leaflet follows on from the leaflet “Part 1” which shows how wildlife is being drastically reduced. Read “Part 1” to find 10 ways we can protect wildlife for future generations.

Here are quotes from the Bible to inspire lively discussion.

Quotes for thought:

▶ **Mark 12: 30,31**

Jesus' two great commandments:
1. Love God with all your heart and soul... and
2. Love your neighbour as yourself:

For people who want to honour God, it follows

- 1) That wildlife is God's creation and gift. Let us respect His gift, enjoy it and not destroy it
- 2) Our neighbours include people who will live in the decades and centuries after us – what sort of world are we leaving to them? Some would even include animals and plants as our neighbours.

▶ **Genesis 1: 12**

“The land produced vegetation – all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.”

▶ **Psalms 24: 1,2**

“The Earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.”



▶ **Leviticus 23: 22** Moses writes (for God):
“When you reap the harvest in your land, you shall not reap right into the edges of your field, neither shall you glean the fallen ears. You shall leave them for the poor and the alien.”

▶ **Ruth 2: 7** Ruth (1070BC) asked:
“May I go out into the cornfields and glean?”

▶ **Matthew 7: 16** Jesus said:
“You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?”

▶ **Matthew 12: 1**
“Jesus .. walking through the .. fields.. began to pluck some ears of corn.”

Ragged Robin, a plant of wet meadows, decreasing in Britain



▶ **1 Kings 4: 31, 33** (c971-931BC)
“Solomon was wiser than any man. He discoursed of trees, from the cedar of Lebanon down to the marjoram that grows out of the wall, of beasts and birds, of reptiles and fishes.”

▶ **Deuteronomy 32: 2** The song of Moses:
“Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.”

▶ **2 Samuel 18: 19**
“Now Absalom happened to meet David's men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom's hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in mid air, while the mule he was riding kept on going.”
(This area no longer has trees, due to deforestation.)

▶ **1 Timothy 4: 12**
“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young.”

▶ **Micah 6: 8**
“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Look out for more quotes on pages 1252-1269 in the Green Bible (NRSV) publ: Harper Collins.

Visit: webofcreation.org/bible-verses and in *The Death of Life* by Sean McDonagh .

(Right: Pic Endangered Philippine Eagle)



Some Organisations active in this area:

A Rocha; IUCN; FOE, WWF
The Wildlife Trusts; RSPB
Living Churchyards Project
Brogdale Horticultural Trust
Heritage Seed Library
Kew Gardens Millennium Seed Project

Natural England, JNCC
Plantlife International
Biodiversity Action Plan
Greenpeace
Global Justice Now
UNEP

Green Christian

About: GC is an organisation for Christians concerned about care of the environment.

Aims: To share green insights with Christians and Christian insights with people in the green movement.

Events: Conferences, retreats and workshops.

Resources: including Leaflets for use in churches; twice yearly **Magazine**; monthly **Prayer Guide**; free **email newsletter**.

Members' email discussion group

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