

Additional Prayers

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by [email](mailto:prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk) (free), please email prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk

For further information and requests for prayer, please write or email:
Philip Clarkson Webb,
15 Valley View,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells TN4 0SY

Email: pcw@christian-ecology.org.uk
Website: www.greenchristian.org.uk

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Poppy Pickard

Christian Ecology Link Ltd is a company registered in England and Wales. Administrative Office:
10, Beech Hall Road,
Highams Park, London, E4 9NX
Company Registration No. 2445198
Registered Charity No. 328744.
tel: +44 (0) 845 4598460
info@christian-ecology.org.uk

Prayer guide for the care of creation

May 2014



“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.
He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow,
Will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”

(Ps.126.5-6)

“Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness,
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.”

(Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

“Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it.
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.”

(W.H. Murray)

Thursday 1st May

The latest IPCC report, produced by 1,250 international experts and approved by 194 governments, dismisses fears that slashing carbon emissions will wreck the world economy. Diverting hundreds of billions of dollars from fossil fuels into renewable energy and cutting energy waste would shave just 0.06% off expected annual economic growth of 1.3%-3%. EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard said: "The report is clear. The more you wait, the more it will cost and the more difficult it will become."

Friday 2nd May

The report warns that carbon emissions have soared in the last decade and are now growing at almost double the previous rate. But rapid action can still limit global warming to 2 degrees C., the internationally agreed safe limit, if low-carbon energy triples or quadruples by 2050. Nonetheless, to avoid the worst impacts of climate change at the lowest cost, the report envisages an energy revolution ending centuries of dominance by fossil fuels. Delay could also force extreme measures to be taken, including sucking CO2 out of the air, possibly by burning plants and

trees and then using Carbon Capture & Storage to bury the emissions. But such technology is untested and carries significant risks.

Saturday 3rd May

Anti-fracking campaigners including Caroline Lucas MP and CEL's Ruth Jarman have been acquitted of all charges arising from the demonstrations at Balcombe. Ruth said: "To take a peaceful stand against the madness of drilling for oil and gas in the British countryside when we already have enough fossil fuels to wreck God's creation five times over, should not be illegal. It was a privilege to take a moral stand with dynamic, principled people, in resisting a technology that threatens God's creation and our children's future. The Christian faith has a long history of non-violent resistance as a means of speaking truth to power. I hope our acquittal will encourage others to campaign by all peaceful means to switch the direction of our country from dangerous fossil fuels to clean forms of energy. . . . The village of Balcombe is now leading the way on solar power with its plans to become zero carbon in electricity within two years. An alternative future

have caused 30% of all asthmas in children living near main roads. The think tank Policy Exchange concludes that diesel cars emit no less than 91% of particulates and 95% of nitrogen oxide. Last year the Mayor of London removed an exemption from the congestion charge for low-carbon diesel cars and promised in February to make London the world's 1st "ultra-low emission zone" – whatever that might mean.

Friday 30th May

Technology company Apple claims that 94% of its corporate facilities and 100% of its data centres are powered by renewable energy such as solar power. All its stores now take back Apple products for recycling without any obligation to buy a new product, and it offers payments for old iPhones, iPads and Macs. The new iPad Air uses nearly one-third less material by weight than the original iPad. CEO Tim Cook has told climate change sceptics to ditch Apple shares if they do not like its backing for renewable energy and sustainability . . . We believe climate change is real. And that's a real problem."

Saturday 31st May

A WWF-supported study of Congo basin logging concessions by the Center for International Forestry Research has found that certification by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) provides more benefits than for uncertified forests. The study looked at employee living and working conditions, equitable distribution of resources, schools and community buildings and customary rights in agriculture and hunting. It confirmed that FSC certification can drive logging companies to adopt more progressive social practices, but this would be further improved if the FSC established clear, written procedures for conflict resolution, improved its monitoring of social benchmarks and provided better career planning to make logging a more attractive employment sector.

Sources: www.edie.net

homes and businesses across London. It will produce 1.4 MW of renewable electricity a year for the National Grid. It will also produce 14,000 tonnes of compost and 36,000 tonnes of digestate for agricultural use. Heat produced by the plant amounting to 1.15 MW will be used by its neighbour, Closed Loop Recycling, for the world's first PET and HDPE plastic bottle recycling plant.

