

absorb water during heavy rain, the most dramatic effect is the increased risk of floods. A mini copse of silver birch trees slows the impact of water on the surface and increases the amount that infiltrates into the soil, making flooding less likely. If you don't have a garden, plant one NOW!"

### Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

A winner of the UK Ashden Awards 2012 was Student Switch Off, which harnesses student silliness to take simple steps to improve energy, including wrapping up warm, switching off lights and using lids on saucepans. Through its inventive use of social media, peer-to-peer engagement and student-focused incentives, this exciting initiative last year helped participating universities cut their electricity consumption by over 7%. Some 43 universities and 18,000 students are involved so far.

#### Sources:

Broadleaf (Woodland Trust)  
CIWEM Business News  
Positive News  
[www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net)

**For further information**  
and requests for prayer, please contact:  
Philip Clarkson Webb  
15 Valley View  
Southborough  
Tunbridge Wells TN4 0SY  
Email: [pcw@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:pcw@christian-ecology.org.uk)  
Website: [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by [email](mailto:email) (free), please email [prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk)

Picture on front cover: Orange Grisette (*Amanita crocea*) by Judith Allinson

Christian Ecology Link Ltd is a company registered in England and Wales. Administrative Office:  
10, Beech Hall Road,  
Highams Park, London, E4 9NX  
Company Registration No. 2445198  
Registered Charity No. 328744.  
tel: +44 (0) 845 4598460  
[info@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:info@christian-ecology.org.uk)

## Prayer guide for the care of creation

# Oct 2012



"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret – it only leads to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land."  
(Psalm 32.7-9)

"It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect."  
(Psalm 18.32)

When Jesus healed the demon-possessed man at Gadara, he was asked to leave the town. Selwyn Hughes asks: "How would you feel if non-Christians in your community signed a petition asking you and fellow-Christians to move elsewhere? Would you feel that your service for Christ was being blocked? Difficulties did not frustrate Jesus and, provided we are in close fellowship with him, they need not frustrate us either."



## Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October

£10,000 to £20,000 prize money is offered in the UK Ashden Awards 2013 to help develop a sustainability project:

"We are looking for innovative sustainable energy enterprises and programmes that are:

- Working to generate sustainable energy, improve efficiency or reduce demand.
- Bringing social and economic benefits as well as demonstrably cutting CO2 emissions.
- Delivering a model that could be expanded or replicated.
- Financially sustainable."

To find out more, go to:

[www.ashden.org/uk\\_awards](http://www.ashden.org/uk_awards)

Closing date: October 30th

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Nitrogen, potassium and phosphates are essential for the growth of all crops. The Chartered Institute for Water Management (CIWEM) points out that today's phosphate mines will be exhausted by 2100 and estimates for future reserves range from 200 to 400 years at current rates of extraction, ignoring population growth. Yet CIWEM believes that wastewater

treatment could recover 95% of the phosphate from urban wastewater. Land application of suitable treated sewage sludge is far the best way to conserve and recycle the phosphate it contains. CIWEM calls on all governments to follow Sweden and Germany in making phosphate recovery from urban wastewater a legal requirement. CIWEM director Nick Reeves said: "The economics of phosphate recovery from wastewater would be quite favourable if we viewed phosphorus as a resource rather than the conventional approach of treating it as a pollutant in the environment, and mining it in mineral form to fertilise our crops."

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

According to the World Watch Institute, women farmers produce over half of the world's food and provide 43% of the agricultural labour force, yet few extension or research services are provided for women farmers. Women produce 80% of agricultural output in sub-Saharan Africa, yet cultural norms and restrictive property and inheritance rights limit the financial resources, land and technology available to women farmers. Farmers in countries with

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October

We cry to you, Lord, to protect your creation, to defend the work of your hands

Save our generation from our addiction to fossil fuels.

Wash our hands of their clutch on dirty energy.

Clean our hearts of our desire for more and more.

Turn our souls away from materialism and the desire to take and take from your sacred but finite world.

Give us a vision of the blessings we will receive if we turn away from idolatry of the economy and bow to wisdom and truth.

Let us all see that true happiness rests in enjoying your earth as you intended, not according to the lies of the enemy.

Show us that a kinder, simpler lifestyle will allow us to see your glory more clearly. Let your glory shine through your kingdom.

(Ruth Jarman)

## Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Positive Money is one of many groups campaigning for the power to create money by loans to be removed from

our banks. Martin Wolf of the Financial Times agrees:

"It is the normal monetary system, in which the 'printing' of money is delegated to commercial banks, that needs defending. This delegates a core public function – the creation of money – to a private and often irresponsible commercial oligopoly."

