

a Green Christian workshop meets from 11 to 4.30 on the theme "A Green Christian Way of Life". The discussion will centre around four disciplines:

Daily Prayers and Devotions  
Living Gently on the Earth  
Public Action  
Encouragement.

The day includes a discussion of George Marshall's book "Don't Even Think About It: Why our Brains are Wired to Ignore Climate Change". The day is cost free, but donations are invited. To book a place, email:  
[georgedow@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:georgedow@greenchristian.org.uk)

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Father God, the world is full of your glory, but now your glory is being veiled by our negligence. Forgive us for our half-hearted commitment to heal the planet. Unstop our ears, so that we may hear the cries of our fellow-humans already affected by climate change. Stir us up to act now to protect your suffering people. For the sake of your dear Son, who died for us all.

#### Sources:

"Energy Revolution" by Howard Johns  
"Renewable Energy" by Danny Chivers  
WWF News  
[www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net)

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please email :  
[prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@greenchristian.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@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:pcw@greenchristian.org.uk)  
Website: [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

Picture on front cover: Apples in December by Quentin Pickard

Green Christian is a Trading name of Christian Ecology Link Ltd.  
Correspondence Office:  
97 Plumpton Avenue, Hornchurch, RM12 6BB  
Company Registration No. 2445198  
Registered Charity No. 328744.  
tel: +44 (0) 845 4598460  
[info@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:info@greenchristian.org.uk)

## Prayer guide for the care of creation



# January 2016

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6.17-18)

"He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it with my mind's eye and I thought:

'What can this be?' And answer came: 'It is all that is made'  
In this little thing I saw three truths:

The first is that God made it.

The second is that God loves it.

The third is that God looks after it.

What is he indeed that is maker and lover and keeper?

I cannot find words to tell." (Julian of Norwich)

"Prayer at its best opens earth to heaven." (Selwyn Hughes)

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

Loving Father, as we enter this New Year, we face challenges undreamt of just a few years ago: The challenge of finding sustainable ways of using natural resources without jeopardising the future.

The challenge of feeding an ever-growing population.

The challenge of devising a just trading system that will protect the poor.

The challenge of using wisely the resources of science and technology.

The challenge of ordering your world in peace and stability.

Help us never to stray from Him who is the Way, nor to forget Him who is the Truth, nor to turn away from Him who the Light. This we ask in the Name of you dear Son, Jesus Christ.

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Despite the Paris agreement to “pursue efforts” to keep global temperature rises to 1.5 C. there is no legally-binding obligation to achieve this. Moreover, the door is

wide open for the use of “carbon offsetting” (e.g. by planting trees) instead of cutting emissions directly. Crucially, the nations that have caused, and are causing, climate change have promised little to help the people on the front line who are already losing lives and livelihoods from problems they did not create.

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

Dear Father, please give us the will and the strength to stand up to the forces of Mammon rampant in your world, and to campaign ceaselessly for a world order which protects the millions of your people who have done nothing to cause the climate crisis that faces us all.

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

The chairman of Unilever, Paul Polman, commenting on the Paris agreement, said: “This demonstrates without question that it is possible for us to come together in a common cause to address the greatest challenges we face, preventing tragedy for

destruction caused by large hydropower dams, provide examples of what can happen if supposedly renewable energy sources are exploited for maximum profit without proper consideration for people and the planet. Wind and solar technologies too have their impacts. Will they be manufactured in renewably-powered workshops, using largely recycled materials and benefitting the communities where they are sited? Or will they be made in sweatshop conditions using minerals from exploitative mining and sited in giant energy parks on land from which the residents have been evicted?

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Solar panels are well-suited for decentralised use. 83% of today's solar panels are spread over millions of rooftops. However, the transition to renewable energy will make big demands for raw materials which could have serious impacts around the world. Wind power is more efficient when

built on a large scale. The taller the turbines, they more efficient they are in catching the wind. Hence the capital investment required is out of reach of community groups, so wind turbines are more likely to be installed by large utilities such as E.ON.

### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

In Indonesia, the national electricity supplier PLN struggles to extend its unreliable supply beyond the towns and cities. So, supported by NGOs such as IBEKA, small hydropower co-operatives are springing up around the country. NGOs collaborate with villagers in building the system. The co-operative takes ownership of the turbine and the electricity is distributed locally, with tariffs set by the co-operative to cover maintenance costs. This model is being adopted around the world.

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Today at St. Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA

weak are protected and none go hungry or poor,  
A world where the benefits of sustainable living are shared and everyone can enjoy them,  
A world where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect,  
A world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love,  
And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through the power of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Danny Chivers in his book "Renewable Energy: cleaner, fairer ways to power the planet" confronts the question "Can renewable energy ever be sufficient to provide modern societies with a decent quality of life?" and surveys the various technologies, their current state of development and their costs, risks and drawbacks. He concludes his assessment with the words "We don't need to use controversial technologies like nuclear power,

carbon capture, geoengineering, giant new dams or corporate biofuels. Instead we can rely on cleaner, safer and more popular options such as wind and solar power."

