

Additional Prayers

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

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Picture on front cover: Catkins, Roding Valley, April 2012 by Poppy Pickard.

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

April 2013



“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.”
(Genesis 1.31)

“The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made
The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”
(Psalm 145. 13-16)

“The work of praying is prerequisite to all other work in the kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of heaven to our own helplessness.”
(O. Hallesby)

Monday 1st April.

Speaking in 2005, Dr. Rowan Williams said: “Ecology and Economy cannot be separated. . . . We are slowly realising the role of population growth, environmental degradation and consequent land shortage in fuelling conflicts. Such problems cannot indefinitely drift on; sooner or later they are likely to resolve themselves, whether in the manner of Rwanda or in some other manner not of our choosing, if we don’t succeed in solving them by our own actions. When we speak about environmental crisis, we are not thinking of spiralling poverty and mortality, but about brutal and uncontainable conflict. An economics that ignores environmental degradation invites social degradation – in plain terms, violence.”

Tuesday 2nd April

According to Nic Reeves, chair of CIWEM, last year’s Rio + 20 summit was a ghost of the confident, optimistic meeting of 20 years earlier. “Neither David Cameron, Angela Merkel nor Barack Obama attended the Rio + 20 summit, though all of them attended the G20 meeting just a week earlier. So the conclusion of the 1992 summit – that economic and

environmental issues should not be treated in isolation – goes up in smoke. World leaders seem incapable of making the vital link between the economy and the environment. Is it too much to ask our leaders, who performed miracles in trillion-dollar bailouts, to devote a bit more grunt and grind to defending the living planet and its eco-systems?”

Wednesday 3rd April

The Government’s triennial review of the Environment Agency and Natural England is considering a merger of the two bodies. CIWEM calls for a clear definition of the functions and governance of the two bodies before considering a merger. It also urges DEFRA to re-think its focus on growing the economy. “The belief that the environment is an entity to support economic and social well-being is a short step to a policy that only those parts of the environment that support economic growth and well-being are valuable and affordable. It must be our aim to put the economy at the service of the environment – not the other way round.”

loving care. Help us to do all in our power to relieve suffering, and make us willing and eager to share the good things that you have given us for the benefit of all.

Monday 29th April

2.5 million people have signed an Avaaz petition to the European Commission asking them to protect bees from neonicotinoid pesticides. Last month the Commission rejected a proposed 2-year moratorium on the use of these pesticides. Britain and Germany abstained from voting, so the proposal was lost. Avaaz is taking legal advice as to whether the decision is open to judicial review. For more details, go to www.avaaz.org/en/hours_to_save_the_bees/?m15

Tuesday 30th April

Avaaz plans to launch a daily news service called Avaaz Daily Briefing. The network has nearly 20 million members throughout the world and has been instrumental in changing policy in several countries. A spokesperson explained: “The media we have now is too often cynical, infotainment-obsessed and in thrall to

corporate interests. To bring about the changes we all want, our world needs better media – less negative and passive. With the help of our many partners and millions of members across the world, our briefings will dig deep through the bias, propaganda and spin to find out what’s really going on.” www.avaaz.org

Sources:

The Environment (CIWEM)
Positive News
Transition Free Press
Tree News
www.edie.net

population is fundamental to sustainable management.

Serious impacts, caused by a change in the natural flow or the disappearance of wetlands, are still not given consideration. The problems are not limited to developing countries or mega projects. For example, heavy ecological deterioration looms for three alpine valleys in the Otztal Alps in Austria if the extension of the Kaunertal Hydroelectric plant is implemented under current plans.

Friday 26th April

Asia Paper & Pulp, the world's 3rd largest paper company has pledged to stop using pulp from the Indonesian rainforest and to take wood from plantations instead. Indonesia's tropical forests cover over 98 million hectares and are of global importance. So many trees burn in the country that Indonesia ranks among the world's top emitters of CO₂. APP has till now derived 20% of its Indonesian wood from virgin rainforests. Scott Poynton of the charity Forest Trust comments: "This is not some vague notion that they are going to do something in the future. This time, they are doing it, and the bulldozers are off now. This is an opportunity to delink themselves from

the past and differentiate themselves from competitors."

