environmental laws. However, the OEP would be prohibited from disclosing information obtained from a public authority without its consent. Moreover, the public would have no access to any OEP report following its investigations. Now 36 environmental and other organisations have urged the Government to drop all secrecy provisions from the draft bill, saying that the current proposals “would impose a degree of secrecy which does not apply to any other UK environmental regulator” and that the restrictions are “even more onerous” than those applied by the European Commission in its investigations into breaches of EU environmental laws. 

**Saturday 28th September**

Today from 10am to 4pm Green Christian hosts a conference at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall, Beeches Green, Stroud GL5 4AA to deepen ecological discipleship, mobilise for change and build common cause for creation. The conference is free, but donations are welcome. There will be a bring and share lunch. Booking essential via: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/green-christian-on-the-road-together-in-stroud-tickets-62251432711

**Sunday 29th September**

Sovereign Lord of all nations, we pray for all who are called to leadership in the affairs of your earth. Give them the vision to see far into the crucial issues of our time, courage to uphold what they believe to be right, and integrity in their words and motives. May their service to their peoples promote the welfare and peace of all humankind, through the strength of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. (Basil Naylor)

**Monday 30th September**

Small electrical items often end up in landfill or are recycled incorrectly. Now the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) fund has been granted £3.5 million to support local projects focussed on small electric waste kerbside collections. Local authorities have until October 25th to bid for funding. £500,000 of the grant is aimed at supporting any UK reuse organisations to build their capacity through upgrading their reuse, testing and repair operations. Applications for this pot close on October 18th. https://larac.org.uk/news/new-wave-weee-fund-allocation-announced

Websites accessed 24/8/19

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email, please email: prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk

Website: www.greenchristian.org.uk

Picture on front cover: Ammassalik island, Greenland. Philip Clarkson Webb.

Green Christian is a Trading name of Christian Ecology Link Ltd. Correspondence Office: 10 Kil Gardens, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, RG27 8RG, UK. Company Registration No. 2445198 Registered Charity No. 328744. Tel: +44 (0) 345 4598460 info@greenchristian.org.uk

Prayer guide for the care of creation

**September 2019**

Philip Clarkson Webb has compiled our much-appreciated monthly Prayer Diary for 29 years. He started in July 1990 on retirement from teaching He is now stepping down and this September’s Prayer Diary will be his last. We are hugely indebted to Philip for his dedicated service. We are also most grateful to Emma King who will now be compiling the diary in addition to sending it out each month.

(Deborah Tomkins, Green Christian Co-Chair.)

“To pray is nothing more than to open the door, giving Jesus access to our needs and permitting him to exercise his power in dealing with them. It requires no strength. It is only a question of our wills. Will we give Jesus access to our needs?”

(Ole Hallesby)
Sunday 1st September
Give us courage, dear Father, to stand up and be counted.
To stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.
To stand up for ourselves when we need to.
Let us fear nothing more than we fear you.
Let us love nothing more than we love you.
Let us have no other God before you,
whether nation or party or state or church.
Let us seek no other peace but the peace
that is yours, and make us its instruments,
opening our eyes and ears and hearts,
so that we shall know always what work of peace we may do for you. (Alan Paton)

Monday 2nd September
Greta Thunberg who, at the age of sixteen,
was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize,
have set sail for America in time to address
the UN Climate Action Summit in New York
on the 23rd and to join climate
demonstrations there on the 29th and 27th.
Her boat, the Malizia II, is fitted with solar
panels and underwater turbines for
electricity, and the crew are measuring CO₂
levels en route. The boat's captain, Boris
Herrmann, said: “This voyage symbolises
two things: that it’s not easy to replace fossil
fuels, and that overcoming this challenge
will encourage others to
and the UK, by demonstrating it can make
adapt, including companies in the financial
system, will go bankrupt without question.
But also there will be great fortunes made
along this path, aligned with what society
wants. The UK is at the forefront (on this)
and the UK, by demonstrating it can make
these adjustments, will encourage others to
come along with them."

