

and hotels. Many businesses use them as pool cars. However, they only have two seats. Also, as co-founder Alison Kidd says, "They struggle a bit on rough terrain such as farm tracks, but we're trying to get Renault to make them a bit tougher and we're trialling them on the Scottish island of Eigg to see if the Twizy can be adapted to work on rough tracks."

#### Sources:

"The Energy of Nations – Risk Blindness & the Road to Renaissance" by Jeremy Leggett  
The Environment magazine (CIWEM)  
Resurgence  
Transition Free Press  
[www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net)

#### 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](mailto:prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk)

For further information and requests for prayer, please write or email:  
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)

Picture on front cover: Poppy by  
Quentin Pickard

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

# June 2014



"Ask and it will be given to you;  
Search and you will find;  
Knock and the door will be opened for you." (Matthew 7.7)

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches our hearts, knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8.26-27)

"Many Christians are floundering in prayer because they have never thought of asking for the Holy Spirit's help in praying. It is right to ask God for things, but we must not be upset when he says 'No'. Our heavenly Father always gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him." (Selwyn Hughes)

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Loving Father, light the flame of prayer on the altar of our hearts in a new and fresh way. Give us trusting hearts, that we may submit all our wants and desires to your perfect will. Help us to take your 'No' in the same spirit that we take your 'Yes'. In Jesus's Name. Amen.

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Behind the orchestrated calls for investment in shale oil and gas lies a deep anxiety about future supplies of fossil fuels. A report from the Global Sustainability Institute claims that Britain has 5.2 years' supply of oil, 4.5 years' supply of coal and just 3 years of gas, so increasing our dependency on Norway, Qatar and Russia. Commenting on the report, the director of RenewableUK said: "The prospect of running out of fossil fuels by the end of the decade should focus minds on the absolute necessity of guaranteeing the generation of new low-carbon power. We can't let our nation's security be at the whim of a foreign power. Onshore and offshore wind, wave and tidal energy will help deal with this, so they should be getting the right level of support politically and financially to guarantee the UK a secure power supply."

Why then does the Government propose to end support for onshore wind farms – the cheapest form of renewable energy – and to overrule rights of ownership in order to facilitate shale oil and gas developments?

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

According to the think tank Carbon Tracker, reporting in 2011, the world's remaining fossil fuel deposits, if fully exploited, would result in the emission of 2,795 gigatons of carbon dioxide – 5 times more than we could safely burn if the planet was to have an 80% chance of keeping within the globally-accepted target of a 2% rise in global temperatures over pre-industrial levels. If enough countries were to implement measures to keep within those limits, much of the coal, oil and gas assets in the inventories of energy companies would become unusable.

If a critical mass of policymakers, motivated by their electorates, became serious about reducing carbon emissions, substantial assets would suddenly lose their value, to the detriment of pension-holders and investors everywhere.

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Royal Dutch Shell, in its reply, drew attention to the role of carbon capture

roofs, and to develop two micro-hydro projects on the River Avon. Also in the Government strategy is a £10 million fund to help urban communities towards energy-saving projects, with a cash prize for the community which demonstrates the greatest reduction in energy consumption.

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

The Restart Project, based in London, began in 2012 as a way for communities to repair their own electrical goods. Restart Parties are now springing up around the UK and in other countries from Tunisia to the USA. Co-founder Ugo Vallauri explains: "We don't just aim to create a cute, community-based alternative to the loss of economic opportunities around repair. We want to see this thrive as a self-sustaining set of services, to create new businesses that bring repair closer to the communities we live in and ultimately create an alternative to our massive throwaway, recycle society." He mentions two taboos in dealing with the problem: one is the fear of handling electrical stuff – "a taboo we aim to break by showing a safe way to approach the problem." The other is the perception of something as a waste rather than a resource. "We are

blind to the fact that we throw away so much stuff that could be used by other individuals in the community. We try to hide it by discarding it in recycling centres and avoid looking at the massive cost and pollution involved in its disposal and transformation into other products. In the global South you would never find people throwing away a functional computer just because it had become a bit slow."

[www.therestartproject.org](http://www.therestartproject.org)

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

As tools come to be sharpened by the blacksmith,  
So may we come, Lord.  
As sharpened tools go back to their owner,  
So may we go back to our everyday life  
To be used by Thee.

