

Connections

My last *Green Christian* as editor

I 'retired' three years ago and experienced that cliché attached to the idea of retirement, yes, that's it, and I am busier than ever!

Well now, after 12 years, I feel it is time to retire from the editorship of *Green Christian, the magazine*, but most certainly not from the community of faith, resistance and hope (see the centre pages). As I bow out of this role I hope I will be forgiven for a self indulgence and including in an article of my own in my last issue (pages 10 and 11).

Connections

One of the most delightful and intriguing experiences has been seeing each issue grow into existence, well, we have to say, 'in an organic way'. Most of the articles and material for each issue just appear but what amazing connections there are. Look at Paul Ballard's article about the need for the Church to be prophetic (p.6) and Where have all the prophets gone? (p.10).

His phrase 'that we are gardeners, co-creators, in creation, then look at Earthed, Deborah Tompkin's encouragement for us to connect to nature by gardening and Laura Deacon's letter (p. 21): 'We are humble humans from the humus – adamah' and, further, Finding the Still Point (p.7) from The Quiet Garden Movement. The call for intergenerational justice (p. 8) introducing the fourth ecocell conference finds resonance with the poetry page (12).

The Local groups report (p.17) reminds me (p.10) not to disregard or be disrespectful to the local prophets described here, quietly and humbly doing the job in their context.

A Way of Life pp.14,15 longs to connect us together as a Green Christian Community.

Again the magazine is full of information, reports, conferences, stories and poems. Much of this is cerebral but we must be careful not to neglect a disciplined approach to strengthening our love and deep connection with creation, nature, the more than human community.

Our own connection with creation

Without this connection, this deep, intentional, intelligent emotional connection with the creator's gift we will struggle to follow in the steps of his Son who became one with the humble humus because he loved the creation so deeply.

After a time of solitude out in the woods here at Ringsfield a nine year old girl wrote: *In my Magic Spot I felt a bit lonely and frightened, but gradually I realised that I was not alone because nature was all around me and nature is my friend.*

Make sure you read Naoki Higashida's loving words (in the middle of column 2, p.10).

So as I say goodbye I pray that, whatever campaign you are involved with, whatever book you are reading, whatever conference you attend, you will be wrapped by nature, 'gently, glowing, swaying, bubbling, rustling'.

It isn't goodbye, I hope, but adieu. ■
Chris

CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK HAS A NEW NAME: GREEN CHRISTIAN



In the last issue of *Green Christian* we reported on two important steps which it was felt would aid in CEL's ability to have a more immediate impact on people of all ages and which might also aid our development as a community of faith. Having consulted with members via the magazine and CELink, we are now in a position to report on the feedback and the outcome of the further prayerful reflection of CEL's steering committee.

NAME CHANGE

One step was a change of name from Christian Ecology Link to '**Green Christian**' which would signify a clear, bold and less confusing message for those (particularly young) people who have never heard of us (the second step, a new way of being is addressed on pp14-15).

There was almost unanimous support for changing our name to Green Christian, with several respondents feeling that this was long overdue. It was generally recognised that the new name would be more impacting.

After considering the responses and with further discussion, the steering committee endorsed the name change, as did the trustees. The operating name – with effect from 1st January 2015 will be – 'Green Christian'. 'Christian Ecology Link' will be retained as the formal name of the charity and the company.

As you are aware, this magazine and our website already bear the new name – and new copies of our literature will be changed over the coming months. ■

Green Christian is a registered trading name of Christian Ecology Link.