

Saturday 30th April

A briefing from Population Matters on "The impact of robotics on future societies" suggests that, while robotics may help humans in a wide range of areas and lead to a lower demand for some resources, innovation could also allow humans to exploit the earth more efficiently, and therefore indirectly result in increased unemployment. People in crisis due to lack of resources do not have time to wait for the development of sustainable technologies. This will force us to develop technologies that solve a crisis quickly, however damaging to the environment. The conclusion: "It seems clear that only smaller populations can lead to a sustainable future".

Sources:

Environment (*magazine of the Chartered Institute of Water & Environmental Management*)
Resurgence and Ecologist
Population Matters Magazine
Clean State (*magazine of the Centre for Alternative Technology*)

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

April 2016



"The idea of self-denial for the sake of posterity, of practising economy for the sake of debtors yet unborn, or of planting forests that our descendants may live under their shade, never efficiently takes place among publicly-recognised motives of exertion. Yet these are not the less our duties. . . .

God has lent us the earth for our life; it is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us, and whose names are already written in the book of creation, as to us; and we have no right, by anything that we do or neglect, to involve them in unnecessary penalties, or deprive them of benefits which it was in our power to bequeath." (John Ruskin)

"Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7-8)

"If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)



GreenChristian

Friday 1st April

Today and on the 1st of each month, at the Cumbria University Chapel, Lancaster and other venues around the country, groups are meeting to pray for all who are threatened by climate change. At Holy Trinity, Wenlock, the meeting takes place on the 6th. For more details, go to: www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/events

Saturday 2nd April

Today and on the 1st Saturday of each month, a group is meeting by the sea in Brighton to pray/meditate/send kind thoughts across the rising sea for those most threatened by climate change. For details ring Alex Mabbs on 01273 964224 or email minister@brighthelm.org.uk
Website: www.facebook.com/PrayInTheSeaBrighton

Sunday 3rd April

Lord of creation, the life we possess is your gift. Teach us to value it and to use it wisely and responsibly, for we have but one life to live, one life in which to serve

your Church, to advance your Kingdom and to be of help to others. Show us your purposes for our life and fire us to act, in the Name of your Son Jesus Christ.
(Frank Colquhoun)

Monday 4th April

"We must not speak of the land alone, or of the people alone, but always and only of the two together. If we want to save the land, we must save the people who belong to the land. If we want to save the people, we must save the land the people belong to. . . . It is impossible to suppose that humans would ever take care of anything they don't love. People who don't care, or know enough to care enough, or care enough to know, don't watch." (Wendell Berry in "Our Only World")

Tuesday 5th April

The people of Saweto in the Peruvian Amazon, after years of struggle, have been given the legal title to 80,000 hectares of near-pristine rainforest around their homes – a key first step towards ending incursions by illegal and

designed to supply electricity to 5 million people or 8% of France's population. The solar road is being laid with flexible Wattway PV panels and will be part-funded by raising the taxes on fossil fuels. The crystallised solar panels are sturdy, skid-resistant and strong enough to cope with heavy vehicles. It is claimed that most French roads only have vehicles on them for 10% of the time.

Thursday 28th April

Smart electricity meters are to be rolled out later this year for UK homes. Although homeowners are allowed to refuse them, multi-tenant landlords must accept them, raising concerns about involuntary exposure to radio frequency damage. A peer-reviewed study by Federica Lamechin in Australia has recorded cases of insomnia, headaches and dizziness in 92 adults and children after smart meter installations. Over 2,000 Americans and hundreds of Canadians have filed lawsuits about the effect of smart meters on medical implants. Former CIA chief, James Woolsey, has also exposed

the security risks and spying capabilities of smart meters. All this suggests a need for non-polluting alternatives.

Friday 29th April

At the time of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 the global population was 5.5 billion. It is now 7.3 billion and is projected to rise to 10 billion by 2050, with huge consequences for human well-being and the sustainability of the world on which we depend. Yet for many people population growth is a taboo subject. Population Matters has commissioned a 3-minute film, designed for young people, called "Zombie Overpopulation" which depicts, in a humorous way, a world overrun with zombies who are mindlessly consuming everything in sight. It is available at www.youtube.com/PopulationMatters
Another short film called "Sense and Sustainability" moves from problems to solutions, such as reforming consumption patterns and resource use, empowerment of women and gender equality. A 3-minute trailer is available at <https://youtube/uQSaAAuGIKI>

atmosphere to the magic number of 350 parts per million of CO₂.

