Saturday 28th February
All eyes have turned to Albania after more than 40 environmental groups across Europe called for the suspension of Donald Trump's son-in-law's mega project. Last year, Jared Kushner and his wife Ivanka Trump sparked controversy after revealing plans to transform the uninhabited island of Sazan into a tourist destination for the elite…

Once home to a military base, Sazan is one of the last undeveloped islands in the Mediterranean – surrounded by the Karaburun–Sazan Marine National Park and a crucial haven for some of the world's most endangered marine species.
https://www.euronews.com/green/2026/01/27/deep-concern-over-40-environmental-groups-urge-luxury-resort-on-albanian-island-to-be-susp

Picture on front cover: Image by sunflair from Pixabay

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please fill in the sign up form at https://greenchristian.org.uk/about/contact-us/ or email: prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk
Green Christian contact: Information Officer: info@greenchristian.org.uk
Tel: 0345 459 8460
www.greenchristian.org.uk
Green Christian: 48 Morrab Road, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4EX.

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

February 2026

"The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."
Psalm 95 v 5

"Son of the Living God,
You offer a revolution called Love,
A rebellion called Peace,
A conspiracy of Compassion"
From Sunday prayers, Jon Swales

Green Christian
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Sunday 1st February
Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month. Prayer points for February will be on their website.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now: (prayer from Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief). https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/

Monday 2nd February
Nearly 100 UK newspaper editorials opposed climate action in 2025, a record figure that reveals the scale of the backlash against net-zero in the right-leaning press. Carbon Brief has analysed editorials – articles considered the newspaper's formal "voice" – since 2011 and this is the first year opposition to climate action has exceeded support. Criticism of net-zero policies, including renewable-energy expansion, came entirely from right-leaning newspapers, particularly the Sun, the Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph. In addition, there were 112 editorials – more than two a week – that included attacks on Ed Miliband, continuing a highly personal campaign by some newspapers against the Labour energy secretary… Taken together, the newspaper editorials mirror a significant shift on the UK political right in 2025, as the opposition Conservative party mimicked the hard-right populist Reform UK party by definitively rejecting the net-zero target that it had legislated for and the policies that it had previously championed. https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-newspaper-editorial-opposition-to-climate-action-overtakes-support-for-first-time/

Tuesday 3rd February
Restoring land is no longer a question of knowing what to do. Countries across regions and income levels have identified interventions where land is degrading and how drought risks can be reduced. What converts ordinary raindrops into a practical energy source, producing peak outputs of nearly 250 volts per drop, writes Bente Baekers. The lightweight system eliminates the need for land installations and could power small sensors or remote devices on lakes, reservoirs, and coastlines…The hydrovoltaic system innovation originates from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, where researchers have developed the Water-based Droplet Electricity Generator, or W-DEG. Unlike traditional land-based devices, the system utilizes water itself as both a support surface and an electrode. A thin dielectric layer floats on the water, and when raindrops strike it, rapid electrostatic induction produces strong voltage pulses up to 250 volts per drop in prototype tests. https://happyeconews.com/rain-powered-generator-hydrovoltaic-system/

Friday 27th February
African lions are increasingly targeted for trade in their bones, skin, teeth and claws, according to a newly published study, writes Bobby Bascomb. Without urgent action, the authors warn, poaching may pose an existential threat to *Panthera leo*, which once numbered in the hundreds of thousands across Africa. Today, about 25,000 are relegated to just 6% of their historic range. They're classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Poaching is especially rising in Mozambique and South Africa, said Peter Lindsey, the study's lead author who directs the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund. Officials seized more than 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of lion parts in Maputo, Mozambique's capital, in 2023. That year, an Endangered Wildlife Trust survey found just 122 lions in an area of South Africa's Kruger National Park that had held 283 in 2005 — a drop of nearly 60%. Threats are pervasive. Prey is depleted by intensive bushmeat hunting. Lions are targeted for trophy hunting and poisoned in retaliatory killings by pastoralists when the cats hunt livestock. https://news.mongabay.com/short-article/2026/01/poaching-african-lions-for-black-market-could-pose-existential-threat/