(A prayer from Africa)

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

80% of our car journeys are thought to be of 5 miles or less. Anyone staying in the Brecon Beacons National Park at a hotel or guesthouse in partnership with the Eco Travel Network can get free use of an electric car called the Twizy. It costs just 40 p. to charge it up and it does 40-50 miles per charge. There are 45 charging points in the area at shops, cafes, riding schools

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

The world's biggest solar-powered hospital has been opened near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. 20% of the country's 10 million people have no access to electricity. Yet in the 6 months since the hospital's 1800 solar panels were installed, they have generated enough electricity to run six surgical suites, attend to over 6,000 patients and help to deliver more than 800 babies. It is estimated that the solar panels will reduce the hospital's annual running costs by \$379,000 and prevent 210 tonnes of carbon emissions. If Haiti can do this, surely hospitals the world over can do as well.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

A report from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the International Federation of Accounts (IFAC) and the Natural Capital Coalition (NCC) urges finance officers to look beyond short-term corporate reporting and start accounting for natural capital in their balance sheets. CIMA's head of sustainability said: "Finance professionals have the skills and oversight to show the connections between natural capital, commercial opportunity, business risk and, ultimately, financial performance." The CEO of IFAC said: "Accountants,

many of whom are in leadership roles in their organisations, play a pivotal role in preparing their organisations to embed considerations of natural capital in their decision-making." The NCC director warned that businesses which fail to adapt in a world of increasingly scarce resources will lose competitiveness as the value of these resources is realised through tighter regulation, consumer choice and limited supply."

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

A Government strategy for community-owned energy was launched in January, predicting that locally-owned solar, onshore wind and hydropower projects could generate up to 3 gigawatts of electricity by 2020 – enough to power more than a million homes. But to achieve this would require a 45-fold increase in capacity from the current 66 MW. A grant of up to £50,000 was made to each of 12 community groups including Lewes's Ouse Valley Energy Service Co. (OVESCO), which plans to help ten Sussex groups to set up energy co-operatives and to establish a district heating scheme. Bath & West Community Energy has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to install solar power, mostly on school

& storage, natural gas, bioenergy and energy efficiency. However, Shell's investments in tar sands are five times more carbon-intensive than normal gas, FoE comments: "By ignoring the carbon bubble, Shell is pulling a bigger confidence trick than those who brought down the financial system. If it continues to downplay the carbon bubble, Shell jeopardises ordinary people's hard-earned pension pots and leaves billions of people facing devastating climate change. It's time for Shell investors to wake up and switch their investments to clean energy that will create jobs and benefit the planet."

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Today is World Environment Day. This year the UN focus is on small island developing states which are especially vulnerable to climate change. This is a day for clean-up campaigns, walk-to-work days, plastic purges, art exhibitions, musical events, switching off lights, recycling drives, social media campaigns – we can all do something. Our voices and actions, multiplied on a global scale, can put irresistible pressure on policymakers to act effectively against climate change.

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

A new report from The Carbon Trust claims that increasing the number of people working from home could save up to £3 billion a year in energy costs and reduce carbon emissions by over 3 million tonnes. Technologies such as smartphones and cloud computing are making homeworking easier. Over 40% of UK jobs are compatible with working from home, but only 35% of companies allow their employees to do this. However, full carbon savings may not be achieved because of rebound effects such as employees working from inefficiently-heated homes.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

"Loaves and Fishes around Morecambe Bay" is an initiative of Churches Together in Cumbria and Lancashire plus the Anglican Diocese of Blackburn, the Catholic Diocese of Lancaster and CAFOD. From today until the 15<sup>th</sup> local communities will celebrate God's creation at various venues around Morecambe Bay. People can organise a community meal to celebrate the Creation, healthy living and environmental sustainability. Schools can learn about the wildlife of Morecambe Bay, how to protect it, harvest the sea sustainably

and celebrate its wonders at meals. Fishmongers, seafood enterprises and bakeries can promote wholesome, affordable and sustainable food. All who want to celebrate Creation can join in blessings, readings, prayers, hymns, images and music either formally or informally. It's an opportunity to say together "Bless you the Lord, all you works of the Lord". To register an interest, email: [loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Father, we thank you for a new awareness among many people of the need to care for and heal your world. Show us, we pray, the actions we can take to play our part in the healing process, to lead by example and to be prepared to give reasons for what we do.

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

The International Energy Agency said last month that, in order to meet the growing demand for oil, OPEC countries (which provide two-thirds of the world's oil) would need to increase production by 900,000 barrels a day. Yet a series of problems has hampered OPEC supplies this year and the IEA has cut its estimate for non-OPEC supplies by 100,000

barrels a day. China, the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest oil consumer, has greatly increased its oil imports without any significant rise in demand, suggesting that it is stockpiling its strategic reserves against an inevitable rise in prices.

