

issues. The conference, called “Malthus: Food, Land and People”, takes place at CRASSH, Alison Richard Building, 7 Western Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT. The fee for students is £25, for others £50. To register, go to:

<https://webservices.admin.cam.ac.uk/cbk/vmzn/> For further information

go to:

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/26187>.

#### Sources:

Ninety Nine (Global Justice Now)  
Population Matters Magazine  
Civil Engineering  
[www.edie.net](http://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](mailto:prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk)

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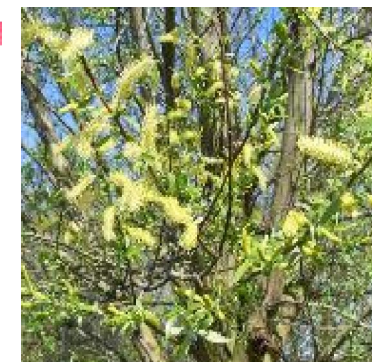
[www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

Picture on front cover: Catkins in Roding Valley, Epping, Isabel Bala

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## Prayer guide for the care of creation

# May 2016



“How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all. The earth is full of your creatures. May the Lord rejoice in his works.”  
(Psalm 104. 24 & 31)

“I saw three properties in the world. The first is that God made it. The second is that God loveth it. The third is that God keepeth it. But what beheld I therein? Verily the Maker, the Keeper, the Lover.”  
(Mother Julian of Norwich)

“The Bible makes clear a basic truth that we self-centred humans find difficult to accept, namely that the universe was not created primarily for us. There is no doubt that God wants us to enjoy it and even use its resources to optimise a good life for ourselves. But the ultimate purpose of creation is worship. Nature and all living things were created to glorify God.”  
(Tony Campolo)

### **Sunday 1st May. Rogation Sunday**

Rogationtide has long been a period of fasting and prayer, often marked by a 'beating of the bounds' ceremony, when people walk round the parish boundaries and pray for God's blessing on the crops:

May the Great Gardener landscape our designs;

May the Living Water drip-feed our tender crops;

May the Gentle Raindrops sprinkle the upturned leaves;

May the Calming Channels irrigate our drying soil;

May the Mains of Grace supply our needs and meet our thirst;

And may the God of All bless us and our loved ones with an abundant harvest.”

(Marie Birkinshaw)

### **Monday 2nd May**

The Paris Agreement on limiting carbon emissions must now be ratified by the signatories. It will come into force when 55 countries responsible for 55% of global emissions have ratified it. Pray that these countries will move quickly to bring the Agreement into force in

2017 while working to meet and even exceed their commitments.

### **Tuesday 3rd May**

China has suspended construction of coal-fired power stations in 15 of its provinces and has deferred approval of new ones in another 13 provinces. It has declared plans to add 15-20 gigawatts of solar capacity each year for the next five years, consolidating its position as the world's leading solar-powered nation. Severe pollution in its cities is the main driving force, but its leaders are also committed to implementing the Paris Agreement. Pray that China's moves towards renewable energy continue unabated.

### **Wednesday 4th May**

The Parliamentary Energy & Climate Change Committee (ECCC) has launched an inquiry into the challenges and solutions for meeting the UK's 2020 renewable energy target, namely to derive 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. The Government has proposed that 30% of

give corporations the power to sue elected governments in secret tribunals whenever they pass laws that threaten corporate profits.

### **Saturday 28th May**

Over 3 million people have signed an EU-wide petition against TTIP, one-sixth of them coming from the UK. Opposition here is led by War on Want and Global Justice Now. In order to alert local councils, universities and workplaces to the facts about TTIP, a campaign pack is available at [www.ttipfreezone.org.uk](http://www.ttipfreezone.org.uk)

### **Sunday 29th May**

Loving Father, lead us into the darkness that we may find what lies concealed;  
That we may confess it towards the light;  
That we may carry our truth into the centre of our heart;  
That we may carry our cross wisely and bring harmony into our life and our world. (Michael Leunig)

### **Monday 30th May**

A petition to the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group

has been launched by Bright Now asking them to “make an explicit commitment to disinvest from companies involved in the extraction of oil, coal and gas as soon as possible”. It also urges national investment bodies to explore options for investment in clean alternatives to fossil fuels. The petition is available at: [www.brightnow.org.uk](http://www.brightnow.org.uk)

### **Tuesday 31st May**

On the 20th and 21st June an international conference takes place in Cambridge to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Malthus, author of the “Essay on the Principle of Population”. This book has never been out of print as it touches so many areas of concern – good and bad government, equality and inequality, food and agriculture, demography and human behaviour, sex and gender, land and property, and economics. There has been increasing public debate on the environment, population and food security. Twenty-two speakers from around the world will consider his legacy and relevance to today's

efforts. The polluter pays principle is universally accepted, but often those legally responsible cannot be identified, or simply cannot pay. Prevention of pollution must be the top priority because it is much more cost-effective than clean-up, though in some countries regulation and enforcement may be a big challenge.