Tuesday 24th February
Not everyone agrees on the extent to which climate change drives conflict, write Beatrice Mosello and Alexandra Steinkraus. While some critics argue that linking climate and war oversimplifies complex dynamics, ignoring factors like governance, ethnicity, and historical grievances, the latest evidence paints a different picture. Recent data from organizations such as the World Bank and the UN show that climate-related disasters are increasing in frequency and severity, and countries facing these shocks are more likely to experience instability. Responsibility and accountability also remain at the heart of the global conversation. Developed nations, which have contributed most to greenhouse gas emissions and continue to fail to meet Paris commitments, are often insulated from the worst impacts. Meanwhile, poorer countries, with minimal emissions, bear the brunt of climate-linked devastation. This imbalance demands a renewed focus on climate justice, reparations, and the obligation of wealthier nations to support mitigation and adaptation efforts.
https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/conflict/influence-climate-change-conflict

Wednesday 25th February
The Mediterranean's hidden forests are under siege from tourism, write Barbara Celis et al. Tourism and nautical recreation are eating away at the Mediterranean's most vital underwater habitat. The ancient seagrass *posidonia oceanica* — a seagrass species that is a cornerstone of marine biodiversity and one of the planet's most powerful natural carbon sinks — is under severe threat from unchecked anchoring in most Mediterranean coastal countries. An investigation across and around the Balearics, Corsica and Sardinia shows that, despite protective laws on paper, enforcement remains weak and resources scarce, leaving the "lungs of the Mediterranean" dangerously exposed. Illegal discharges of pollution are also an issue.
https://theecologist.org/2026/jan/26/tourism-takes-toll-ancient-seagrass

Thursday 26th February
A new floating rain-powered generator developed in China

now determines whether these plans deliver real impact is their financing… Meeting global land restoration and drought resilience targets will require around USD 355 billion per year between 2025 and 2030 – far more than is currently being invested. As long as land is not considered a strategic asset, rather than treated as a secondary environmental concern, this gap will persist. Today's financial systems are not designed for the scale, timeframes, or risk profiles that land restoration demands. Public budgets in many countries are under pressure, shaped by competing development priorities and raising sovereign debt levels that result in limited fiscal space… Private investment has so far played a limited role. While interest in sustainability is growing, land restoration often involves longer time horizons and higher perceived risks.
https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/ambition-action-why-financing-will-shape-future-land-restoration

Wednesday 4th February
Tonight is a Green Christian workshop – *The meaning of pilgrimage*. Phil Craine will explore with us about the meaning of pilgrimage and its place in our world today. Phil lives in his native Isle of Man where he is active in his local Methodist church, and enjoys exploring the hills and coast. He leads pilgrimages further afield, always sharing a sense of awe and wonder for creation, and encouraging walkers to connect with themselves, one another, creation and the Creator in a deeper way. Free, but register for the zoom link.
https://greenchristian.org.uk/green-christian-workshop-the-meaning-of-pilgrimage/

Thursday 5th February
Wind and solar power produced more electricity than fossil fuels in the EU for the first time last year, data published [in mid January] showed, indicating the bloc's continued shift towards low-carbon energy despite resistance from some governments. Journalist Kate Abnett continues: Wind and solar generated 30% of the European Union's electricity in 2025, just above the 29% supplied by fossil fuel power plants running on coal, gas and occasionally oil, according to data

from energy think-tank Ember… Europe's electricity mix is now mostly low-carbon, with renewables and nuclear power together supplying 71% of EU electricity last year, the data showed. While sectors such as transport still rely heavily on fossil fuels, the EU has been gradually shifting to cleaner energy to meet climate targets and reduce reliance on imported fuel, including from Russia… The transition has faced political pushback. Pressure from governments including Germany and the Czech Republic prompted Brussels to weaken key CO_2-cutting measures last year. An EU deal with President Donald Trump to massively increase purchases of U.S. energy has also raised questions about Europe's plans to wean itself off oil and gas. https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/wind-solar-overtake-fossil-fuels-eu-power-supply-2026-01-21/

