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Picture on front cover: Golden Rod by Poppy Pickard

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



October 2015

“The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself would be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”
(Romans 8.18-21)

“The touch of Christ is on creation and his purpose is moulded into it. If you could split open creation, you would find imprinted into it like a watermark ‘Made by Him and for Him’. If it doesn’t work for Him, it works towards its own ruin.”
(Selwyn Hughes)

“Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will.”

(William Cowper)

Thursday 1st October

With less than 60 days left before the crucial climate talks in Paris, 56 countries, representing 60% of global carbon emissions, have announced their intended national contributions towards a climate deal. Lord Bourne, Under Secretary of State at DECC, at a Business for the Environment meeting in London said: "Action on climate change isn't just a business add-on, it's a business necessity." Nick Molho of the Aldersgate Group, in reply, drew attention to recent government announcements on the scrapping the zero-carbon home standard and the withdrawal of financial support for the wind and solar sectors. "There's a lot businesses can do, but there comes a point when policy solidity and policy support is needed. That's especially the case with new, low-carbon technologies that have a high up-front capital cost. We mustn't underestimate the damage that retrospective policy changes can have on investors in the low-carbon economy. They can worry the investor community, increase the cost of capital and delay investments altogether."

Friday 2nd October

According to the manufacturers' organisation EEF, the UN goal of

keeping average global warming to 2 degrees C. will require £0.65 trillion a year to be spent on clean energy systems by 2030. Its director, Paul Raynes, said: "The current system of energy taxation is too complex and is hurting Britain's competitiveness. Instead of simply hitting firms with the big stick of ever-higher carbon taxes and levies, we should be offering them the carrot of tax breaks to invest in advanced low-carbon technologies."

Saturday 3rd October

The International Maritime Organisation reports that maritime CO₂ emissions were 949 megatonnes in 2014 and are expected to increase by 50-250% by 2050. Aviation fuel released 448 megatonnes of CO₂ in 2010 and the ICAO expects them to reach 682-755 megatonnes by 2020.

A new report from the Global Commission on Economy urges the IMO and ICAOA to:

- Set a target for global reductions in line with recommendations of the Paris talks;
- Implement market-based measures from 2020 to raise revenue for developing countries' climate actions;

estimated annual saving of £1 million and 400,000 tonnes of carbon emissions a year. The new lamps, installed by GE Lighting, are CMH 'Streetwise' metal halide lamps which reduce the energy consumption and allow the council to dim the lights when needed.

Sources:

Clean Slate (CAT)
The Environment (CIWEM)
Resurgence & Ecologist
www.edie.net

Additional Prayers

Tuesday 27th October

Following government proposals to cut the Feed-in Tariff by 87%, a range of companies including IKEA, Panasonic, Dupont and Business in the Community have urged the Government to support a thriving local renewables industry and to reconsider its “extreme and damaging proposals” to cut the FIT scheme. The Solar Trade Association writes: “It is quite wrong to suggest we cannot afford to go solar. The truth is we cannot afford not to. It’s hard to think of a greater waste of public money than building up a strong British solar industry, hailed by the Prime Minister as a success, and then pushing it over a cliff before it is ready to fly.” The Government’s own Impact Analysis research shows that the cuts will lead to more than 20,000 people losing their jobs.

Wednesday 28th October

The 970 MW Navitus Bay wind farm in the English Channel would have added £1.6 billion to the local economy, created 1,700 jobs and powered 700,000 homes, but has been refused development by the Government because of its visual impact, its potential effect on local tourism and on recreational diving.

Yet the Government’s own survey found that 75% of the public support renewables, while 4% oppose them. The CEO of Dutch energy firm Eneco said that power companies that ignore the growing business and public demand for green energy risk putting themselves out of business. “Customers will control what we supply.”

Friday 30th October

More than 70 financial institutions across the globe have pledged to scale up their energy-efficiency investments in an attempt to tackle climate change and take advantage of a “huge business opportunity”. The IEA claims that more than 40% of the emissions reductions required to limit global warming to 2 degrees C. will have to come from energy-efficiency improvements. According to Global Tracking Framework, investment in energy efficiency needs to increase fourfold from current levels, simply to meet already-pledged efficiency targets.