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

Between 2010 and 2013 annual production of renewable energy grew by 0.8 million gigawatt hours (GWh). In the same period annual fossil fuel use grew by 8 million GWh – 16 times faster. The problem is that the necessary steps to a sustainable future, such as reducing fossil fuel use, cutting over-consumption in the North and sharing clean energy across the world, fly directly in the face of our current growth-based economic system. "What the climate needs now is a contraction in humanity's use of resources. What our economics demands is unfettered expansion." (Naomi Klein)

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Industrial biofuels and wood-fired power stations, together with the

the many millions of people vulnerable to climate change, and securing the economic prosperity of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The consequences . . . of this agreement will be felt in banks, stock exchanges, board rooms and research centres as the world absorbs the fact that we are embarking on an unprecedented project to decarbonise the global economy. This realisation will unlock trillions of dollars and the immense creativity and innovation of the private sector who will rise to the challenge in a way that will avert the worst effects of climate change.

Governments, businesses and people everywhere now clearly realise that the cost of inaction far exceeds the cost of action. Achieving a zero emissions economy is the greatest business opportunity of the century."

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

International aviation and shipping is responsible for 5% of greenhouse gas emissions, but estimates suggest that this could

rise to 30% by 2050 as demand for air travel increases. Yet emissions from these sectors found no place in the Paris climate agreement. WWF comments: "International aviation and shipping emit more carbon dioxide than most countries, so it's worrying that these sectors are let off the hook at the Paris climate talks."

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

Moves to divest from fossil fuels are springing up all over the world. Uppsala, Sweden's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city, has followed Norway's capital, Oslo, in voting to go fossil-free. Allianz, the world's biggest insurance company, is moving out of companies that make more than 30% of their revenue from coal, and increasing its investments in wind energy. The London School of Economics has followed Sheffield, Sussex and Oxford Brookes Universities in divesting from coal and tar sands. Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England has said: "The vast majority of reserves are

unburnable." Investor managers everywhere are having to re-think their exposure to a decline in the fossil fuel industry.

#### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

In Germany, throughout the first quarter of 2014, renewable energy delivered 27% of total electricity demand. As long ago as 2010, 62% of renewable energy systems were owned by individuals and farmers – only 6.5% by energy corporations. As Howard Johns puts it in his new book "EnergyRevolution", "Decentralised energy systems cut out many of the losses associated with the current centralised system which transmits power over vast distances from remote power stations, or transports fuel by tanker from faraway places. They also offer a model for developing nations to adopt directly, without the need to build big, inefficient and expensive infrastructure."

#### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Former Energy Secretary Chris Huhne, speaking to the Royal

Society in 2010, said: "We have 6.900 cu. metres of high-level nuclear waste – enough to fill 3 Olympic swimming pools. We manage more than 100 tonnes of plutonium waste – the largest stock in the world – this will need to be guarded for as long as it takes to build long-term deep storage. Half my department's budget goes in cleaning up this mess We pay £2 billion year in, year out, and yet we continue to pay for electricity that was consumed in the '50s, '60s and '70s on a false prospectus. The total nuclear liabilities that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority now deal with is estimated at £49 billion and rising."

How, in the face of these figures, can any government contemplate building a new generation of nuclear dinosaurs?

#### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

Denmark's wind industry sprang from concern over the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. In 2013, wind power alone met one-third of the

energy company, lists seven successive steps needed to set up such an enterprise. The first requirement is leadership. According to Joseph Jaworski, "One of the central requirements for good leadership is the capacity to inspire the people in the group to move them and encourage them and pull them into the activity and to help them get centered and focussed." Howard's advice: "Prepare yourself for an adventure that will need all your determination and creativity."

#### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

In her book "Getting to Grips" Francis Lappe identifies four strands in human behaviour:

1. We have evolved as a co-operative species. Our brains are hard-wired to make us feel good when we co-operate with others.
2. Most of us have a sense of fairness. We have learnt that injustice can destroy a community.

3. We are problem solvers and 'doers'. We like to make things happen.
4. We want to have value beyond our survival, to be good ancestors, to make the lot of our children better, to leave a better world

#### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

The Isle of Eigg in Scotland used to be owned by a series of absentee landlords. In 1997 the community got together to buy back the island for themselves. They then set up the world's first 100% community-owned renewable energy grid. Every home on the island is now powered by a mixture of wind, small hydro and solar power, with a battery bank that stores 24 hours of back-up electricity, all managed and maintained by a community-owned company.

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Grant us, dear Lord, a vision of your world as you would make it:  
A world where the

to give your only Son for our salvation.

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

Saudi Arabia contains the world's biggest oil reserves, yet it intends to build 41,000 MW of solar capacity – more than all Germany's solar installations – by 2032. 80% of the nation's revenue comes from sales of oil, but the oil will at some stage run out. Unlike Britain, with its diminishing oil resource, the Saudis have decided to invest their oil windfall in a resource which will last as long as the sun itself.