Friday 6th February

The COP30 Presidency, the UNFCCC, and the Climate Champions Team held the opening session of the Global Climate Action Agenda for 2026 [in late January], writes Raphael Campos. The meeting marked a strategic moment in the continuity of work carried out throughout 2025, bringing together initiatives and leaders to celebrate the outcomes of COP30, take stock of the results delivered in Belém, and align priorities for the new implementation cycle leading toward COP31…The session … highlighted how the outcomes of COP30's formal negotiations created the political and institutional conditions to accelerate climate action in 2026. The Conference resulted in the adoption of 56 decisions by consensus, reaffirming a strong commitment to multilateralism and to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Among the key advances are the roadmaps launched by the Brazilian Presidency to transition away from fossil fuels and to halt and reverse deforestation, as well as the creation of the Belém Mission for 1.5°C and the Global Implementation Accelerator—tools designed to align political decisions, science, and concrete action on the ground. https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/cop30-opens-2026-with-a-

Sunday 22nd February

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
We live in a world of climate breakdown.
We are facing a world of increased migration, refugees and those seeking asylum.
We are facing a world of food shortage, malnutrition and starvation.
Climate breakdown acts as a threat multiplier as Temperatures rise,
Sea levels rise,
Conflict increases,
Extreme weather events increase.
Lord have mercy.

Excerpt from prayer 18, A Conspiracy of Compassion by Jon Swales
https://greenchristian.org.uk/lament-hope-40-prayers-for-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency/

Monday 23rd February

When climate change enters global conversations, attention often turns to melting glaciers and catastrophic storms, write Beatrice Mosello and Alexandra Steinkraus. Yet, beneath these headlines lies a deeper challenge: climate change is fueling conflict and undermining peace. … The UN has long warned that climate change can act as a "threat multiplier," increasing pressures on peace and security, particularly in fragile regions. Today, that shorthand is used less, reflecting a clearer understanding of the complex, context-specific ways climate stress contributes to instability: by intensifying competition over land, water, food, and livelihoods, especially where governance is weak or social divisions run deep. In practice, climate change rarely operates in isolation. Its security impacts are shaped by local political, economic, and social dynamics. For example, rapid migration to urban centers in Papua New Guinea, driven by climate-impacted livelihoods and rural violence, is reshaping demographics. Unplanned urban growth has created informal settlements with poor services, high unemployment, and increased crime. These conditions, combined with heightened climate risks that especially affect youth, are turning cities into climate-security hotspots. https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/conflict/influence-climate-change-conflict

Many in the environment sector would answer 'no'. The government made welcome compromises on its planning reforms, but overall it has weakened environmental protection and biodiversity net gain, while ministers' rhetoric often echoes Liz Truss's 'war on nature'. This is deeply regrettable, but also somewhat predictable. Labour made promises on nature in its manifesto, but its high command has a poor understanding of how strongly people feel about nature and the countryside (witness the doomed year long fight with farmers over inheritance tax). Besides, its top priority was never nature: it was economic growth through building stuff.
https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2026/01/07/what-are-the-prospects-for-environmental-politics-in-2026/