Tuesday 27th May

Government funding of £1.3 million has been announced for British companies to demonstrate ways of turning plant-based material harvested from wetlands into renewable heat and electricity. It is claimed that sustainably-sourced bioenergy could contribute around 11% of the UK's energy demand by 2020. New project designs will be tested in wetland areas of Somerset, Suffolk and Inverness. Energy Minister Greg Barker said: "The ability to turn plant material that would otherwise be burnt or left to decompose into a sustainable energy source is an important part of the move towards a low-carbon economy."

Wednesday 28th May

Fashion chain H & M has pledged to get all its cotton from sustainable sources by 2020. In 2013 only 15.8% of its cotton was so derived. Conventional cotton for an average T-shirt needs 11 bathtubs of water to grow. Also, 10% of all global pesticides are used in cotton production. H & M has also launched products that contain 20% of material recycled from collected garments. Last year 3,047 tonnes of unwanted garments were collected under this scheme. H & M's chief executive said: "I hope that we will be able to produce fashion in a closed loop, using less of our planet's resources and reducing waste. We must share fairly between today's and future generations the resources that we still need."

Thursday 29th May

The WHO has found that air pollution kills 7 million people a year worldwide – a cause of 1 in 8 deaths. In Britain particulates, especially from diesel engines, are officially estimated to kill 29,000 Britons annually – more than obesity and alcohol combined, and ten times more than road accidents.

Nitrogen oxide, the other big danger, was reckoned in a study of 22 cities to

is possible. We simply need to pray and protest it into being."

Sunday 4th May

Father, we pray for all who are working in industries which offer outstanding powers for good or ill over the rest of humanity – the nuclear industry, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, fossil-fuel industries and the biotechnological industry. Be with them when they face conflicts between their beliefs and their short-term interests. Support them in every crisis and make your presence known to them, especially when they face pressures to conform.

Monday 5th May

The IPCC report found that current emission-cutting pledges by the world's nations make it more likely than not that the 2 degree limit will be breached and that delay could force us into extreme measures and untried technologies. WWF comments: "This report makes it clear that acting on emissions now is affordable, but delaying further increases the costs. It is a super-strong signal to fossil-fuel investors. They can no longer say they did not know the risks." A Greenpeace spokesman said:

"Renewable energy is unstoppable. It's becoming bigger, better and cheaper every day. Dirty energy industries are sure to put up a fight, but it's only a question of time before public pressure and economics dictate that they either change or go out of business."

Tuesday 6th May

The UN has launched a 10-year plan to provide universal access to modern energy services, double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and share renewable energy globally. In 2013 renewables, excluding large hydro, accounted for 43% of new generating capacity, even though investment in renewables fell by 14% due partly to the falling cost of solar PV systems. UNEP director Achim Steiner said: "The fact that renewable energy is gaining a bigger share of overall generation is encouraging. To support this further, we must re-evaluate investment priorities, shift incentives, build capacity and improve governance structures. This will give governments the confidence to forge a new robust climate agreement to cut emissions at the 2015 climate conference in Paris."

Wednesday 7th May

Today at 6.30 in St. Paul's Cathedral Christiana Figueres from the UN Convention on Climate Change will highlight what world churches, the City and the UK at large can do to help meet the challenges of climate change. A panel of speakers including Bishop James Jones, Dr. Tony Juniper and Peter Pereira of Wellcome Trust Investments will identify the impact of climate change on their sector and, with the audience, help to build the will for political action. Registration for this free event is at: <http://buildingthewill.eventbrite.co.uk>

Thursday 8th May

Data analysts Clean Energy Pipeline have shown that global investment in clean energy increased in the 1st quarter of 2014 by 14% more than in the 1st quarter of 2013. "Although cheap solar panels and LED are available today, there still needs to be a breakthrough in next generation technology because many of the enabling technologies – notably energy storage – are not yet there. So even though solar panels are cheap, the batteries are not, and you can't have a distributed energy revolution without proper energy storage."

Friday 9th May

Public support for wind power and other forms of clean energy remain at about 80%. But the process of siting and developing a large installation – wind or solar – in the countryside is difficult and can arouse strong feelings. Wiltshire County Council's policy on wind farms was obstructed for 2 years by a new proviso that no turbine should be built within 3 kilometres of any house. Now a planning inspector has overturned that provision, but it took 2 years of lobbying and building alliances before commonsense could prevail. If the IPCC report is to be implemented, governments and local councils must do all in their power to facilitate the spread of clean energy.