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

California's Monterey Shale formation, containing 2/3rds of US shale oil reserves, was once estimated to contain 13.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil. Now the US Energy Information Administration has slashed by 90% its estimate of recoverable oil to a mere 600 million barrels. The non-profit Post-Carbon Institute commented: "The Monterey formation was always mythical mother lode puffed up by the oil industry. It never existed." Questions will inevitably arise concerning shale oil deposits alleged to exist under much of Southern England.

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Last year the five European oil majors (BP, Shell, Total, Statoil and Eni) generated \$121 billion in cash flow, but spent \$126 billion and paid \$35 billion in dividends. So, according to Martin Rats of Morgan Stanley, there is a \$40 billion gap in their finances.

Policies and 8 other organisations from civil society, industry, policymakers and academia have initiated a global campaign for 100% renewable energy. The aim is to inform people about what is happening round the world to prove that 100% RE is viable. Denmark, Scotland, Iceland, the Maldives and Tuvalu are well on the way. All of them show that the transition to 100% RE is a political decision, not a technical one. In the Swedish community of Skelleftea renewables already account for nearly 90% of electricity production, thanks largely to a municipally-owned electricity producer with a social mandate above its commercial pursuits. Perpignan Mediterranee in nuclear-dominated France already derives 75% of its electricity from RE and aims to be the first European city to achieve 100%. In Germany more than 74 regions and municipalities have already reached 100% RE status. Greensburg, Kansas, powers all its homes and businesses with 100% RE following the devastating 2007 tornado which destroyed or damaged 95% of its buildings. Fukushima has an official commitment to cover 100% of energy demand with renewables by 2040. The implementation of feed-in tariffs in 2012 triggered the acceleration of

renewable energy throughout Japan [www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

The Department of Energy has proposed that solar farms of 5 MW or more should no longer receive financial support through the Renewables Obligation scheme. According to the Solar Trades Association "The costs of solar power have kept on falling thanks to growth in our successful UK industry. We had forecast that solar could be cheaper than onshore wind by 2018, but for this to happen we needed stable policy sustaining a high-volume market. The Government is actually moving to slow down solar's cost reductions towards grid parity." Solarcentury commented: "Following close behind unhelpful media coverage of onshore wind policy, this proposal will undermine investor confidence in the entire UK renewable energy sector, by removing at a stroke the medium-term policy certainty required for major project investments. It is very surprising that such a deeply damaging policy proposal has been cleared by the Treasury."

newspaper waste into a growing medium similar to peat has been developed in America and evaluated by the US EPA. The waste paper is shredded and infused with organic additives that break down the cellulose into a growing medium similar to sphagnum moss, one of the main constituents of peat. The product, called PittMoss, was tested by the EPA and results showed that tomato plants grown in peat and in the paper-based medium fared similarly well. [www.pittmoss.com](http://www.pittmoss.com)

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Illegally-logged timber in Brazil is being laundered on a massive and growing scale, then sold to unwitting buyers in the UK, US, Europe and China, according to a 2-year investigation by Greenpeace. Evidence of systematic abuse and a flawed monitoring system by forest management officials, some of whom were implicated in wrongdoing, has been uncovered by Brazilian NGO Imazon, partly based on satellite imaging:

1) Widespread abuse of current regulations for timber extraction allows illegal loggers to acquire dubiously-obtained credits;

2) Big landowners obtain permission to cut down more trees than they intend to log and then sell unused credits to lumber mills and other farmers;

3) Logging can be the first step towards deforestation. Extraction of the most valuable trees, such as ape, reduces canopy cover and opens up paths that are often used to start fires for illegal land clearance.

Between 2011 and 2012 the area illegally logged increased by 151% in Para State and 63% in Mato Grosso. Greenpeace has asked the UK National Measurements Office to conduct urgent checks on Jewson and other companies known to be importing timber from the Brazilian Amazon.

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Father, we sometimes feel overwhelmed by the scale and complication of the environmental problems we face. Help us to see how we may respond in our daily lives to the challenges that face us, and help us to understand that where we lead, others may follow.

#### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

The World Future Council, Japan's Institute for Sustainable Energy

"We believe the cost of new oil projects is \$100 per barrel (in 2004 it was \$40), but the amount of revenue generated is \$72 per barrel. In the current environment, oil development is so expensive that many projects make no sense from a cost perspective." The oil companies are exploring the hard-to-reach areas such as the deep ocean and the Arctic because all the easy-to-reach oil has been discovered or is under the control of national oil companies.

#### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Last year the US produced 87% of its own energy, thanks to the boom in shale oil and gas. Its drive for energy independence is backed by a surge in borrowing that has been as vital as the technological advances that accompanied the boom. According to Standard & Poor, "Of the 97 rated energy exploration and production companies, 75 are below investment grade." A report from Barclays Bank estimates that about \$156 billion will be spent on exploration and production this year. Ivan Sandrea of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies asks: "Who can or will want to fund the drilling of hundreds of thousands of wells at an ongoing loss? The benevolence of US capital markets cannot last for ever."

#### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

The National Trust has switched on Britain's first marine-source heat pump at Plas Newydd, North Wales. The property is now entirely heated by the 300 kw. heat pump, saving the consumption of 1,500 litres of oil a day. The plant cost £600,000 to instal, but will save the NT over £40,000 a year in heating bills. The system pumps a small amount of sea water from the Menai Strait through pipes to and from a heat exchanger on the shore, then up a 30 metre cliff face to the mansion's boiler house. This is the first of five schemes under the NT's £3.5 million Renewable Energy Investment Programme launched last year in partnership with renewable energy supplier Good Energy.

#### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

Six EU countries led by the Netherlands and Sweden are calling on the European Commission to scrap 'best before' labels on a host of long-life products in a bid to cut down on food waste. The move is designed to reduce the 90 million tonnes of edible food that is thrown away throughout Europe each year. The Dutch Minister for Agriculture said: "It would be great if products such as coffee, rice and pasta would remain in kitchen

cupboards until they are consumed, and don't end up in the bin for no good reason. Consumers are confused about the best-before dates, and that leads to many kilos of non-consumed food being needlessly thrown out. Addressing food shortages will increasingly become a huge challenge due to the growing world population." The UK House of Lords has already called on Government to encourage retailers to distribute unsold food, where safe, for human and animal consumption rather than to recycle it via anaerobic digestion.

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Heavenly Father, you know, better than we, what is happening to us and your world. We know that the way we live exploits others and degrades your creation. Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us and our political leaders to respect and care for the world you created. May your Name be magnified and your will be done on earth, as in heaven.

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

A new "zero waste" food store in Antwerp called 'Robust' will sell all its groceries and non-food products without plastic packaging. The aim is to encourage customers to bring their

own packaging to carry the goods, although there will be glass jars and containers for those who forget to do so. Food waste campaigner Tristram Stuart comments: "It may provide an antidote to claims by packaging companies that their products reduce food waste by extending shelf life, a claim belied by the fact that often this means more products can be transported over longer distances and that packaging is often the cause of food waste. The challenge is to require people to bring their own packaging. This will depend on successful marketing – not just whether it makes sense."

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

An Oxfam report called "Standing on the Sidelines" reveals that ten global food and drink companies together emit more greenhouse gases than the whole of Scandinavia. They are Associated British Foods, Coca-Cola, Danone, General Mills, Kellogg, Mars, Mondelez, Nestle, Pepsico and Unilever. The report insists that these companies are capable of cutting their emissions by 80% by 2020 and that they are not doing enough, despite the threat climate change poses to the supply of ingredients needed for their products, their economic might and

the need to feed a growing population. Between them they generate £650 million day in revenues – equivalent to the total GDP of all the world's lower income countries. Oxfam's director of policy said: "By failing to cut emissions adequately the 'big 10' are putting short-term profits ahead of the long-term interests both of themselves and the rest of us. Their influence and wealth are the perfect ingredients to stop putting their businesses at risk and making climate change worse."

#### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

McDonalds, KFC, Coca-Cola and Wrigley have signed a Litter Prevention Commitment launched at the House of Commons by the charity Keep Britain Tidy. The food and drink giants will be working to raise awareness of the social, economic and environmental impact of litter by encouraging responsible consumer behaviour, in order to reduce the amount of litter dropped and contribute to a reduction in the £1 billion cost of cleaning up litter. The Commitment asks businesses to think about cleanup costs, product and packaging design, recycling promotion, supporting anti-litter campaigns and wider social responsibility.

#### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

Waste management firm Viridor has begun work on a £12.5 million Plastic Recycling Facility at Rochester, Kent, which will also be capable of separating up to 10,000 tonnes of glass from mixed waste when it opens later this year. It will be the first plant of any size to recover mixed plastics as well as commingled glass and cans. The plastic will be recycled into high-quality, clean plastic grades ready for use in producing new plastic products and packaging. Recoup, a leading authority on waste management, commented: "It is imperative that the UK is able to recycle more of its plastic resource as this will cut the use of virgin feedstock, help achieve the increasing packaging recycling targets, reduce the CO2 load and significantly reduce the amount of plastic ending up in landfill."

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Most of the world's peat bogs have been decimated to produce compost for gardeners, yet the remaining 3% of global peat deposits are capable of storing 30% of our carbon emissions far more efficiently than the world's forests, so conserving peat bogs is essential for efforts to address climate change. A new technique that turns