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

The use of cement and lime in the construction industry accounts for around 5% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but a pilot scheme in Belgium aims to capture and store more than 95% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions without any significant energy input. A consortium led by the Carbon Trust is part supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 grant programme. Europe's energy-intensive cement and steel industries are in urgent need of innovative CCS technologies if they are to reach EU-wide emission targets by 2050.

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

Sainsbury's has become the first company to use naturally-

refrigerated trailers. Hitherto, the refrigerants used have been trichlorofluoromethanes such as freon-11 and CFC-11 as well as ammonia and propane. The new Carrier Transicold trailer unit uses only CO<sub>2</sub> in a closed loop system. Reducing emissions from transport is of course a key component in the Government's strategy to reach EU emissions-reductions targets.

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

President Obama on his visit to Europe strongly advocated the proposed Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) which aims to remove trade barriers between the US and the EU. But many regard TTIP as a grave threat to consumers, workers, the environment and citizens everywhere. It is being negotiated in secret by unelected bureaucrats and lawyers. Under the guise of removing "barriers to trade" it is set to enhance the profits of big corporations at the expense of national food, safety and environmental standards. Under the mechanism known as Investor State Dispute Settlement, TTIP will

electricity, 12% of heat and 10% of transport is to be fuelled from renewable sources, but the ECCC believes that the targets for heat and transport may no longer be achievable. Heat accounts for around half of all energy consumed in the UK and around one-third of its carbon emissions. 80% of that heat is generated from gas, which is an unsustainable and finite resource.

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

Population Matters, in its submission to the ECCC, points out that while the number of households increased by 30% between 1980 and 2011, domestic energy consumption fell by 3% - mostly due to improved energy efficiency and better insulation. While this improvement is remarkable, it is far from sufficient, bearing in mind that the Government predicts a UK population of 70 million by 2027.. Moreover, the transport sector has consumed 55% more energy since 1980, mainly due to increased road and air travel. Sales of cars have

grown in each of the past three years to record numbers in 2015.

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

The standard used globally to calculate the impact of carbon emissions is called the Kaya equation. This looks at four variables:

1. Population growth
2. GDP growth
3. Energy efficiency
4. Carbon intensity of energy.

The Government has focussed exclusively on the last two, relying on technological improvements to enable the UK to meet its targets. Limiting GDP growth is a political no-no. This leaves population growth as an area to be addressed, since population numbers have a huge effect on carbon emissions. Policies to address this include:

1. Reducing universal subsidies for large families
2. Promoting family planning, with better access to contraception and sex/relationship education
3. Improving management of migratory flows
4. Supporting overseas development that will reduce

push factors for migration to the UK

5. Empowerment of women both nationally and worldwide, support for reproductive health facilities and promotion of small families. This will lead to lower migration rates, allowing the UK to achieve sustainable population numbers.

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

A conference on Faith and the Environment takes place from 10 to 4.30 today at Edward King House, Lincoln. It will include an exchange of up-to-the-minute information about environmental issues and an opportunity to reflect together on how, as people of faith, we might respond. The key speaker is Dr Ruth Valerio of A Rocha and other speakers will address the Paris Climate Agreement, Marine Biodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture, Christian Ethics and the Good Life. All are welcome to this free event. To book a place, please email [LSTadmin@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:LSTadmin@lincoln.anglican.org)

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

Give us, Father, a deeper understanding of your purposes, that we may be steadfast amid the turmoil of our times. May our faith never fail, nor our love grow cold, nor our hope become faint. So may we look up and lift our heads as we look for the promise of your Kingdom, which you pledged for us in the sacrifice of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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

Data released by NASA shows that this March was the hottest March on record, being 1.28 degrees C. above the average for 1951-1980. February was already 1.34 degrees C. hotter than the average for those years. The UK Met office expects 2016 to set a new record, meaning that the global temperature record has been broken for three years in a row. Professor Rahmstorf of Potsdam University comments: "While the spike in global temperatures is getting a boost from El Nino, most of this anomalous warmth is a result of the ongoing human-caused global warming trend." The agreement at

limits. Yellowfin tuna contribute around 27% of tuna catches (54% are of skipjack tuna). Leading retailers have joined WWF in calling for a 20% cut in catches and the introduction of harvest control rules to ensure the sustainability of all Indian Ocean tuna stocks including skipjack.

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

Father God, inspire, lift up and enlighten the fallen minds of us humans. Help us to assess wisely the benefits and risks of technology, that new technology may never be directed to improper or evil ends. May we never plan on earth what we would never admit to you in heaven. Let no neglect or blindness allow or threaten the destruction of this beautiful world. This we ask in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

Figures from the Department for Transport (DfT) reveal that some diesel vehicles are still producing up to 12 times the EU maximum limit for road-tested vehicles. New EU rules allow cars to continue

emitting more than twice the legal limit until 2017. ClientEarth comments: "We need a national network of clean air zones with random testing of vehicles and consumer labelling based on real-world, independent tests. This will help us get the dirtiest vehicles off our streets. At the same time, the Government needs to fight for clean air at EU level so as to close the loopholes in emissions testing."