Saturday 31st October

The City of Bristol (designated European Green Capital) has replaced 200,000 of its street lamps with energy-efficient bulbs, with an

- Create a stringent CO2 standard for all vessels from 2016;
- Expand research on biofuels;
- Provide alternative travel such as high-speed inter-city rail connections;
- Add tax incentives to landing and port charges.

Sunday 4th October

Protect us, dear Lord, from thoughts without action.

Guard us from words without feelings.
Defend us from ideas without results,
And surround us with your Presence.

(David Adam).

Monday 5th October

A report from consultancy Ernst & Young (now EY) finds that the UK has fallen to 11th place as the most attractive market for investment in renewables. This year alone, 23 large projects amounting to 2.7 gigawatts of energy have been publicly abandoned, putting a question mark over the long-term future for UK renewables. EY finance leader Ben Watson said: “Few in the renewables sector would disagree that falling costs mean many renewable projects, especially onshore wind and solar PV, will be cost-effective and subsidy-free within 3-5 years. However, by

prematurely withdrawing support, the Government risks killing projects that would otherwise maintain the momentum to get the market to that critical point. Investors are trying to make sense of what seems to be policy-making in a vacuum, lacking any rationale or clear intent. Worryingly, this trend of inconsistent policy-tinkering could sour business confidence in other areas such as new nuclear, carbon capture and storage and shale gas, as well as offshore wind.”

Tuesday 6th October

According to the NGO Climate Action Network Europe, an estimated 29,000 Britons die prematurely each year from long-term exposure to air pollution, costing the economy between £2.47 and 7.15 billion in 2013 alone. The mortality costs from coal-related respiratory and cardiovascular diseases such heart disease and lung cancer are linked to the 395 kilotonnes of pollutants emitted by UK coal plants. Last year, coal was responsible for 87 million tonnes of CO2 emissions – 16% of all the UK’s greenhouse gas output, and 8 times higher than France’s. In April, the Supreme Court ordered the

Government to produce a plan for tackling air pollution.

Wednesday 7th October

The Government's response accepts that 29,000 premature deaths a year result from inhaling minute particles of oily, unburnt soot emitted by all petrol engines, and an estimated 23,500 deaths from toxic NO₂ gas emitted by diesel engines. Elizabeth Truss, the minister, said: "We want local authorities and the public to share ideas on action to be taken at national and local level. From improving bus and taxi fleets to investing in cycling infrastructure and upgrading roads, we want to work with our great cities and help them make changes to become better still." Simon Birkett of Clean Air London commented: "DEFRA is passing all responsibility, without money or new powers, to local authorities. It is flouting the Supreme Court ruling to submit proper plans to the European Commission by 31 December by intending instead to submit a 'plan for plan by others'".

Thursday 8th October

According to the Transport and Environment Group, nine out of ten new diesel vehicles break EU pollution limits. On average, diesel cars

produce seven times the permitted levels of nitrogen oxide. The report concludes: "We cannot choose where we breathe, so we must stop cars polluting our city air. The technology to clean up vehicle exhausts is available and costs a few hundred euros. It is a small price to pay compared to the nearly £1 million spent annually on health care and lost output and productivity. Cars must be stopped from polluting our air or prevented from accessing our cities."

Friday 9th October

There are thought to be 5.2 trillion pieces of plastic floating in our oceans, with an extra 8 million tonnes entering the oceans each year. With the best technology available in 2012 it was thought it would take 79,000 years to clear this amount of plastic. Now the Ocean Cleanup Project is to trial 2 km. long floating barriers between Japan and Korea to let the ocean currents collect the plastic. A 2014 study confirmed that this is a cost-effective method to remove half the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in just 10 years. However, the basic challenge remains – how to prevent plastic rubbish entering the oceans in the first place.

threefold increase in brain cancers in people with more than 300 hours of mobile phone use, while Swedish researchers reported that the risk of brain cancer tripled for people who had used mobile or cordless phones for at least 25 years. Scientists from 39 countries have called on the UN, WHO and national governments to develop stricter controls on mobile phones, WI-FI and other products that use electromagnetic fields.