Sunday 24th April

Christ has no body now on earth
but ours,
No hands but ours, no feet but
ours;
Ours are the eyes through which
looks out Christ's compassion to
the world;
Ours are the feet with which he is to
go about doing good;
Ours are the hands with which he
blesses his people daily.
Lord, make us instruments of your
peace. Amen.

Monday 25th April

According to the Carbon Trust, the implementation of energy storage systems could contribute £2.4 billion to savings in the UK energy system by 2030. Energy company E.ON has teamed up with the Universities of Aston, Sheffield and Southampton to establish a £4 million facility near Wolverhampton to use a 2 MW. lithium titanate battery from Toshiba capable of supplying energy to 3,000 homes for 20 minutes. Already operating at

Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, is a 10 MW. Battery storage system comprising over 53,000 batteries. The Renewable Energy Association comments: "2016 will be the year in which battery storage takes off in the UK, as it has in the US, Germany and Japan, which have moved quickly to reap the benefits including energy security, greater integration with renewables and more green jobs."

Tuesday 26th April

A giant wind farm 120 km. off the Yorkshire coast at Hornsea is to be built with 174 turbines standing 623 feet high and providing the electricity needs of up to a million homes. The project will create over a thousand jobs in their construction and a further 300 jobs for ongoing maintenance. Many of the turbines will be built at the Siemens factory in Hull. Last winter, 11.9% of our electricity came from wind power and just 9% from nuclear.

Wednesday 27th April

A 1,000 km. long solar PV road is being constructed in France. It is

often violent logging interests and drug traffickers. According to the World Bank, indigenous peoples have legal title to only 11% of their tribal lands. But land rights campaigners are increasingly using the courts and social media to marshal public opinion in their support. Cristina Coc, a Mayan activist in Belize, says: "The lawsuit is only a tool. What makes these efforts more sustainable and significant is really the organisation – building a social movement that will stand against injustice."

Wednesday 6th April

A Dutch NGO, the Urgenda Foundation, supported by 900 citizens, has won a landmark case against the Dutch Government with a court order to cut CO₂ emissions by 25% by 2020 from a 1990 baseline. This is the first time anywhere that a court has ordered a state to limit emissions. It has inspired NGOs in Norway, Belgium and elsewhere. Unlike the Dutch, we in Britain have no written constitution. However, the Climate Change Act 2008 requires the Government to set five-year carbon

budgets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. but by reducing support for renewable energy, the Government risks missing its targets for 2023-2027 and beyond.

In China a recent law allows citizens to bring environmental cases against polluters, whereas in the UK charities face huge barriers in terms of liability for costs. ClientEarth is working on legal remedies to prevent environmental destruction., while Eradicating Ecocide campaigns for a Law of Ecocide which would create a legal duty of care to enable nations to act *before* damage occurs. Ten countries have already included Ecocide in their penal codes as a crime against peace.
<http://eradicatingecocide.com>

Thursday 7th April

Last December's Paris Agreement was reached by 195 countries. All the heads of state and government leaders have been invited to UN headquarters in New York on April 22nd to sign the Agreement. If it is to come into effect, it must be ratified by at least 55 countries, and those

55 must represent at least 55% of global emissions. UNFCC has invited ordinary people to share their own responses to the Paris Agreement and what it means to them. Every nation's leaders need to be encouraged by a growing chorus of support to honour and strengthen the pledges made on their behalf in Paris. See <http://unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom-what-does-the-paris-agreement-mean-for-you>

Friday 8th April

In February the US Supreme Court issued a stay on President Obama's Clean Power Plan, meaning that it cannot be implemented without a judicial decision on its validity. This raise a question: What will the impact be on the ability of the US to meet its Paris commitments to emissions reductions? A final court decision is unlikely before 2017 – after the inauguration of a new President. We need to pray for wisdom in the US courts and for the determination of the US people to maintain progress towards reducing carbon emissions.