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

There are more than 3100 abandoned industrial and mining sites across 50 developing countries which pose a health risk to nearly 100 million people, children being particularly vulnerable. Gold processing for example releases large amounts of mercury vapour, causing health impacts on the local community and polluting the environment. Some 2200 of these sites have been visited and screened by engineers working for the Global Alliance on Health & Pollution. In nearly every case progress is made in dealing with serious contamination, even if it may need time and repeated

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

The fiduciary duty of a company is towards its investors. The fiduciary duty of the people of God requires faithfulness to God's purposes rather than to the pursuit of profit. "The market value of a fossil fuel company is significantly influenced by its capacity to exploit new fossil deposits. In a context where 2/3rds of proven reserves must be left in the ground if we are to avoid global warming in excess of 2 degrees C., such a strategy is inconsistent with the biblical approach to a balanced and sustainable economy and the fiduciary duty of God's people."

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

Peabody Energy, the world's largest private coal company, has filed for bankruptcy with debts of \$6 billion. The coal industry as a whole is beset by pricing and pollution problems plus NGO pressure on creditors and investors to pull out their money. Britain plans to close all its coal-fired power stations by 2025: on a single day in April we produced more power from solar than from coal.. However India and China will keep using coal for

decades, as they rely on it to generate about 70% of their electricity.

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

During his recent visit to Zambia, Archbishop Justin Welby announced at a youth conference on the environment that he had accepted an invitation from the Anglican Communion's network of environmental champions to be their chairman and act as its public face on environmental issues. He said: "Trips like this visit reveal more and more clearly the huge life-threatening seriousness of the matters that are being faced. It has come upon me with fresh force during this ACC and I'm very honoured to be allowed to have a role."

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

This month the annual Indian Ocean Tuna Commission meets to set quotas for Yellowfin Tuna catches in the Indian Ocean as stocks continue to fall, despite warnings from the IOCT scientific committee that catching rates are well in excess of recommended

the Paris talks to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees now looks highly optimistic.

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

The John Ray Institute conference in March looked at the prospects for the new UN Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 7 is for "Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". In detail, the targets for 2030 are:  
7.2 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix;  
7.3 Double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency;  
Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology;  
Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for modern, sustainable energy services for all developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island states and land-locked developing countries.

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

SDG 14 covers Life Below Water and includes these targets for 2020:

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities including marine debris and nutrient pollution;
- Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and restoring them to achieve healthy and productive oceans;
- Minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation;
- Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, and destructive fishing practices, and implement science-based management plans to restore fish stocks at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield;
- Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas consistent with national and

international law, based on the best scientific information.

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

SDG 15 covers Life on Land and includes:

- Urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
- Prevent the introduction and reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water and control or eradicate the priority species;
- Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into all planning and development and poverty reduction strategies;
- Increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Mobilise resources to finance sustainable forest management and provide incentives to developing countries to advance such management;
- Enhance support to combat poaching by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

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

A paper from Bright Now (<http://brightnow.org.uk>) explores how churches as investors can respond ethically to the growing threat of catastrophic climate change. As one contributor wrote, “Christian investors played an important part in the fight against apartheid, their discipleship being reflected in their investment decisions. The call is now for the Church to act in a similar prophetic way with respect to the fossil fuel corporations, whose continued commitment to the exploitation of reserves flies in the face of scientific evidence on the predicted outcomes of burning more than a fraction of the current known reserves. From the early days of the first apostles through to Wilberforce and Mother Teresa, history is marked by men and women of courage who listened to Christ and took risks. Today the Church is being asked to do this again”.

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

A Schumacher College meeting today, entitled “Faith in the New

Economics”, addresses these questions:

- Are we stuck with politics, finance and economics as we know them?
- Are there any options beyond business as usual?
- What has this to do with our fundamental beliefs and values?

The meeting is from 10 to 4.30 at Holy Trinity & St George Parish Centre, Kendal LA9 4BW. Speakers include David Midgley of Schumacher North, Jonathan Dawson of Economics for Transition, and it is chaired by Sr Margaret Atkins, Augustinian Canoness of Boarbank Hall. For details, phone 01524 383081 or email [dfje@talktalk.net](mailto:dfje@talktalk.net).

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

Give us, Father, the serenity that comes from living close to you. Daily renew in us the sense of joy, filling every corner of our hearts with light and grace, so that we, bearing with us the infection of a good courage, may be diffusers of life and may meet all ills and cross-accidents with gallant and high-hearted happiness, giving you thanks always for all things.

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

“Is it ethical to invest in fossil fuels?” is the title of a Bright Now report including reflections from 12 prominent theologians, scientists and environmentalists. God made a covenant (Gen. 9.8-17) with humans and all creation. When we fail to keep our part of the covenant, nature responds, as it is doing today. If the Church recognises its mission as working in a covenant partnership with God to help foster life in all its fullness, it cannot ignore the influence of its investments.

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.**

The report goes on: “Because of the grave threat of climate change and the fossil fuel’s refusal to change, it is no longer right for religious groups to profit from companies that are creating ecological destruction and human suffering on a titanic scale. As a matter of life, and because we believe in a just and loving Creator, faith communities must disinvest from fossil fuels and reinvest in a clean energy future.”