

enough electricity to power the whole of the 1st floor. Solar thermal equipment to provide half the hot water used by the pavilions plus heat pumps, a rainwater-recovery system and energy-efficient LED lights have also been installed.

www.urbangreenenergy.com

Sources:

Resurgence
www.edie.net

Additional Prayers:

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

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

June 2015



“Thomas said: “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said: “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14.5-6)

“I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

(John 14. 13-14)

“Prayer is the world in tune, a spirit voice,
And vocal joys whose echo is heaven’s bliss”

(Henry Vaughan)

“God pours his redemptive power into the world through the funnel of his people’s prayers. The more prayer that is made, the more power gets through. In some situations God does not move except in response to the prayers of his people.”

(W.E. Sangster)



GreenChristian

Monday 1st June

Pray and Fast for the Climate is an alliance of prayer groups throughout the country joining in half an hour of prayer on the 1st day of each month. Today, prayer groups are meeting at St. Mark's Wimbledon, St. Laurence's Church Stretton, various churches in Tring, Cumbria University Chapel in Lancaster, 23 Kensington Square and St. Martin in the Fields London. For details, visit www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/events

Tuesday 2nd June

President Obama, in a speech to the US Coastguard Academy, said: "Climate change constitutes a serious threat to global security and an immediate threat to our national security . . . Climate change, especially rising seas, is a threat to our homeland security, our economy, infrastructure and the safety and health of the American people." A White House report called climate change an "accelerant of instability" that would cause food and water shortages and increase global

tensions. Rising sea levels would lead to more humanitarian crises and US military missions.

Wednesday 3rd June

A WWF report "From Risk to Resilience: Does your business know its water risk?" finds that around 40% of UK imports by value come from countries with hot spots of high water risk, while 80% of all UK imports (especially textiles) face at least a moderate risk. Industries affected vary from textiles to beverages and from food to pharmaceuticals. Risks can be addressed by working with catchment neighbours and NGOs to reduce the risks, using their influence to achieve better management of rivers, lakes and aquifers, and using the WWF Water Risk Filter to map the risks.

Figures from our Environment Agency show that just 17% of our rivers are in good ecological health, with one-third of adverse pressures coming from agricultural inputs associated with food and drink production.

Lochhead said: "As we have seen with carrier bag charging, attaching a value to something can be very effective in helping us make small but important changes. Countries such as Germany, Sweden and Norway already have such schemes in place, as do parts of Canada, Australia and the USA. I will be highlighting the results of these studies with my counterparts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to invite them to do likewise."

Sunday 28th June

Loving God, open our hearts that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.

Unclench our hands, that we may reach out to one another and touch and be healed.

Open our lips, that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.

Unclog our ears, to hear your agony in our humanity.

Open our eyes, that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.

Breathe your Spirit into us, and touch our lives with the life of Christ.

(A prayer from New Zealand)

Monday 29th June

A study called "The Values Revolution" by consultancy Global Tolerance has found that 44% of the 2,126 people surveyed would prefer to work for an organisation that has a positive impact on the world rather than to gain a higher salary. 64% said that employers should prove that their values are deeply embedded in their work, 75% wanted to see more transparency among such employers and 81% wanted to see more accountability. Neil Stott, director of the Centre for Social Innovation at Cambridge University said: "Pressure from the rising tide of value-driven citizens and consumers is making its mark and changing the landscape for public, private and non-governmental organisations." www.globaltolerance.org

Tuesday 30th June

The Eiffel Tower in Paris has undergone a major green retrofit. Vertical-axis wind turbines have been installed 120 metres up the 324 metre tower capable of delivering

and alumni. Stanford, Syracuse and Glasgow Universities have already divested from fossil fuels and the Rockefeller Brother Fund is doing likewise. The Oxford University investment committee will now report annually on its engagement with fossil fuel companies. Currently, only 3% of its funds are invested in energy.