https://www.yachtsandyachting.com/news/2
20959/Greta-Thunberg-sets-sail-on-board-
Malizia-II

Tuesday 3rd September
The Institute of Public Policy Research
(IPPR) has warned that, after Brexit, EU
safeguards on the environment will fall
away without new legislation. A new
Sustainable Economy Act is needed to set
binding legal targets to protect wildlife, soil
fertility and air quality. “This should be
supported by a new Committee on
Sustainability to advise the Government
and a new enforcement body with extensive
powers to hold the Government to account.”
https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/
iclimate-change-uk-law-environment-
wildlife-air-quality-brexit-a9031861.html

Wednesday 4th September
Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of
England, has told Channel 4 News that
moving to a net carbon society by 2050 is
going to require some major changes to the
economy. “If you are in finance, banking,
insurance or asset management, you need
to think about investments, who you lend to
and how those could be affected as we
travel along that path. Companies that don’t
adapt, including companies in the financial
system, will go bankrupt without question.
But also there will be great fortunes made
along this path, aligned with what society
wants. The UK is at the forefront (on this)
and the UK, by demonstrating it can make
these adjustments, will encourage others to
come along with them."

Father, we pray, each one of us, for an
honest appraisal of our own lifestyle, that
we may admit, to ourselves and to you, all
that we are contributing, directly and
indirectly, to the pollution of your world.
Help us to bear witness, by our example, to
our resolve to amend our lives, so that
others may take heart and act accordingly.

Monday 23rd September
Today and tomorrow a Climate Justice
Summit takes place at St Paul's Church, Hill
Road, Cambridge, organised by the Amos
Trust. “Those who have the least political
and economic power, and the least
responsibility for the changing climate, are
affected the most. We have a moral and
ethical imperative to respond to their call for
immediate action.” Tickets at £40/£30
concessions are available at:
https://www.amostrust.org/diary/climate-
justice-summit-cambridge/ For further
details, email: forest@amostrust.org

Tuesday 24th September
The Waorani of the Ecuadorian Amazon
have been granted permanent protection of
their 500,000 acres of ancestral lands by
the Ecuadorian Provincial Court after years
of legal wrangling over their campaign to
protect it from exploitation by oil companies.
This victory could set a precedent for other
areas in jeopardy from resource extraction,
such as the neighbouring 7 million acres of
the Amazon basin and the distant Arctic
National Wildlife Refuge.
https://www.amazonfrontlines.org/chronicle/
waorani-ecuador-victory-appeal/

Wednesday 25th September
The Bialowieza Forest in Poland is the last
and biggest old-growth forest in Europe. In
2016 the Polish Government decided to
triple logging permits in the Forest, risking
irreversible damage. The EU Commission
took Poland to court for failing to protect the
Forest, a World Heritage site, and now the
European Court of Justice has ordered
Poland to halt logging in the Forest. Heavy
machinery logging stopped and the Polish
Environment Minister was fired. But a WWF
report is concerned a new plan includes
logging again
https://elpais.com/elpais/2019/06/04/inenglish/
1559658477_188656.html

Thursday 26th September
Spain’s Donana National Park, another
World Heritage site, is home to many
threatened species and is an essential
stopover for millions of migrating birds.,
but dredging of the Guadalquivir River has
caused drying out of the land, putting both
nature and local livelihoods at risk. WWF
organised a petition to the Spanish
government and now the government has
announced a ban on dredging the river and
cancelled gas storage plans, so removing
the most immediate threats to Europe’s
most important wetland.
https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/defending-
donana-national-park

Friday 27th September
A new Office of Environmental Protection
(OEP) will be set up post-Brexit
to investigate complaints of serious failure by
public authorities to comply with
Wednesday 18th September
A paper in *Environmental Research* finds that rising CO₂ levels, by speeding plant growth, appear to reduce the amount of protein in staple crops. When researchers grew crops with the levels of CO₂ expected later this century, minerals such as calcium and iron dropped by 8%. The loss of zinc, essential for maternal and infant health, could endanger 138 million people around the world.