An 1844 law making it illegal for anyone other than the state to create paper money has never been updated to take account of the fact that 97% of money is now just electronic numbers on the computer systems of banks. As a result, the state has effectively handed the power to create money to the private banking sector – and we all know how that ended.

PM's new documentary "97% Owned" is freely available at :

[www.positivemoney.org.uk](http://www.positivemoney.org.uk)

## Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

5.5 million homes in Britain are at risk of flooding. Here is some advice from the Woodland Trust: "Rain gardens in urban areas can soak up water like a sponge, yet gardens are disappearing fast under paving stones, decking and driveways. The sealing in of green space results in habitat loss and warmer temperatures. With no soil to

New figures from the US National Snow & Ice Data Centre show that ice levels are nearly half of what existed in the Arctic 30 years ago, when satellite records began. Climate models predict that the Arctic could be virtually free of summer ice within a generation, largely due to climate change.

A cross-party committee of MPs has called for a halt in oil and gas drilling in the Arctic until stronger safeguards are put in place, and for a clear UK Arctic strategy to reconcile the conflict whereby the Government acknowledges the need to cut emissions yet continues to look to Arctic oil and gas for energy security.

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

A report on the proposed High Speed Rail Link (HS2) from CPRE, RSPB and the Campaign for Better Transport (CBT) finds that carbon emissions from making a trip by HS2 would be 73% lower than making an equivalent journey by car and 76% lower than flying. But safeguards are needed: RSPB calls for Government to focus critically on the low-carbon electricity issue.

CPRE warns that if HS2 stations are built on Greenfield sites poorly served by public transport, the system would have lower economic benefits and generate more carbon emissions. CBT said that using the freed-up capacity of existing lines to move freight off the roads would be an advantage, but only if Government signals now that it will make the strategic investments to make this possible.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

A Robin Hood tax on all financial transactions has long been mooted as a way of reducing poverty and tackling climate change. Now the French government has introduced a financial transactions tax (FTT) amounting to 0.2% on all transactions of French companies valued at more than 1 billion euros. President Hollande has said that part of the 500 million euros expected to be raised in the next year will be used to fight global poverty and HIV-AIDS. A further nine European countries are expected to create their own FTTs by the end of this year. Why not Britain?

greater gender equality tend to achieve higher cereal yields than those in countries with more inequality, while improved productivity reinforces gains in gender equality, so creating a positive feedback mechanism throughout local communities.

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Construction of the £2.4 billion Xayaburi dam in northern Laos is continuing despite last December's decision by countries along the Mekong to delay building the dam pending further studies on its likely impact. The Lower Mekong supports nearly 60 million people with its rich fisheries. In order for migratory fish to move up or down the river, they would need to swim through the dam via proposed fish passages, but nowhere in the tropics has a successful fish passage been built for a dam the size of Xayapuri. According to the World Fish Centre in Phnom Penh "It is unreasonable to assume that the proposed fish passage will be efficient when it is neither based on successful experience in a similar context nor on a study of the local species." Any decision reached will set a precedent

for ten other dams proposed for the lower mainstream of the Mekong.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

According to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research, an estimated 2,049 sq. km. of Amazon rainforest was cleared between August 2011 and July 2012, compared to 2,679 sq. km. in the previous 12 months. Around 20% of the Amazon forests have now been lost to deforestation, but the rate of loss has fallen by 75% since 2004. However, government plans to build new hydroelectric power plants in the Amazon are seen as a major threat to the rainforest and its inhabitants. Meanwhile, the controversial Bel Monte dam on the Xingu River, which would flood 500 sq. km. and displace thousands of people, is currently suspended following a successful appeal by indigenous and environmental groups.

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Bt cotton is the only GM crop to be widely commercialised in developing countries, but the technology is expensive, unreliable and toxic. Occupying just 2.5% of global cropland, it uses 7% of all pesticides

and 16% of insecticides. Acute poisoning from pesticides is common where cotton is grown. Non-organic cotton uses 11,000 litres of water for every kilogram of cotton produced. Most cotton fields are irrigated, draining groundwater, lakes and rivers, and threatening water availability for other human needs. The high cost of inputs and low returns take farmers through a boom-and-bust cycle, threatening their ability to buy the food they need to feed themselves and their families. Yet cotton farmers everywhere have proved that the damaging consequences of producing cotton are completely unnecessary. Soil Association is asking consumers to buy organic cotton wherever they can and to tell others of the benefits it brings to people and the planet. [www.soilassociation.org/cotton](http://www.soilassociation.org/cotton)