Saturday 21st February
One year ago, with one of the first strokes of his presidential Sharpie, President Donald Trump signed an executive order declaring a "national energy emergency," making good on a campaign promise to "drill, baby, drill.", writes Zoya Teirstein. It was the first of many such orders, signaling that the championing of fossil fuels would be a cornerstone of the new administration… "*It has been an extraordinarily destructive year*," said Rachel Cleetus, climate and energy policy director at the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists… However, while these moves have been effective in sowing panic and uncertainty, their long-term effects on the country's climate policy framework are far from certain. Indeed, only a small fraction of the climate damage threatened by Trump is truly permanent, experts told Grist. That's not only because many of Trump's moves may ultimately be ruled illegal… but also because executive actions can be reversed by a future president…"*He is not changing law*," said Elaine Kamarck, who worked in the Clinton administration and is the founding director of the Brookings Institution's Center for Effective Public Management. "*He is changing practice*."
https://grist.org/politics/how-permanent-is-trumps-assault-on-climate-action/

strategic-session-on-the-global-climate-action-agenda

Saturday 7th February
Today is Green Christian's Way of Life gathering, *Spiritual Adaptation – Places of Refuge, People of Resilience.* Following on from our November Green Christian members' annual conference where we explored how churches can help their communities prepare for climate adaptation, our February gathering will consider what "spiritual adaptation" may mean for our Way of Life journey. This event will be open to all Green Christian members who are interested in following our Way of Life, and an opportunity for Companions (followers of the Way) and Explorers (those who have expressed an interest) to come together to share their experiences of the journey so far and discern the next steps. At St Aloysius' church, near Euston station, London.
https://greenchristian.org.uk/way-of-life-gathering/

Sunday 8th February
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
We praise that you proclaimed the Kingdom of God,
And demonstrated what this looked like by
Welcoming the outcast,
Feeding the hungry,
Healing the sick,
And speaking truth to power.
You laid down your life as an act of self-giving sacrificial love.

Excerpt from prayer 18, A Conspiracy of Compassion by Jon Swales
https://greenchristian.org.uk/lament-hope-40-prayers-for-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency/

Monday 9th February
After a decade of supremacy amongst Brussels' lobbying class, the principle of 'energy efficiency first' is being sidelined as funding dries up and the EU instead embraces electrification, writes Nikolaus J. Kurmayer. First coined in the mid-2010s, the slogan came to be treated as a form of salvation for the EU's stagnant energy and climate lobbying space. Albeit vague, its name augured well for the neglected stepchild of the climate transition – energy efficiency, a

policy field where the bloc sets targets and national capitals miss them…Some said it implied going all-in on insulation, turning houses into cosy nests wrapped in thick layers of mineral wool and foam. Others just wanted to stop grid operators from seeking to solve every problem by laying more costly copper wire… Now, after more than a decade in the limelight, and just a few years after the political zenith, the sheen of 'energy efficiency first' has finally worn off…With 'energy efficiency first' on its way out, a new concept is capturing the public and political imagination – electrification. Look no further than Hiel, the energy transition lobbyist, for an example of how the world has been swiftly changed by the double whammy of ever cheaper solar panels and the growing popularity of the heat pump. https://www.euractiv.com/news/how-the-eus-energy-efficiency-mantra-fell-out-of-favour/

Tuesday 10th February

The illegal wildlife trade is constantly changing, write Whitney Kent and Callie Cho. Today, it is quickly expanding into new regions and targeting different species in response to demand. Underregulated digital marketplaces and social media platforms have allowed traffickers to reach global buyers, accelerating the complexity and scale of this illicit trade. At the same time, policy makers and conservation organizations worldwide are working together to stop wildlife trafficking, protecting the survival of endangered species and ensuring that wildlife trade is safe, sustainable, and legal.

- An increase in recent songbird trafficking busts in the US is revealing an emerging North American market and increased demand for native species, despite being protected under US federal laws.
- [T]here has recently been a notable increase in turtle trafficking to Asia from the US and Mexico,
- In South Africa's Cape provinces, rare, drought-resistant succulents and cycads have been the primary targets of poaching, mainly for ornamental use.
- A surge in primate smuggling from Mexico into the US to fuel the pet trade is one of the latest wildlife trends being driven by social media.

our test users to follow climate deniers. https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/digital-threats/ai-chatbots-share-climate-disinformation-to-susceptible-users/