Saturday 9th April

Many of the islands of Fiji are working to recover from Cyclone Winston, a category 5 storm which was the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, causing immense damage and the loss of at least 29 lives. Just over a week before the cyclone struck. Fiji became the first country to ratify the Paris Agreement. Pray that other countries will swiftly follow their lead.

Sunday 10th April

Father God, you rule and control the destinies of people and nations. We thank you for every happening that draws people closer to each other in fellowship and purpose. Grant to the world's leaders, on whose word and attitude so much depends, the guidance of your Holy Spirit and the grace of humility, that they may be enabled to see points of view different from their own; and keep before them not just the welfare of their own nation, but your will for the whole world. Amen.

Group with Christian Aid is hosting a workshop beginning at 7.30 pm designed to show how individuals and churches can turn their backs on fossil fuels and campaign for politicians and businesses to shift investment towards renewable energy. There will be time for questions and discussion. Entry is free but donations are invited towards expenses. For further details, email: david@millersofmk.co.uk

Friday 22nd April

Electric cars are now over a century old. By 1905 both London and New York ran electric taxis and the US had more electric than petrol vehicles in use. But mass production of the Model T Ford, with its greater range, put electric cars out of business for most purposes. Now the advent of lithium-ion batteries has led to a big reduction in the weight of electric cars (EVs). Conventional internal combustion-powered cars (ICEs) use a mere 15% of the energy in their fuel, while an EV uses up to 94% of the stored electrical energy for motion. Charging EVs at night

acts as a huge battery to store surplus off-peak electricity unavoidably generated by wind turbines, and other power sources, at night. 25% of household greenhouse gas emissions are from travel, so EVs are an important way of mitigating climate change, as well as providing the public health benefits of cleaner air and less noise.

Saturday 23rd April

Conventional agriculture is a prime source of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. In a new book called "The Carbon Farming Solution" Eric Toensmeier explores the practicalities of current cropping systems, use of perennial crops, silvopasture – where forestry and grazing are combined – new approaches to animal grazing, agroforestry and permaculture. He presents models of agricultural practices and crops that not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also store carbon both in the soil and in above-ground biomass. Intelligent farming could, he believes, help return our

1. Failure to adapt to climate change
2. Interstate conflict
3. Water crises.

Globally, water use is growing at double the rate of population growth. Within ten years it is predicted that two-thirds of people will be living in areas of water stress if a business-as-usual approach to water management continues to operate. California, for example, is experiencing one of its worst droughts on record and tensions are emerging between citizens, the economy and the environment. The state's multi-billion dollar almond industry is central to its economy, yet takes 10% of California's water supply. With mandatory water restrictions introduced for citizens, many are questioning whether agriculture's water use is too profligate. Part of the solution is the re-use of water at local level. In the Saudi city of Jeddah, the Middle East Paper Company installed on-site recycling which reduced the water demand from 20,000 litres per ton of product to just 5,000. In Singapore, the authorities reduced its reliance on imported water by collecting

wastewater, treating it and re-using it for drinking. The NEWater system now meets 30% of Singapore's water demand and is projected to meet up to 55% by 2060.

Wednesday 20th April

Concerns have been raised about the disposal of wastewater resulting from fracking operations. A report from CIWEM finds that this water may not be "of an appropriate chemical composition" to be sent to a typical wastewater treatment works, and special industrial treatment is likely to be needed to meet the UK and EU water regulations. Alongside the risks to the water environment, the report considers the political, economic and social limitations to the viability of a shale gas industry in the UK. "While public opposition remains high, the industry is also facing greater economic pressures due to high production costs and falling oil and gas prices."