Saturday 10th May

The Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, has decided to call in decisions on renewable energy for the next 12 months. Originally the period was 6 months, during which he called in 33 wind projects amounting to 93% of all wind energy capacity under appeal. Maf Smith of RenewableUK comments: "Telling local authorities that they can't decide on wind applications runs counter to the

Friday 23rd May

This weekend, Hilfield Friary, Dorset, is hosting an event called "Peace for our Planet – Exploring the relationship between conflict, faith and conservation." The proceedings will be led by Sir Ghillean Prance, former Director of Kew, Jonathan Herbert of the Hilfield Friary Community and Andy Lester of A Rocha. For more information ring Suzi Herbert on 01300 341741 or email hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk

Saturday 24th May

Wales's first anaerobic digestion (AD) facility has been opened near Caernarfon with almost £2.4 million funding from the Welsh Government. The plant will process food waste collected by Gwynedd Council from local homes and businesses, diverting it from landfill to produce renewable energy and valuable biofertiliser for local farms. 11,000 tonnes of waste a year will avoid landfill. It will generate 3,500 megawatt hours of renewable electricity for the national grid – enough to power every home in nearby Penhgroes for a year. A recent House of Lords report, while acknowledging that AD is a preferred option for dealing with food waste,

urged supermarkets to distribute unsold food to food banks rather than sending it to be recycled via AD. A director of ReFood, an AD specialist, said: "Industry needs a long-term, ambitious and consistent national approach to waste that will give businesses the confidence to invest in the infrastructure that will deliver positive change."

Sunday 25th May

Lord, we live in a world where things have gone wrong because we have forgotten you and left you out of account. We have worshipped other gods. We have adopted our own way of life and not served your Kingdom. We have chosen what pleases us and have not done your will. Lord, forgive our sin and folly and blindness. Turn us back to yourself, for the sake of your Son, who gave everything to save us. (Frank Colquoun)

Monday 26th May

London's first commercial-scale AD plant has been opened in Dagenham with funding provided by the UK Green Investment Bank and waste recycling specialists TEG Group. It will process up to 50,000 tonnes a year of food and green waste collected from

Shell, Tesco and Unilever are demanding, through their membership of the Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group, a proactive policy response to the latest IPCC report setting out the risks of climate change. The director of the CLG said: "The IPCC report is the one that many businesses have been eagerly waiting for. Here is the latest scientific analysis of the solutions we can employ to limit greenhouse gases and the consequent climate change. The 90 signatories are urging policy-makers to:

- Set a timeline for phasing out greenhouse gas emissions
- Design a credible strategy to transform the energy system
- Create a plan to manage reliance on fossil fuels, especially coal.

Wednesday 21st May

The Government has announced eight new renewable energy projects under its Contracts for Difference (CfD) programme, guaranteeing a minimum electricity price over 15 years. The projects include five offshore wind farms and three biomass plants including Unit 1 at the Drax power station near Selby. Together these

projects will add 4.5 gigawatts in new electricity generating capacity. They will create 8,500 jobs and raise household bills by an average of 2%. The Energy Secretary, Ed Davey, said: "You are getting secure energy, because this is home-grown energy, particularly with the 5 large offshore wind farms. You are also getting clean energy because, as we've seen with the recent IPCC reports, the costs of climate change could be huge if we don't tackle our carbon emissions."

Thursday 22nd May

A report from the UK Onshore Operators Group claims that drilling an estimated 40,000 shale gas wells by fracking would over 18 years generate 64,000 new jobs and £33 billion of investment. Ed Davey confirmed that the Government was considering changing the trespass laws so as to give companies the right to carry out fracking under private land. This is the same Government minister who told us that the costs of climate change could be huge if we don't tackle our carbon emissions.

We have a choice. Do we tackle our carbon emissions or do we allow extensive fracking for gas? We can't do both.

principles of the Localism Act, and introducing more delays is anti-business. Onshore wind developers will be concerned about him undermining confidence in the planning system by taking these decisions himself." Last month he rejected plans for a 4-turbine wind farm in Somerset. Dale Vince, founder of Ecotricity commented: "For the Somerset wind farm we've worked diligently through the entire planning process, passed every test, including a public enquiry, only to have our application refused by a man who knows nothing on the subject."