Saturday 24th October

Laurence and Alison Matthews, authors of "Framespotting", referring to the forthcoming climate talks in Paris, stress the need for realistic language. "We don't have to *respond* to climate change, we have to *stop causing* it." "We must reject the idea that realism means 'political realism' and insist that it means 'recognising physical and ecological limits'". "We must unmask the idea that climate change is an *environmental* issue, when it's clear it will affect every aspect of everyone's lives." "We must reject the idea that it's all about money. Isn't securing a planet for our children a *moral* issue?" "Growth is fine for children, but adults stop growing when they reach maturity. So letting go of growth is *growing up*."

Sunday 25th October

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have given us –
For the universe: let our wonder grow.
For this world: teach us better stewardship of earth, sea and sky.
For people everywhere: let us see your image in every human face, discern your hand in every human's culture, and hear your voice in the silence, as well as in the talk of neighbours and friends.
For our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is at work in the world.

(A prayer from Australia)

Monday 26th October

The US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration has already announced that 2015 will be the hottest year ever recorded. WWF comments: "This will be a watershed year, not only because we are experiencing the warmest year on record, but also because the world will agree a global climate deal in December. So world leaders should take note of the temperature records that have been broken every month this year. Unless we make dramatic cuts in polluting gases, we will end up with a climate that is unrecognisable, unpredictable and damaging for both nature and people."

Tuesday 20th October

India's small farmers are key to the country's ability to feed its 1.3 billion population, but debt-trapped farmers are increasingly committing suicide. 16 farmers contracted to grow potatoes for Pepsi committed suicide in March, and sugar cane farmers are taking their own lives after being hounded by banks for repayments they cannot make. Vandana Shiva places the blame on an economic model that seeks to maximise corporate profits at the cost of farmers' lives. "Across the world we need to protect our small farmers so as to protect the planet, our food and our health. Only small farmers grow real food, only they care for the soil and biodiversity, only they bring us nutritious, healthy, safe, fresh food. Their freedom to farm with dignity is indivisible from our food security. Food sovereignty is not a luxury: it is a survival imperative."

Wednesday 21st October

New satellite data reveal that 21 of the world's largest aquifers – from India and China to the USA and France – have passed their sustainability tipping points. They are being denuded by the demands of agriculture, growing human populations and extractive

industries. The worst-stressed aquifers are in poor, densely-populated regions such as NW India, Pakistan and North Africa. Aquifers can take thousands of years to fill, and recharge slowly from rain and melting snow. They supply 35% of the world's water use, but as drilling for water has taken off, these hidden reservoirs are under increasing stress. There is only a finite supply of water to furnish the world's needs.

www.tinyurl.com/nasa-aquifers and www.tinyurl.com/wpost-aquifers

Thursday 22nd October

Under a new French law, roofs of all new buildings must be partially covered either with plants or solar panels. Green roofs retain rainwater by reducing runoff and help reduce the energy needed to heat or cool a building. Green roofs are popular in Germany and Austria, while Toronto requires them on all industrial and residential buildings.

www.tinyurl.com/france-roofs

Friday 23rd October

Since 2011 the WHO has classified radio-frequency electromagnetic radiation, emitted by mobile phones and wireless routers, as "possibly carcinogenic to humans". In 2014 French researchers found an almost

Saturday 10th October

A report called "Rearranging the Furniture" from think-tank RSA and resources firm SUEZ finds that 1.6 million tonnes of bulky waste – 42% of which is furniture – is sent to landfill each year, despite over half of it being reusable. The report recommends that manufacturers should work with local authorities on a system for collecting bulky products for sending back to manufacturers for re-use. David Palmer-Jones of SUEZ said: "Re-use does not get nearly the same attention as recycling. The opportunities to make more of the products we discard are huge, but it needs a concerted and coordinated push from product designers, policymakers and waste management service providers." The report recommends a ban on landfill for bulky waste and an increase in landfill tax to fund collection and waste prevention services.

Sunday 11th October

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be your witnesses on earth. Help us to proclaim, by word and deed, the message of your love to all humankind, and to declare your lordship over creation and our responsibility as your stewards.