Thursday 25th June

The Green Investment Bank has taken a £236 million stake in the 400 MW. Rampion Offshore Wind Farm lying off the coast of Brighton. Its 116 turbines will generate 1,333 GWh of electricity per year – enough to power 300,000 homes. The developers, E.ON, believe it will be operational by September 2018. The project will require about 300 jobs in the construction phase and up to 65 permanent employees to oversee the operation and maintenance.

Friday 26th June

The North London Waste Authority has unveiled plans for a £500 million energy recovery facility that will generate electricity from non-

recyclable waste to power local homes and businesses. The facility will replace the existing plant at Edmonton, which has served the area for more than 45 years. The new facility will generate electricity for around 127,000 homes and provide heat for local homes and businesses. The project incorporates technology which will ensure nitrogen oxide emissions keep below the permitted limits. All emissions will be the same or lower than the existing facility, making it one of the best in Europe for air quality. The proposals include a visitor centre showing how heat and power is generated from waste.

Saturday 27th June

A report from Zero Waste Scotland brings the likelihood closer of a new bottle deposit scheme for Scotland. Customers would pay 10 p. or 20 p. as a deposit when they buy drinks in cans or bottles, and then get the money back they return them empty. The authors claim that it would save local authorities £13 million a year in collection and disposal costs, while the social dissatisfaction caused by litter could be worth £205 million a year. Environment Secretary Richard

Thursday 4th June

A report from Thomson Reuters and BSD Consulting finds that just 23 global energy firms are responsible for about one-third of all man-made greenhouse gas emissions. Top of the list is Russia's Gazprom, but five UK companies are among the villains, including BP, Anglo-American, BG Group. Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton. Their emissions rose by 13% from 2010 to 2013 although, thanks to the slowdown in China's economy, total global emissions stalled. The authors of the report added: "We all need to play a part if we are to bring emissions back into line with planetary boundaries.

Consumption begins with consumers; energy companies only produce what consumers will buy. However, the energy sector itself can deploy its considerable political, financial and technical resources for advances in energy innovation and related financial and policy frameworks."

Friday 5th June

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has shelved plans to place an emissions cap on

the world's shipping fleets. Shipping now accounts for only 2-3% of global emissions, but the growth of the sector means that shipping emissions will grow to up to 14% of the total. John Maggs of the Clean Shipping coalition said: "Today the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and other small Pacific island states brought courage, clarity of purpose and the urgency of the climate change crisis to the IMO perhaps for the first time. Its failure to grasp the significance of this moment and make an urgently needed step change in the pace of GHG emission reductions was shameful."

Saturday 6th June

Storage of electricity is the philosophers' stone of the 21st century. Engineers QBC are developing a grid-scale pumped storage site in North Wales and says it has identified locations throughout Britain with low planning risk that could deliver 10 gigawatts of stored electricity. Each gigawatt of stored capacity could displace at least 1 GW. of new offshore wind power and counteract the variability of wind strength.

The Netherlands is investigating a magnetic train system which, powered by renewable energy, generates kinetic energy by travelling at 2,000 mph round a circular track inside a vacuum. The friction is so low inside the vacuum that the train needs hardly any energy to keep it moving. When power is needed, the kinetic energy is converted back into electricity.

Sunday 7th June.

Environment Sunday.

Worship resources are available from A Rocha UK, 13 Avenue Road, Southall UB1 3BL or ring 020 8574 5935.

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 8th June

According to a new report from the IMF, fossil fuel companies are benefiting from global subsidies

amounting to \$5.3 trillion (£3.4 trillion) a year. This is greater than the total spending of all the world's governments. These vast subsidies derive largely from polluters not paying the costs imposed on governments for the burning of coal, oil and gas. They include the harm caused to local people by air pollution as well as to people across the globe affected by the floods, droughts and storm driven by climate change. Ending the subsidies would:

- Cut global carbon emissions by 20% - a giant step towards taming global warming, which has seen little progress to date
- Cut premature deaths from air pollution by 50% - about 1.6 million lives a year
- Free resources for greater investment in infrastructure, health and education, and cut the taxes that inhibit economic growth
- Cancel the need for subsidies for renewable energy, since the price of fossil fuels would reflect the true cost of their impact.

electricity in Northern Ireland since 2003, using this technology.