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October

God our Creator, whose good earth is entrusted to our care and delight, we pray:  
For all who are in captivity to debt,  
whose lives are cramped by fear,  
For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel,

For all who labour in poverty, who are oppressed by unjust laws, who long for a harvest of justice,  
For all who are in captivity to greed and waste and boredom, whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need.  
Turn us again from our captivity and restore our vision, that our mouths may be filled with laughter and our tongues with singing.  
(the late Janet Morley – adapted)

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Bhutan has set a target of growing all its own vegetables by 2014 to support its farming industry and reduce its dependency on imports. This will require an additional 23,850 tonnes of crops to be grown, doubling its present production. Imports will not be banned, but the government will provide 216 greenhouses to help combat the harsh winters. Irrigation and harvesting improvements will be made, with government subsidies for water pumps, storage tanks and hosepipes. Bhutan already has a goal of becoming the world's first country to have a completely organic farming system by 2020.

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Cities generate around 80% of global GDP and are responsible for generating 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. Siemens has unveiled a £30 million glass-clad structure in the Docklands area of London called The Crystal, designed to showcase the latest in urban sustainability thinking with an interactive exhibition (shortly to open to the public). Covering 6,300 sq. metres, The Crystal uses 50% less power and emits 60% less CO2 than comparable office buildings. 2/3rds of the roof is covered in solar PV panels, generating around 20% of electricity requirements. Mayor Boris Johnson said: "This facility has an incredible educational angle. It shows what urban life is going to be like and the ways we can work together to improve our cities."

### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

The Government has launched three consultations on the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). It is proposed that the tariff be based on a "deemed heat usage" rather than on a metered process. Indicative tariffs over the first 7 years are:

6.9 – 11.5p/kWh for air-source heat pumps  
5.2-8.7p/kWh for biomass boilers  
12.5-17.3p/kWh for ground-source heat pumps  
17.3p/kWh for solar thermal technologies.  
Athol Duckett of AD Heating comments: "Many householders are keen to install renewable technologies, but want to be sure of their return on investment before committing to an often substantial outlay."

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Following Shell's decision to postpone further drilling in Alaska's Chukchi Sea, WWF comments: "It is completely irresponsible to drill for oil in such a fragile ecosystem: there are simply too many unmanageable risks involved. We should instead be moving away from fossil fuels and working towards a renewable energy future. . . With the speed of change that we are witnessing in the Arctic, WWF is calling on the UK government to show national and global leadership in the urgent transition away from fossil fuels to a low-carbon economy."

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, Cridton EX17 6DF and aims to raise awareness and promote action on local production and security. Speakers include Colin Tudge, Ruth West and Tim Gorringe. Cost: £15 including lunch and refreshments. Booking essential. Email: [joan.harris@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:joan.harris@exeter.anglican.org) or ring 01392 294940.

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

The CEL Weekend Retreat begins today at Noddfa, North Wales LL34 6YF. This will be a Christ-centred and biblically-informed journey in the story of the universe. "We will reflect together on our emerging vocation to be co-creators with God, asking forgiveness for the plight of the earth and making straight the way of the Lord in this damaged but still beautiful world." Noddfa (meaning haven or refuge) is a centre run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Penmaenmawr, just a short walk from the railway station. For more details, phone 0845 4598460 or email: secretary @christian-ecology.org.uk

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October

New energy storage technologies could result in a payback of £10 billion a year according to a report from Imperial College London. A Government-funded competition will offer finance "to develop and demonstrate innovative energy storage technologies which can address grid-scale storage needs for the UK electricity network." In addition, DECC's Energy Storage Component Research & Feasibility Study Competition will offer funding "to support component-level research in relation to storage technologies."

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Father, as we read and see daily in our newspapers and television programmes the devastation caused by the selfish promotion of political and economic ideologies, we pray earnestly for a change of heart among the nations and for a massive diversion of human resources towards the relief of human suffering and the restoration of your world.

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

The USA has experienced its worst drought since 1936, while Russia and South America have also suffered water shortages. By June the basket of food prices tracked by the UN had risen by 15% and it reported that "the coming year will see the world economy re-enter a period of agflation as grain and oilseed stocks decline to critically low levels." Rising food prices were a contributory factor in the Arab Spring. This time, however, shortages are seen more in crops used for animal feed such as corn and soybeans, while the price of staple grains such as rice and wheat has remained steady. So consumers feeling the squeeze could switch from meat and dairy products towards staple grains – good news for their health and the health of the planet.