Thursday 19th February

A hitherto unknown, extensive and ancient coral reef located in the centre of the Dohrn Canyon in the Gulf of Naples, more than 500 metres below the sea surface: the discovery was made as part of the scientific expedition 'Demetra' underway on the National Research Council's research vessel Gaia Blu, coordinated by the CNR Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-Ismar) with the involvement of scientific staff from the Anton Dohrn Zoological Station, the Polytechnic University of the Marches, and the Federico II University of Naples… Explorations carried out using a remotely controlled underwater vehicle (ROV) revealed the presence of imposing structures more than two metres wide and distributed along a vertical wall of more than 80 metres, formed by deep-sea hard corals, commonly referred to as 'white corals' due to their lack of colour, belonging to the species *Desmophyllum pertusum* and *Madrepora oculata.* https://www.ismar.cnr.it/web-content/en/the-gulf-of-naples-reveals-a-large-coral-reef/

Friday 20th February

What are the prospects for environmental politics in 2026, asks Shaun Spiers… Let's start with the good news. The [UK] government has made impressive progress on its clean power mission, it remains strongly committed to net zero and it is championing climate action in its diplomacy. The agenda is not owned solely by Ed Miliband; it has strong support from the PM, the deputy PM and the chancellor… Its support for climate action is all the more admirable given vigorous opposition from Reform UK ("forward to the 1950s!") and the Conservatives, who are busy trashing their legacy of climate leadership. The fact is that net zero is not only important for the climate; it is crucial to the country's economic future and energy security, and the way to lower bills and improved lives. This is the government's narrative and it retains strong public support…But does the government take nature seriously?

urges-wales-to-unite-for-nature-s-recovery/?lang=en

Tuesday 17th February
Choosing the "least expensive" healthy food options could cut dietary emissions by one-third, according to a recent study, writes Yanine Quiroz. In addition to the lower emissions, diets composed of low-cost, healthy foods would cost roughly one-third as much as a diet of the most-consumed foods in every country. The study, published in Nature Food, compares prices and emissions associated with 440 local food products in 171 countries. The researchers identify some food groups that are low in both cost and emissions, including legumes, nuts and seeds, as well as oils and fats. Some of the most widely consumed foods – such as wheat, maize, white beans, apples, onions, carrots and small fish – also fall into this category, the study says. One of the lead authors tells Carbon Brief that while food marketing has promoted the idea that eating environmentally friendly diets is "very fancy and expensive", the study shows that such diets are achievable through cheap, everyday foods.
https://www.carbonbrief.org/adopting-low-cost-healthy-diets-could-cut-food-emissions-by-one-third/

Wednesday 18th February
Last year, [Global Witness] investigated how AI chatbots would answer questions about climate and found that some mainstream chatbots were failing to adequately reflect fossil fuel companies' complicity in the climate crisis. Since then, the global conversation about how generative AI should operate has shifted, with Trump declaring that risks of AI misinforming users about climate change should not be mitigated. At the same time, the phenomenon of "AI sycophancy" – where generative AI tends to try to please or agree with its users, even in harmful situations – has prompted concerns globally about its effect on our information environment. During COP30 … [Global Witness] tested AI chatbots. …[They] found that the chatbots varied in how much their personalisation meant they proactively shared climate disinformation. Their behaviour ranged from continuing to share scientific information to encouraging

- [T]he illegal trade of eels has become a multi-billion-dollar industry.

https://www.worldwildlife.org/news/stories/the-latest-trends-in-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/

Wednesday 11th February
Our global food system is the largest source of human-caused methane – we ignore it at our peril, write Emily Cassidy and Paul West. Methane was in the spotlight at COP30, the major climate conference held in early November in Belém, Brazil. Since the creation of the Global Methane Pledge in 2021, many countries have set targets to reduce methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels. At a methane summit convened at the conference, the United Kingdom and 10 other countries endorsed a commitment to achieve near-zero methane emissions across the fossil fuel sector. It's fitting that methane is finally getting more attention. About one third of Earth's warming to date has been from methane – a climate super pollutant 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term – and tackling its emissions is one of the most important and effective actions we can take to stabilize our climate. Humans are responsible for about 380 million tons of the gas each year. Although leaks from oil and gas infrastructure are a notorious source, emissions from agriculture and the broader food system are much larger. Yet they receive significantly less attention from the media, policymakers, and funders.
https://drawdown.org/insights/we-cant-ignore-the-largest-source-of-methane