Sunday 21st June

“At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done. Then they begin to hope it can be done. Then they see it can be done. Then it is done, and the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago.” (Frances Hodgson Burnett)

Loving Father, you have inspired philosophers and scientists down the ages to search out the mysteries of your creation. Send down your Holy Spirit now, in this time of supreme need, that He may reveal to us the path we must follow if we are to fulfil your purposes on earth. Remove from our society all prejudice, special pleading and vested interests, that we may truly seek your will and find the courage to surmount all obstacles. This we beg in the Name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.

Monday 22nd June

Unilever has committed itself to using 40% renewable energy by 2020 and then moving to 100%. All

the electricity used in its North American and European factories is generated from renewables. In its UK Marmite factory, 18,000 tonnes of solid waste is converted into methane via an anaerobic digester and provides 30% of the factory's thermal energy.. In 2014 its “Sustainable Living” brands grew at twice the rate of the rest of the business.

Tuesday 23rd June

M & S has joined the RE100 signatories with its commitment to renewable energy. It has already become carbon-neutral across its global operations and aims to improve its energy efficiency by 50% by 2020 and to source 50% of its gas from certified bio-methane sources. Other signatories of the RE100 commitment include BT, IKEA, Mars and India's largest IT firm, Infosys.

Wednesday 24th June

Oxford University has ruled out any future investment in coal and tar sands, although it would not divest from fossil fuels, as demanded by thousands of students, academics

Thursday 18th June

The Lower Mekong river basin is home to 60 million people – 80% of whom rely on the river for food and livelihoods. It is the world's most productive inland fishery, with around 850 fish species, one-third of which migrate over 1,000 kilometres along the river to feed and breed. The economic value of the Mekong fisheries is at least \$3.9 billion, which does not include the livelihoods of the countless people who sell the fish, transport them to cities, prepare food and make related products. The highly productive rice fields of S.E. Asia depend on the nutrients transported by the Mekong and spread over the floodplains and wetlands. All this is put at risk by the Government of Laos, which proposes nine mega-dams along the Lower Mekong, while Cambodia proposes a further two. Laos, the poorest country in S.E. Asia, wants to sell electricity to its wealthier neighbours, claiming that this will open the door to rapid economic development. How much of this revenue will disappear on its journey from the dams to the Lao people?

Friday 19th June

The 1995 treaty between Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam created the Mekong River Commission whereby the governments agreed to consult each other on proposals for the dams and to conduct further studies on their impact. Yet, in 2012, Laos claimed a sovereign right to move forward on the Xayburi Dam, which is now under construction. Public awareness has been growing about plans for the Lower Mekong dams and the threats they pose to the bounty it provides to many millions. Saving the Mekong now depends on the dedication and commitment of many people.

Saturday 20th June

A marine power plant is to be undertaken in North Wales with a £9.5 million initial grant from the EU. The "Deep Green" turbine system operates like an underwater kite, reaching speeds of up to 10 times faster than the water current. The 10 MW. array will be operational by 2019 and will supply enough electricity for 8,000 households. The developers, Swedish company Minesto, have been producing

Tuesday 9th June

The \$5.3 trillion in fossil fuel subsidies represents 6.5% of the global economy – just over half the money governments are forced to spend treating the victims of air pollution, according to data from the World Health Organisation. Coal is the dirtiest and therefore receives just over half the subsidies. Oil gets about one-third, and gas the rest. China is responsible for \$2.3 trillion of the subsidies, the US \$700 billion, Russia \$335 billion, the EU \$330 billion and India \$277 billion. The President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, said it was crazy that governments were still driving the use of coal, oil and gas by providing subsidies. "We need to get rid of fossil fuel subsidies now." India ended subsidies for diesel last October. Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco and Thailand are moving in the same direction. Vitor Gaspar of the IMF said: "The icing on the cake is that the benefits from subsidy reform – for example, from reduced pollution – would overwhelmingly accrue to local people. By acting locally, and in their own best interest, nations can contribute significantly to the solution of a global challenge.