Saturday 27th April

Britain's woodlands absorb about 2% of our greenhouse gas emissions. Now commercial interest is increasing in tree planting to help absorb CO₂ emissions. The UK Accreditation Service issues certificates of accreditation for projects which comply with the Woodland Carbon Code. Tim Rollinson chair of the Forestry Commission said: "The requirements of the code supported by UKAS assessments will help to deliver confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of woodland creation projects which make claims about carbon capture.

Sunday 28th April

Loving Father, we praise and thank you for giving us so much to enjoy in your world. And if we do not understand why nature sometimes seems so cruel and harsh, and why people suffer from floods, earthquakes and man-made disasters, help us to trust where we cannot see and to rest in the knowledge that not even the smallest sparrow lies outside your

Thursday 4th April

A DEFRA review of UK air quality in 2010 concluded:

- The UK is failing to meet EU targets
- Road transport is the largest source of air pollution
- Transport is the main source of pollution in 92% of all Air Quality Management Areas.

Every year about 4,000 people in London and 29,000 in the UK die from air pollution, mostly caused by particulates from diesel motors. Professor John Whitelegg of York University proposes, inter alia,

- Replacement of all diesel buses and taxis with alternative-fuelled vehicles
- Suspension of traffic when there is a danger of exceeding EU limit values
- Intercepting trucks on the edge of cities for tranship of freight to smaller and less polluting vehicles
- Implementing large car share/car club schemes.
- In the German city of Bremen one car-share car can replace 9.5 individually-owned vehicles

Friday 5th April

The Spectrum Leisure Centre in Willington Co. Durham generates its own power supply from its exercise bikes and elliptical trainers which together can produce up to 2000 watts per hour. If the machines are used for 60% of the gym's opening hours, it saves £10,000 on its energy bills over five years. The chair of the Slam Community Development Trust said: "The savings provided by these machines means we can use 30% of membership fees to fund other environmental initiatives." The centre also plans to install 400 solar panels, which will slash electricity bills by a further 65% and make a major reduction in its carbon footprint.

www.sportsartamerica.com

Saturday 6th April

Scotland aims to meet half its electricity from renewable technologies within two years – forward from 2020, the target originally set. The Chief Minister explained that the target provides three benefits – energy security, environmental sustainability and employment opportunities. Currently 11,000 people are employed in Scottish renewable

energy. Under the new target, offshore wind alone could create up to 17,000 additional jobs by 2020. England however prefers to rely on new gas-fired power stations for its short-term electricity needs, despite the rising cost of imported gas as compared with the steadily reducing cost of renewables.

Sunday 7th April

Lord of all life, we pray that as young people in each generation discover your wonderful world in their own way, so their energies may be used creatively in your service, and their choices based on what is true and of lasting value.

Monday 8th April

A new Independent Panel on Forestry (IPF) will be set up to own, maintain and safeguard England's forests, finally laying to rest the threat of privatising 15% of our forests. The IPF will expand wooded areas, maintain and improve access to public woodland and enhance the sector's economic performance. An extra £35 million will go to the Forestry Commission in compensation for lost income from sales of woodland, and a

further £2 million will help deal with pressures caused by ash dieback disease. The Bishop of Liverpool, chair of the IPF, said: "This is a recognition that the public benefits that flow from woodlands have a legitimate claim on the public purse."

Tuesday 9th April

Across the world, land grabs by agribusinesses and logging, mining and conservation bodies are pushing people off their land and forcing them to become poorly-paid labourers on land which was once theirs, or forcing them into cities to look for work. In Cameroon, farmlands and forests are being replaced with palm oil monoculture, which requires just one job per hectare instead of the ten jobs required previously. By contrast, under Scotland's Land Reform Act 2003 over 500,000 acres have been restored to community ownership with financial support in the early stages.