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October

A voluntary catch limit set by fishermen, scientists and conservationists in Lyme Bay is the first example of self-regulation by British fishermen. The new restrictions mean that no one boat will be able to deploy more than 250 crab and lobster pots, 500 whelk pots or nets over 600

metres in length. The partnership will fund a University of Plymouth study to see how much fishing the bay's reefs can sustain and to adjust policy accordingly. Alex Jones, representing younger fishermen from Lyme Regis, said: "The future has to be with fishermen and scientists working together towards a common goal of sustainability, protecting areas but still keeping fishing communities going."

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Planting started in July of a 4,000 mile wall of trees nine miles deep in an ambitious effort to halt the southward spread of the Sahara Desert. Called The Great Green Wall, it will traverse 11 countries from Senegal on the Atlantic to Djibouti on the Red Sea. The UN Convention to combat Desertification believes that the wall will help to retain moisture for water sources such as Lake Chad, support research into drought-tolerant plants, provide local people with food and fuel, and become a symbol of co-operation and stability for Africa. The Global Environment Facility has invested \$108 million while other development bodies have given \$3 billion, including \$1.8 billion from the World Bank.

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October

80 million cups of coffee are consumed in Britain every day and UK coffee chains produce 300 tonnes of used coffee grounds a week. Home filters also produce a large amount of waste grounds, which go straight in the bin.

Fungi Futures collects coffee grounds from local cafes and mixes them with shredded cardboard and mushroom spawn. Result: Delicious and nutritious home-grown oyster mushrooms, which are sold to restaurants around Plymouth and are available online at [www.fungi-futures.co.uk](http://www.fungi-futures.co.uk)

Tomato crops also benefit from coffee grounds, while the acid in them deters slugs, though earthworms love the stuff.

Coffee's distinctive odour and UV resistant qualities are being exploited by clothing manufacturers to create sustainable fabrics often found in sportswear. Fungi Futures was runner-up in the Observer Ethical Awards 2012

## Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Today and every Saturday up to November 10<sup>th</sup> plus December 1<sup>st</sup> A

Rocha UK is holding conferences up and down the country called "Good News for God's Earth? Bringing Hope to the UK". The aim is to consider why the gospel is good news for God's earth and to discover how Christians and churches can work for the protection and restoration of the natural world locally, nationally and globally. For dates and venues, go to: [www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org) or ring 020 8574 5935.

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Eternal God and Father, you alone are the source of all truth and understanding. Direct by your Holy Spirit those engaged in scientific research into ways of protecting your fragile world from decay and corruption, so that, as they uncover more of your treasures of wisdom and knowledge, they may further your deep purposes of love. Bless the partnership between religion and science, that both may serve your will in promoting the welfare of humankind and in reconciling the whole world to you, its Maker and Redeemer. (Tim Torrance)

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Since the publication of "Silent Spring" in 1962, a whole new class of insecticides called neonicotinoids has been introduced, which enter every part of a plant including the pollen, where they remain toxic to insects throughout the plant's life. Two recent studies in "Science" have revealed the many ways these pesticides impact on pollinators. The first showed that the production of queen bumblebees dropped by 85% after the insects were exposed to the neonicotinoid imidacloprid. The second found that honeybees exposed to the neonicotinoid thiamethoxam were 2-3 times more likely to die while away from their nests due to the disruption of their homing ability. In Italy and other countries the use of neonicotinoids is banned altogether. When will the British Government follow suit?

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October

The Government is to invest £1.25 million to incentivise trailblazing companies working towards a low-carbon economy. In addition, its Technology Strategy Board is opening a competition to stimulate innovation

for reducing the environmental impact of materials and our dependence on key raw materials such as rare earths. The competition opens on October 29<sup>th</sup> and closes on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Official figures show that 2/3rds of the recent £150 average annual increase in energy prices was due to the increase in gas prices. As North Sea gas supplies decline, we are ever more dependent on imported gas, partly from Norway but increasingly from Qatar, where the threat of Iran blocking the Straits of Hormuz remains ever-present. Although burning gas releases half as much CO<sub>2</sub> as does coal, its emissions of methane – 21 times as powerful as a warming gas – erode much of the difference. The Climate Change committee has warned that building new gas plants would jeopardise Britain's legal commitment to de-carbonise its electricity generation by 2030.

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October

The Devon Food Conference 2012 takes place today, organised by the Council for Church & Society, Diocese of Exeter. It runs from 10 to 4 at The