The path is clear: act local, solve global."

Wednesday 10th June

The EU has been long criticised for its mandatory target for transport fuels, requiring 10% to be derived from crops, despite much evidence that renewable transport fuel met by plant-based biofuels would actually increase greenhouse gas emissions through changes in land use. Now the EU has agreed to cut the target to 7% of transport fuel and to end member-state aid for crop-based biofuels after 2020. FoE is pressing for sustainable transport solutions such as greener cars, improved public transport, fast and affordable rail services and incentives to encourage people to cycle or walk.

Thursday 11th June

In London a "Car Club Action Plan" has been launched to encourage 1 million Londoners to join car clubs by 2025. The RAC Foundation has shown that the average city dweller's car is only used for 4.6 hours a week, meaning that the car is parked for 97% of the time. Already London

has 145,000 car sharers. New incentives would include creating more car club parking spaces and encouraging electric vehicles. The plan will help deal with population growth, congestion and pollution. Last month Greenwich council distributed 27 vehicles around the borough for use by car-sharers.

Friday 12th June

A report from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) finds that more than 7.7 million people are employed by the renewable energy industry – an 18% increase on 2013. Solar PV accounts for 2.5 million jobs, liquid fuels for 1.8 million and wind for just over 1 million. In the UK employment in the renewables industry grew by 9% - seven times faster than in the rest of the economy. Adrian Z. Amin of IRENA said: "This increase is driven, in part, by declining costs of the technology, so creating more jobs in installation, operations and maintenance. We expect this upward trend to continue as the business case for renewable energy continues to strengthen."

Saturday 13th June

Today is Supporters' Day for Operation Noah, the climate movement dedicated to building a Christian voice for climate justice throughout the world. The event is being held at St. Luke's Church Centre, Great Colmore Street, Lee Bank, Birmingham B15 2AT from 10.30 to 4.30. After a short AGM there will be speakers and workshops on how to mobilise churches and organise pilgrimages and other events in the run-up to the Paris conference in December. To book a place, email: admin@operationnoah.org or ring 7804 059 426. Cost £10/15

Sunday 14th June

"Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18.1)

Father, we confess that our feet often stumble as we learn to walk the path of prayer, for there are hard places. Help us to apply ourselves to follow your Son day by day in the practice of prayer, to surrender to his power over our lives and to trust his promises.

Monday 15th June

Hydropower already represents 76% of all renewable energy according to the World Energy Council, and could double to 2,000 gigawatts by 2050. By comparison, wind capacity totalled 318 gigawatts at the end of 2013. A University of Copenhagen study reported "an unprecedented boom in hydropower dam construction" with 3,700 major dams expected to be built in the next 20 years. The chair of WEC said that the uptake of hydropower could help relieve the growing strain on the world's water supply and hydropower consumes little water compared with other energy resources. The problem lies, however, with the harmful effects of dam construction on local fisheries and livelihoods. Does the current emphasis on energy supply ignore more basic human needs?

Tuesday 16th June

According to International Rivers, more than 2/3rds of the world's rivers have suffered harm from the 50,000 large dams that have been built over the last century. The Indus, the Colorado and the Yellow rivers no longer reach the ocean, turning

once-productive deltas into biological deserts. Freshwater ecosystems are suffering an even worse loss of biodiversity than tropical rainforests, in large measure due to dams. The Amazon, the Congo and the Mekong basins are all threatened with short-sighted schemes that will irreversibly disconnect rivers and cost the planet billions in lost ecosystem services.

Wednesday 17th June

Today there will be a mass lobby of Parliament to demand action on climate change. At midday, ecumenical services will be held at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, and at St. Margaret's Church in Parliament Square. From 1 pm at the Emmanuel Centre there will be films, talks and stands for NGOs working on climate change. The lobby assembles from Parliament Square down Millbank and across Lambeth Bridge, in alphabetical order of constituency. At 4.30 there will be a rally in Millbank outside Parliament with speakers including MPs from all parties. Details: www.operationnoah.org/featured/spe-ak-up-for-the-love-of/