Monday 12th October

The Furniture Reuse Network (FRN) aims to boost the circular economy and alleviate poverty through its partnerships with retailers. In 2014 more than 78,000 items of furniture and electronics were donated to people living in poverty. IKEA provided 2,818 sofas, saving householders £845,000. Another 12,000 low-income households were helped by repaired and recycled electronics donated by DixonsCarphone and DHL EnviroSolutions. John Lewis operates a take-back scheme whereby 254 tonnes of furniture were collected, helping to prevent over 125 tonnes of CO2 emissions. The scheme works by pairing FRN's members with retailers such as DixonsCarphone, who collect disposable items on delivery of a new product, so saving them the cost of waste disposal.

Tuesday 13th October

The new WWF Living Planet Report shows a decline of 49% in marine populations of mammals, birds, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2012. Numbers of tuna, mackerel and bonito have fallen by 74%. WWF said: "As well as being a source of extraordinary natural beauty, healthy seas are the bedrock of a functioning

global economy. By over-exploiting fisheries, degrading coastal habitats and not addressing global warming, we are sowing the seeds of ecological and economic catastrophe. There are clear steps all governments can take to restore our oceans. Creating networks of well-managed Marine Protected Areas is a proven way to enable wildlife and habitats to recover. Pushing for a strong global deal on climate change would help the seas sustain life far into the future. Taking serious steps to implement the new sustainable Development Goals could help build a global economy that values natural capital, respects natural habitats and rewards responsible business.”

Wednesday 14th October

Oceana is an international advocacy organisation focussed solely on ocean conservation, with science-based campaigns aimed at restoring ocean biodiversity and ensuring that the oceans can continue to feed millions of people. From its offices in countries that control 25% of the world’s wild fish catch, it has protected more than 2.5 square kilometres of ocean. Using a submarine robot, it has recently discovered a ‘rock’ sponge reef between Valencia and Ibiza which is

believed to be unique. The area is subject to plans for mining hydrocarbons, and Oceana says further efforts are needed to bring the site within a marine protected area.

Thursday 15th October

The Zero Carbon Britain report from the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) sets out in detail its vision of a sustainable Britain. This involves a ‘circular economy’ whereby, instead of a linear system of consume-and-dispose, we create a system as close to no-waste as possible. So much of what used to be classified as waste in fact consists of by-products. A recent report from Imperial College and Veolia finds that the circular economy principle could generate £29 billion for the UK economy in the next 10 years and create 175,000 new jobs.

Friday 16th October

A paper from the IMF titled “How large are global energy subsidies?” calculates many of the unaccounted costs associated with fossil energy. These include direct subsidising of fuel as well as allowing fossil fuel companies to avoid paying the health, environmental and social costs, such as costs associated with premature deaths through air pollution, the

exacerbation of congestion and other side-effects of vehicle use. It estimates the total ‘energy subsidy’ will reach \$5.3 trillion (6.5% of global GDP) for 2015 alone. The paper can be downloaded at:

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/fad/subsidies/>

In July the Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources said: “We recognise that eventually we are not going to need fossil fuels. I don’t know when – in 2040, 2050 or thereafter” Could this be why countries like Saudi Arabia are boosting their sales now rather than ending up with stranded oil assets?

Saturday 17th October

“Disinvest to reinvest – investing for a just economy” is the title of today’s event hosted by Operation Noah and Quaker Peace and Witness at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, from 10.30 to 4. The event will explore faith and finance, considering how money can be re-directed into positive, sustainable investments. It’s an opportunity to question panellists and workshop leaders with expertise on investment management, sustainable investment platforms and community energy. To book a place, go to:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/disinvest-to-reinvest-for-a-just-economy-tickets-16563812810

Sunday 18th October

Father God, please teach us how to live more simply, to be more sensitive towards your creation and to care for all the life that you have created. Help us to turn from our arrogant ways. Redeem us, redeem your world, heal its wounds and dry its tears, for the sake of your dear Son who died for all your creation.

Monday 19th October

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation projects that by 2050 population and economic growth will double the demand for food globally, although addressing the health needs of families through increased access to family planning could help slow population growth, improve family wealth and enhance their food security. Currently nearly 1 billion people are under-nourished. Projections from the International Food Policy & Research Institute suggest that slower population growth could significantly reduce malnutrition along with increased agricultural productivity and investment in health and education.