Sunday 11th May

Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful humanity, grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise, that so, amongst the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (The Book of Common Prayer)

Monday 12th May

"WWF in its report "Decarbonising the Future: Seizing Power for Global Change" sets out case studies around the world of actions taken to promote renewable energy. Another WWF report called "Seize Your Power" calls on sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and development banks to follow the example of the World Bank and others in significantly increasing funding for renewable energy and phasing out funding for fossil fuels as a key means of tackling climate change.

Tuesday 13th May

Energy costs form a significant part of church expenses. The Diocese of Oxford has negotiated schemes with two of the UK's leading suppliers of green energy so as to make switching to green electricity easy. Churches are exempt from the Climate Change Levy and also benefit from a 5% reduced rate of VAT.

Anglican churches all over the country can benefit from the Parish Buying scheme whereby churches purchasing green electricity are eligible for discounts off the standard tariffs. Parishes can also pool their energy spend and buy electricity and gas in bulk, as do hospitals, supermarkets

and government departments. Now parishes, cathedrals, diocesan offices and church schools can access prices based on combined electricity and gas consumption, so releasing more resources for mission and ministry.

www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy.html

Wednesday 14th May

Oxfordshire Green Homes is a scheme for opening eco-homes to visitors who want to find out how it is done. By opening your home to show solar PV or a new boiler, you can inspire others to take their own measures to combat climate change. You can also promote lifestyle changes and low-cost improvements with the same aim. Opening dates:

South Oxfordshire	May 17-18
North Oxfordshire	May 24-25
Oxford City	June 14-15

Anyone wishing to open their home should call Lois Muddiman on 01865 246099 or visit the website www.earthingfaith.org/2014/04/oxfords-hire-green-open-homes

West Kent is opening green homes on May 18-19. Contact: 01892 525280.

Thursday 15th May

The National Trust operates more than 250 renewable energy schemes including biomass, solar and hydro technology. Its new hydro turbine at Hafod y Llan Farm in Snowdonia will generate 1,900 MWh a year – more than enough to light up all its properties in Wales. A new trading company called National Trust Renewable Energy will sell its surplus electricity via the grid to energy supplier Good Energy, so generating enough electricity to power 445 homes, and producing an income for conservation projects. It aims to save £4 million a year on its energy bills.

Friday 16th May

The Department of Transport is to provide £2 million funding for nine travel schemes aimed at encouraging sustainable travel choices, particularly reducing car journeys. One scheme in Tyne & Wear will encourage families to use bicycles for the school run. Another in West Yorkshire will help job seekers to access work through sustainable transport, while a third, also in Tyne & Wear, aims to make cycling, walking and public transport more appealing on the A1 Western Bypass.

Saturday 17th May

British Airways is partnering US bioenergy firm Solena Fluids to create, in Essex, the world's first facility for making sustainable aviation fuel. The fuel is produced by recovering recyclable waste such as plastics, metal cans and glass from municipal sites and shredding the residue to be used to feed production of biofuel for aircraft. About 575,000 tonnes of waste normally sent for landfill or incineration will be converted into 120,000 tonnes of clean-burning liquid fuels. Due for completion in 2017, the facility will need 150 permanent jobs at the Thames Enterprise Park in Corringham. BA has committed to purchasing 50,000 tonnes a year of the resulting jet fuel – enough to power its flights from London City Airport twice over, with carbon savings equivalent to taking 150,000 cars off the road.

Sunday 18th May

Loving Father, we offer you the fruits of all who work in science and technology. We pray that man-made machines may not crush humankind with their lure to power. We praise you for your great gifts of freedom and inventiveness, and we pray for

wisdom, that we may use them aright in your service and in the service of your creation.

Monday 19th May

Technical developments in the US have brought the cost of solar-generated electricity down from \$6 a watt in 2010 to its present \$2.59 a watt, and it is expected to fall to \$1.60 by 2020. About 29% of electricity capacity added in the US during 2013 came from solar power. Harvard University is developing a flow-battery that promises to cut the cost of energy storage by two-thirds below the latest vanadium batteries. According to Deutsche Bank, 19 regional markets have achieved “grid parity” meaning that solar PV can match or undercut local electricity prices without subsidy. These include California, Chile, Australia, Turkey, Israel, Germany, Japan, Italy, Spain and Greece for residential power and Mexico and China for industrial power. More will follow as battery storage costs keep falling as a result of electric car developments.

Tuesday 20th May

90 major international companies including Coca-Cola, EDF Energy,