

# A magnificent journey

Sometimes we might feel we sound like a scratched record, endlessly replaying the same tune. Drawing attention to the impacts of humans on the Earth and the need for a change in how we live can leave us feeling self-righteous and hypocritical, or just a bit tired and sad. How are we to share this message, our vision of healing for the Earth and people everywhere? A basic tip is – no gloomy preaching or angry finger-pointing! We are bringing Good News! Sharing in serving and preserving God’s world is part of the gospel of Christ and we all have a role to play.

Several articles in this issue draw attention to the power of the language we use: Jeremy Williams stresses how using **Language that connects**, for example speaking of love for our home, the Earth on which we live, will strike a chord. Stephen Edwards in **Don’t mention the warming** outlines a helpful bible study, ready soon from Operation Noah, advocating “hopeful prayer and respectful conversations” as a useful resource for Churches. In **Hope in the darkness**, Ruth Wilde shares how the Student Christian Movement is reaching out with a message of hope in response to Climate Change.

It seems there is a “myth of apathy” about environmental issues, as Matt Stemp explains in **We lament what we love**; people are increasingly concerned, but anxiety and ambivalence evoked by the scale and immensity of climate change, species loss and pollution can be overwhelming. Matt describes how until we can address these emotions, making space for grief and reflection on our disconnection from



From left:  
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the natural world, we won’t begin to find the spiritual creativity and imagination to begin to act.

So the Christian Church, as a prophetic community of prayer, along with poets, artists, scientists, activists and clowns has a vital role – in enabling lament, repentance, and kindling hope. Green Christian, through its “Green Christian On The Road” and other events, such as our annual retreat (see p14 for details) also offers encouragement from meeting with others, engaging both emotionally, and practically. We are a hopeful community, loosely woven together in a shared concern but offering each other support, friendship and insights from our various perspectives.

Can we learn to see the world afresh, and find our place, employing practical humility, as Paul Bodenham, our Green Christian Chair describes in **Out of the wilderness**, “each one becoming a stitch in the repair of Creation”?

Jenny Tibbles, in her **Report on Joy in Enough’s Big Workshop** last November, describes the thrill and fun of daring to live a little differently. Whether it’s changing lightbulbs in a small eco-church, planting a wildflower meadow or setting up a forest church, whether you are a student, an OAP, in a busy city, or a tiny village, we are all invited to be part of what she calls “a magnificent journey”.

Lament. Wonder. Hope.

## Green Christian is seeking a volunteer to help with the technical aspects of its website.

We are looking for someone with enthusiasm, who shares our aims and ethos, who can help make the website more engaging and easy to use.

Familiarity with Wordpress is essential; html, css and php are desirable.

The ability to assess what plug-ins could enhance the website would also be useful, as well as an ability to integrate the website with social media.

contact Green Christian's website designer Poppy Pickard at [poppickard@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:poppickard@greenchristian.org.uk) for further information.



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