Wednesday 10th April

A visit to the Fukushima nuclear power plants by the BBC's Rupert Wingfield-Hayes reveals that more than 1500 highly radioactive spent fuel rods still lie in a pool of water outside

Tuesday 23rd April

In the last 40 years the number of people living in flood-prone river basins has increased by 114% while the number of people located on coasts exposed to cyclones has tripled. Since 1992 water-related disasters have killed 1.3 million people and caused \$2 trillion worth of damages. One water-related disaster can wash away years of progress, inhibiting the ability of people reach their Millennium Development Goals. Scott Edelman of consultants AECOM stressed the importance of the private sector's role in identifying and assessing risks and then communicating them effectively to communities, so that mitigation efforts are strengthened.

Wednesday 24th April

The Government has committed £1 billion to support innovation in the aircraft industry in order to increase the energy and fuel efficiency of aircraft. Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "Global growth in air travel will only be sustainable if future aircraft deliver substantial improvements in environmental performance, in particular noise,

carbon emissions and reductions in operating costs of at least 20%. This can only be achieved with radical design changes and new manufacturing methods."

The rest of us are asking whether further growth in air travel can ever be sustainable in the light of the developing risks of climate change.

Thursday 25th April

A WWF report "Seven Sins of Dam Building" finds that properly planned, built and operated dams can contribute to food and energy security, but that short-term interests are too often the focus of decision-making. "Dam installations and operations should be stringently checked against sustainability criteria formulated by the World Commission on Dams or the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol. No sustainable outcomes can be expected when dam proponents rely on superior financial strength and political connections rather than on dialogue, transparency and reason. Besides the approval of legal regulators, operators must also obtain a 'social licence' to operate. Acceptance of the project by the

pm. For details, go to:

www.faihandenvironment.info

Email: gordon.s.blair@googlemail.com

Tel. 01524 791403

Saturday 20th April

Marine energy could supply up to 20% of UK energy needs. Eight types of wave converters and six tidal stream devices are being tested at the European Marine Energy Centre in the Orkneys. This variety has been deterring investors, but in Scotland public money is now being used to leverage investment by Siemens and ABB. Off the Isle of Skye soon-to-be-installed horizontal axis tidal stream turbines will generate up to 8 MW of electricity. Wave energy converters off the Pembrokeshire coast are proposed with yet greater capacity. Elsewhere in Europe, marine devices lie close to wind turbines, where they share undersea cabling, grid connection and supply chain capability.

Sunday 21st April

Christ has no body now on earth but ours,
No hands but ours, no feet but ours;

Ours are the eyes through which looks out Christ's compassion to the world;
Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;
Ours are the hands with which he blesses his people daily.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

Monday 22nd April

The latest World Energy Outlook from the International Energy Agency forecasts continued growth in global oil supplies led by burgeoning production of "tight oil" using fracking technology. But geologist David Hughes of the Post Carbon Institute, after analysing 30 shale gas areas and 21 shale/tight oil areas (over 65,000 wells) finds a pattern of rapid declines across the US, suggesting that frackers will, sooner or later, run out of places to drill. Also, drilling in tight reservoirs requires innovative financing, which has resulted in a new financial bubble. Other commentators find that the geology of Britain and many European countries makes fracking more costly and difficult than in America.

reactor 4's containment vessel. The operation to encase the reactor in a huge steel structure will not start before the end of 2013 and will take 2 years to complete. Meanwhile reactor 3 remains virtually untouched because Geiger counters reveal radiation equivalent to 10 chest X-rays every hour or a full CT scan every 10 hours. The earthquake created large cracks in the underground walls through which ground- and sea-water is leaking, adding to the contaminated water which has to be contained. The plant manager said: "We need to remove the broken and damaged fuel and safely isolate it. This work will take 30-40 years. During the process we must never release any radioactive material into the surrounding environment."

Thursday 11th April

The Government has given planning consent for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, Somerset, which when completed will generate enough low-carbon electricity to power 5 million households. Environmental groups say that the drive for nuclear power is likely to stifle investment in renewables. Keith Allott of WWF said: "Backing nuclear means shifting a

huge liability to UK taxpayers for the cost of dealing with the waste. The cost of building nuclear plants keeps on rising – as witnessed by the fact that plants under construction in France and Finland are massively over budget and far behind schedule. Focusing on renewables and energy efficiency, where the UK has huge potential to become a leader, could deliver both huge cost reductions and a substantial boost to UK economic growth and manufacturing."