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Britain's energy supply is largely in the hands of a few big energy corporations whose duty is primarily to their shareholders. Their first concern is to deliver profits, so, whatever they say about sustainability and corporate social responsibility, if they did not satisfy their shareholders, they would not survive. To all but a few responsible businesses, profits trump ethics. In Germany the

energy corporations fought inside and outside Parliament to defeat the Renewable Energy Act which introduced the feed-in tariff. All around the world, these battles are being fought with varied outcomes.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Howard Johns in his book "Energy Revolution" writes: "Getting communities involved in local energy generation is the only way to redesign our energy systems at the speed that they need transforming. This is not just in response to a threat, but it is a huge opportunity for individuals and communities. The shift to renewable energy is happening across the world, and there is an opportunity for you and your community to benefit from this great change. It could make the difference between energy poverty and access to affordable energy."

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Howard Johns, founder of Ovesco, Britain's first community

country's electricity needs, and Denmark has exported its wind turbines all over the world.. By 2035, all of Denmark's energy demand for electricity and heating will be met from renewable energy, and it is hoped that by 2050 the country will become the first fossil-free nation on earth.

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

Dear Father:

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with us.

Let there be love on earth, and let it begin in our hearts.

Let there be miracles on earth, and let them begin with our faith.

:Let there be a sustainable future, and let it begin with our actions now.

### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Community ownership of renewable energy assets has been key to the success of such projects in Germany. Since 2007 about 170 municipalities have bought the electricity grid in their area from private companies. These moves are seen as an

insurance against future rises in the price of fossil fuels. Heavy investment in solar PV has created many local jobs and export opportunities. It has also led to massive reductions in the cost of solar technology throughout the world. Significantly, energy giant RWE has retired 6% of its electricity generation, saying: "Due to the continuing boom in solar energy, many power stations across Europe are no longer profitable to operate."

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

In most of Sub-Saharan Africa, wood is still the primary source of energy for cooking and heating, leading to deforestation and the unhealthy effects of inhaling wood smoke in the home. Lighting is still largely derived from kerosene lamps which are dangerous and expensive. Now, thanks to the work of charities such as Solaraid, solar LED lights costing \$10 apiece are being distributed across rural Africa, India and Bangladesh. 615,000 of them were sold in 2014 and the aim is

to eradicate kerosene lamps by 2020. Barefoot Power, besides providing solar lights to 2 million people in 22 countries, has pioneered a Village Infrastructure project to equip energy entrepreneurs in rural Africa to provide systems combining solar panels with a mini-grid network on a village-wide basis. A report on solar PV produced for the EU declares: "Solar PV electricity is now the cheapest electricity option for more than one-third of the people of Africa."

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

The IPCC estimates that Bangladesh will lose 17% of its land and 30% of its food production by 2030 due to climate change. Yet Bangladesh is the world leader in distributed small-scale renewable energy, thanks largely to support from the Grameen Bank founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammed Yunis. By the end of March 2015, a spin-off from the bank, Grameen Shakri, had deployed nearly 1.6

million home solar systems and trained over 20,000 technicians in 35 technology centres. Many of the trainees are women who become adept at installing and maintaining solar systems. Sibal Barua, former MD of Grameen Shakri, says: "My dream is to empower 75 million Bangladeshis through renewable energy by 2020 and to make my country the first comprehensive solar nation in the world."

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

China, despite its vast coal resources, has more wind power in operation than the entire UK energy system and four times the total wind power of Denmark. Wind is China's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest power source behind coal and hydropower. 70% of China's coal mines are now losing money through lack of demand. Coal prices fell by 16% in 2014. President Xi has promised to increase China's use of all zero-emission sources of energy by 20% by 2030.

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

After Japan's Fukushima disaster in 2011, all but three of its 25 nuclear reactors were closed, leading to a massive 25% drop in energy generation. As a result, the whole population has become engaged in energy saving, with regular TV bulletins showing how far current consumption of electricity is within the country's generating capacity. A yellow sign indicates that 90-95% of generating capacity is being used, orange indicates a usage of 97% of capacity, while red says, in essence "Switch off!" Large users were required to reduce consumption by 15%. Through the collective efforts of individuals, businesses and utilities, reduction targets were met within 3 months.. The Environment Minister had earlier said that the reductions would not be a temporary measure, but an event to change people's lifestyles. In the 12 months to October 2013 Japan added enough clean energy to replace the output of five nuclear reactors.

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

Japan has pioneered the use of floating turbines 12 miles off the coast of Fukushima, where the sea is too deep for conventional platforms. Nissan, which launched the LEAF electric car, has now released a system to allow the electricity stored in the car's battery to be supplied to the house by connecting the car to the domestic electricity system via the car's charging point. This helps to overcome the intermittency of some renewables. by using the car as backup for times when the sun is not shining and the wind not blowing.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

Preserve us, dear Lord, from the perils of hubris, from the danger of over-reliance on human cleverness and the lure of short-term solutions as we strive to repair the damage we have wrought to your world. Believing that human gifts are from you alone, help us to put our whole trust in you, who loved us enough