Thursday 19th September
The oceans absorb some of the CO₂ emitted by our cars, factories and furnaces, but some of it turns into carbonic acid which, in turn, acidifies the oceans. We have already seen their acidity increase by about 3%. At the current rate of emissions, ocean pH will drop to 7.8 or 7.7 by 2100, "well beyond what fish and other marine organisms can tolerate in the laboratory without serious implications for health, reproduction and mobility." According to veteran oceanographer Eelco Rohling, "As water acidifies, the phytoplankton at the base of the oceanic food chain struggle to form calcium for their skeletal parts. If water becomes more acid, fish use huge amounts of energy to restore the balance in their cells, which stifles their growth and slows their mobility." From Bill McKibben’s ‘Falter’ For more on oceanacidification see for example https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/oceans/critical-issues-ocean-acidification/

Friday 20th September
The Greenpeace ship ‘Esperanza’ is on a 2-year voyage to raise awareness of major threats to the world’s oceans as part of its campaign for a strong Global Oceans Treaty. Its first destination is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which is covered by a deep-sea mining exploration contract granted by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to the Polish Government last year. Negotiations for the treaty are expected to be concluded next spring. For news of progress, go to: https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/new-greenpeace-report-warns-irreversible-harm-ocean-life-deep-sea-mining/

Saturday 21st September
Today Hereford diocese is hosting an Eco-Church launch event from 9.45 to 4.00 at St James's Church, 102 Green Street, Hereford HR1 2QW. Helen Stephens from A Rocha will speak about the Eco-Church Award Scheme and there will be workshops on Buildings, Worship & Teaching, Community & Global, Churchyards & Land. For more details and to book a place, go to: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-diocese-launch-event-tickets-64229454026

Sunday 22nd September
Today is Car-Free Sunday, when churches around the country encourage people to think and discuss how they can reduce the use of cars.

http://billmckibben.com/falter.html

Friday 6th September
Agreement has been reached between British Gas (BG) and the Catholic Church’s energy procurement group for the provision of renewable gas and electricity to 2,800 Catholic churches and over 2,200 Catholic schools and community centres. Under the deal, BG expects to provide green gas and electricity equivalent to the annual needs of more than 20,000 UK households and to take 21,000 cars off the road. When will other UK religious organisations make a similar commitment?


Saturday 7th September
A report from the IPCC finds that merely cutting fossil fuel emissions won’t be enough to stop global warming. Agriculture, wide-scale forestry and other land uses now account for 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. Debra Roberts, one of its authors, said: “Some dietary choices require more land and water and cause more heat-trapping emissions than others. Balanced diets featuring plant-based foods, such as coarse grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, and animal-sourced food produced sustainably in low-greenhouse gas emissions systems, present major opportunities for adaptation to and limiting climate change.”

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/


Sunday 8th September
Father, forgive us for our short-sightedness, our greed and for the part we have played, however unwittingly, in the destruction of your world. Forgive us that we have exploited the world’s resources for ourselves while so many others lack the basic necessities. Create in us a new heart and a new determination, that we may adopt a lifestyle that is gentle to the earth and just to the poor.
Monday 9th September
Fiji's minister for economy and climate change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, introducing a climate change bill, said: "Here in the vast Pacific sits our beloved Fiji. Small and increasingly vulnerable as we scan the horizon anxiously year by year for the kind of extreme weather event that 3 years ago took the lives of 44 of our loved ones and inflicted damage equal to one-third of our GDP, [referring to Hurricane Winston in 2016]. This is the grave situation in which we find ourselves through no fault of our own, and this is why this government puts such strong emphasis on the climate issue." Fiji is one of the few countries to combine the ministries of economy and climate change, so recognising the close link between a strong economy and a stable climate.


Tuesday 10th September
The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is tasked with regulating deep sea mining activities in international waters but, according to Greenpeace, far from protecting our oceans, they are busy selling activities in international waters but, according to Greenpeace, far from protecting our oceans, they are busy selling...