Friday 12th April

According to the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, nuclear waste at Sellafield has been allowed to build up to the point where decommissioning the site would cost £67.5 billion with no indication of when the cost would stop rising. Currently, maintaining the Sellafield site costs the taxpayer £1.6 billion a year. A consortium called Nuclear Management Partners is contracted to improve the management of the site. Last year it was awarded £54 million in fees despite only two of its 14 major projects being on track.

Saturday 13th April

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) has been mooted for many years as a way of minimising carbon emissions from coal-and gas-fired power stations. The Government has now approved contracts worth several billion pounds for two pilot projects, one at part of the gas-fired Peterhead station and the other at a new coal-fired station to be built at the Drax site in Yorkshire. The DECC claims that, if developed at scale, CCS technology could allow safe removal and storage of carbon emissions from power stations and heavy industry, so helping the UK to meet its climate change targets.

Sunday 14th April

Father God, Ruler of heaven and earth, bless all whom you call to be leaders in our country and in the world. Guide and encourage them that they may act wisely and govern justly for the good of the people entrusted to them. Give wisdom to all in positions of authority, that, serving their people, they may also serve you and with all your faithful servants finally receive the crown of righteousness.

Monday 15th April

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants are now processing up to 5.1 million tonnes of food and farm waste every year and have installed electrical generating capacity of more than 88 MW. equivalent. The number of plants has doubled since September 2011, excluding those of the water industry. Almost half are “community digesters” where food waste is collected from sources such as supermarkets, hotels and households, to be converted into heat, power and fertiliser. A further 30% use agricultural feedstocks such as slurry, manure and crop residues, while the remainder treat on-site waste such as brewery effluent and food processing residues. According to consultants NNFCC: “Recent actions and innovations in technology, training and process optimisation have led to greater opportunities and a more robust industry. For investors, AD is an easy win with good returns, support from Government and low investment risk.”

Tuesday 16th April

A US network of independent farmers called Farm Hack is sharing farm technology to help them develop tools

that fit the scale and ethics of sustainable family farms. Among the 30 plans available online for farmers to download and construct for themselves are a pedal-powered electricity generator, vertical planters and a solar-powered chicken tractor. “Farmers get to join a massively creative and inspiring group of young DIY-ers who are eager to help and move ideas forward.”

www.youngfarmers.org/practical/farm-hack/

Wednesday 17th April

A British company, Invicta Plastics, uses 100% plastic bottles, lids and milk cartons to create the world’s first recycled plastic products without having to add any virgin polymers or stabilisers. The process turns plastic bottles into high quality injection items such as moulded cups, toys and marketing products. Packaging firm Greenpac said: “This puts Britain years ahead of other injection moulders. No business should ever need to use a single virgin polymer again. These products can be recycled time and time again.”

Thursday 18th April

The Arctic region is under siege from the dual threats of climate change and oil drilling. Greenpeace’s Save the Arctic campaign is supported by more than 2 million people who want the UN to protect the uninhabited area around the North Pole and are calling for a ban on offshore oil drilling and a halt to unsustainable fishing practices. In January a series of safety and environmental lapses caused Shell to put its \$5 billion Arctic drilling plans on hold, but BP and Rosneft are going ahead with plans to drill for oil in the Arctic. Greenpeace points out that an oil spill in such a remote location would be disastrous owing to the near-impossibility of dispersing a slick.

Friday 19th April

Today begins a weekend of discussion, action and reflection on “Faith and the Environment” at Lancaster Methodist Church, Scotfoth Road LA1 4TE. The programme includes a showing of “The Age of Stupid”, talks by Franny Armstrong, Mark Dowd and others, workshops and services on the weekend theme, culminating on Monday with a multi-faith vigil for Earth Day from 8 to 10