Thursday 12th February
The largest private land conservation project in America passed a milestone of rewilding the Great Plains last year, writes Andy Corbley. The nonprofit American Prairie recently celebrated the new year with a report that it had successfully removed the 100th mile of derelict barbed wire fencing on its land holdings. All rolled up, the thorny barrier amounted to 500,000 pounds of scrap metal, and with its removal, the prairie's megafauna are free to move about as their hearts desire. American Prairie Reserve has for years been buying and leasing land between the Charles M. Russel

National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument in Montana to create America's largest assemblage of wild prairie for the purposes of conservation and recreation… With free-roaming animals like mule deer, elk, and pronghorn, the idea is to completely free them to move about as they please, as if it were the year 8,000 BCE.
https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/100-miles-of-derelict-fencing-removed-by-rewilders-across-the-great-plains-in-montana/

Friday 13th February
Nestlé's chief executive allegedly blames President Donald Trump for the brand's public silence on sustainability, telling employees that he remains committed to net zero emissions**.** The Financial Times has reportedly seen video footage of Philipp Navratil speaking at an event for Nestlé staff members. "*If you think about it in hindsight, five years ago or three years ago, if you go and meet investors, you would get plenty of questions about sustainability*," Navratil said, as quoted by the Financial Times. "*Somehow in the US it has totally gone off the agenda. In all of the investor meetings I have done, nobody asks, not one has asked — I think one maybe — about sustainability*." While he apparently took partial responsibility for the outcome, he went on to say that it is "*also President Trump's fault*" – adding that it would be a "*huge mistake*" not to focus on sustainability.
https://packagingeurope.com/news/nestle-chief-executive-blames-trump-for-sustainability-silence/13832.article

Saturday 14th February
Show the Love is back. Every February 14th, people across the UK make and share green hearts to show what's at the heart of the future they want to protect. This year, we're coming together again – to celebrate the places we live, the people we love, and the progress already happening across our communities. On 14 February, we invite you to send a green heart to your politician: a simple act of care that shows what matters most in your community. Green Christian are encouraging everyone to do three things:

1. Get all our churches praying for climate and nature on Sunday 15 February
2. Ask church members to email their MPs
3. Get a group together to make green hearts, or postcards, to post to our MPs, calling for care of climate and nature
https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love/

Sunday 15th February
Son of the Living God,
You offer a revolution called Love,
A rebellion called Peace,
A conspiracy of Compassion,
That seeks to set the world to rights.
You laid down your life as an act of self-giving sacrificial love.

Excerpt from prayer 18, A Conspiracy of Compassion by Jon Swales
https://greenchristian.org.uk/lament-hope-40-prayers-for-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency/

Monday 16th February
Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is calling for urgent, collective action across all sectors to help some of Wales' most important habitats and species recover, as it publishes the first full Wales-wide assessment of their conservation status… The report reveals that many of Wales' most important habitats and species remain in poor condition, underlining the scale of the challenge ahead. However, the report emphasises that habitat and species recovery is possible, and that by acting together now, Wales can secure a nature-rich, climate-resilient future.
Key findings include:

- Of 61 habitats assessed, only two were found to be in favourable condition when considered in their entirety across Wales, while nearly 80% of habitats are classed as "unfavourable-bad,"
- Among 53 non-bird species, just 14 are in favourable condition, while 16 - including Atlantic salmon - are in serious decline.
- Key pressures across habitats and species include agriculture, climate change, pollution and urban development, with additional impacts from disease on birds and water-related pressures on fish.

https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-blogs/news/new-habitat-and-species-assessment-