Thursday 21st April

Today at Christ the Vine Church, Milton Keynes MK6 5DD, the Milton Keynes Christian Environment

Monday 11th April

The Paris Agreement committed 195 countries including Britain to limit global temperature rises to "well below 2 degrees C. above pre-industrial levels" and "to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees C." The recent UK budget was an opportunity to set out how the Government would fulfil this commitment. Instead of doing this, the Government announced tax breaks for the oil and gas industries amounting to £1 billion of subsidy. FoE comments: "This billion pound giveaway is not only a reckless move for the planet, but wastes the opportunity to create many more jobs by investing in green industries. Instead of spending millions trying to extract every last drop of climate-wrecking fossil fuels, the government should be building an economy fit for the challenges of the future." In addition the Chancellor lowered the targets for plastic recycling and temporarily froze targets for glass recycling. It is as though the Government is unconcerned about the prospect of missing EU targets of carbon

reductions by 2020 which would result in massive fines.

Tuesday 12th April

A key path towards decarbonising our society is to devolve energy generation to local cooperatives or local authorities, as is done widely in Germany and Denmark. The city of Nottingham has already established a non-profit energy utility and Lancaster and Bristol look set to follow. Local referendums have called for municipal energy systems in Hamburg and Berlin. California – the world's seventh biggest economy- has shown how it can decouple carbon emissions from GDP and still create half a million jobs in the energy sector, while making its state pension fund free of coal investments.

Wednesday 13th April

It is generally agreed that the way to a zero-emission society includes:

- Extensive use of renewable energy
- High levels of energy efficiency
- Switching to electricity to power heating and transport

- Use of energy storage and demand management.
- There is less agreement on the place of bioenergy i.e. use of plant material such as miscanthus grass, in a zero-emissions future. Philip James of CAT points out that biofuels are already used to provide back-up electricity at times of low output from wind and solar, and suggests that biofuels will be needed for parts of industry and transport. Should we, he asks, take the purist stance that bioenergy is a poor use of land, a risk to food supplies and a distraction from technologies we really need? Or should we be pragmatic, recognising that bioenergy can help us transition more rapidly to a 100% renewable future by using existing technology and infrastructure, with the potential to deliver negative emissions that could limit warming to safer levels?

Thursday 14th April

Lord Stern in an article published in 'Nature' writes that flawed climate modelling is deeply damaging to people's perception of risk. Current models ignore 'tipping points' and

catastrophic changes that can be triggered such as sea level rises, thawing of permafrost and the release of methane into the atmosphere. However "there is a huge potential in future technologies that can drive change. These are omitted or badly underestimated in our current climate models, and so deeply damaging to our guidance for policy-making."

Friday 15th April

Today and tomorrow the 2016 Ecumenical World Development Conference takes place in the Central Hall, Coventry. It is called "Hope in a Changing Climate" and seeks answers to questions such as:

- How does the Paris Agreement give support to our efforts?
- Does it re-ignite hope that the most dangerous climate change can be avoided?
- What needs to happen to strengthen what was agreed?
- How can we, sustained and guided by our hope in Christ, work in our churches and across denominational and

national boundaries for a vision of a restored creation?

Speakers include Professor Myles Allen, Paul Cook (Tearfund), Ruth Valerio (A Rocha), George Marshall and Bishops William Kenney and Graham Usher. For more details go to: <http://www.ewdc.uk/>

Saturday 16th April

At the Paris conference last December, the Young Global Leaders Initiative of the World Economic Forum offered prizes for promising citizen-based solutions aimed at reducing CO2 emissions in cities. Prizes were awarded for

1. An air booster that reduces the energy consumption of electric vehicles
2. A mobile app to facilitate car-sharing
3. A mechanical system for harvesting energy from cars on tolls and roadways where vehicles need to reduce their speed.

The winners, besides gaining from the publicity, will be eligible for further mentoring and a programme to help bring their project to market.

Sunday 17th April

Lord of all life, we pray that as young people in each generation discover your world in their own way, so their energies may be used creatively and their choices based on what is true and of lasting value.

Monday 18th April

Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean reached a maximum of 14,478 million sq. kilometres on March 2nd – the lowest figure ever recorded for this time of year. WWF commented: "This year marks another grim statistic in the continuing disappearance of Arctic sea ice, with major consequences for wildlife and weather in the northern hemisphere. As the latest scientific findings from the Arctic show, there is no alternative to implementing climate commitments. We must stop the steady destruction of our planet's delicate ecosystems and start building a new and renewable energy future."

Tuesday 19th April

The World Economic Forum recently revised its list of major short-term risks to just three: