

## Additional Prayers

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## Prayer guide for the care of creation



# September 2016

“Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known. In wrath, remember mercy.”  
(Habakkuk 3.2)

“God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees! Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.”  
(Hebrews 12.10-13)

“The work of praying is prerequisite to all other work in the kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of heaven to our own helplessness.”  
(Ole Hallesby)



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### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September

This year's worldwide Season of Creation continues until October 4<sup>th</sup>. For details go to:

<http://seasonofcreation.org/> There are videos from Pope Francis, Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Tutu. There are interfaith resources and a map for us to add an event. Materials for each week, based on St' Luke's Gospel can be found at: <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/>

### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

The design for new nuclear plants at Hinkley Point known as the European Pressurised Reactor is nowhere in actual operation. Finland's Olkiluoto plant is 9 years late and 3 times over budget. France's Flamanville project is faring little better. The Government has postponed a decision on whether to go ahead with the Hinkley Point plants. There can be no better time to weigh up the alternatives – many of them more efficient and less risky

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Britain has the largest plutonium stockpile in the world and we still do not know how to store it safely. A project backed by the US Energy Department is for a “waste-annihilating molten salt reactor” which uses up lethal plutonium residues. This design dissolves nuclear fuel in molten salts rather than using dry uranium pellets. Meltdown is impossible. If the reactor gets too hot, a freeze plug melts and the salts drain off. Canada has already licensed this design. Terrestrial Energy of Toronto claims that it can be made in 3-4 years and would produce power at \$40-50 per MWh – a third of the cost of power from the proposed Hinkley Point reactors.

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Father, you have given us matchless gifts in the realm of science and technology. Help us to understand that you alone are the source of all truth and understanding. Let us never be blinded by the lure of the marketplace or tempted to put at risk the lives and health of our fellow-

facility to produce the polymer will be opened in Birmingham next year.

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September

There are many ways we can avoid the truth about climate change, such as:

- It's not my responsibility. It's up to the Government/ the US/ China.
- I don't see what I can do about it.
- I don't think it's that pressing.
- I can't make a difference. The plane will go anyway, whether I'm on it or not.
- I won't be here, so I'm not bothered.
- There'll be time to sort this out once we've fixed the economy.
- Don't point the finger at me. I care. I just don't choose to show it by growing a beard and wearing sandals.

We instinctively recoil from arguments based on the Fear Factor. Yet ostrichitis is no substitute for realism.

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September

One message of the book “In Time for Tomorrow?” is that we don't have to appear smug or puritanical in talking to friends about climate change. Nor should we rely on “facts” - which only make sense when we are ready to hear them. Reflecting on the times when we were listened to, we may find that it was when we were connected to the other person's feelings and experience, when we listened more than we spoke, when we weren't desperate about the outcome and when we felt confident and positive about the necessary changes in lifestyle.

See [www.carbonconversations.org](http://www.carbonconversations.org)

### Sources:

“In Time for Tomorrow?” by Rosemary Randall and Andy Brown  
Resurgence and Ecologist  
Population Matters Magazine  
Telegraph Business News  
[www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net)

world. Help us to bear witness, by our example, to our resolve to amend our lives, so that others may take heart and act accordingly.

### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

Japan and New Zealand have confirmed that they will ratify the Paris Agreement. The EU Parliament and Council of Ministers are also expected to approve ratification, leading to hopes that the Agreement will come into force later this year. Some reports suggest that Britain's participation in the Agreement is in doubt following the vote to leave the EU. UN climate chief Christina Figueres said that Brexit would require a 'recalibration', but it was not clear what this might mean.

### **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

The Government has offered cash payments (taxpayers' money) to households in areas where fracking takes place. According to a YouGov survey, only 1 in 3 people would support fracking even if offered up to £10,000 to allow it. 43% were strongly against fracking, or tended to be against it, while 25% were

unsure. FoE notes that payments would be made only after shale exploration and would come from taxation on profits. "The more people learn about fracking and what it could mean for their health and the environment, the more opposed they could be. Although the Government has promised to listen to local people, it seems that politicians are still trying to push fracking on communities who don't want it."

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

A form of packaging polymer that is both recyclable and biodegradable is being developed by Aquapak Polymers. The polyvinyl alcohol polymer bypasses the difficulty of separating film from rigid plastic and could replace multilayer packaging on a wide range of consumer products such as crisp packets, biscuit wrappers and meat packaging. The polymer degrades rapidly in anaerobic digesters and is non-toxic to marine life. If not required for recycling, it is dissolvable in water treatment processes and can be washed away safely with wastewater. A

humans. Watch over our motives, dear Father, that we may always give prime place to the furtherance of your kingdom. This we ask in the Name of your Son, who died that we might live.

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Offshore wind technology has advanced in recent years and Britain is the world leader. The Hornsea Two wind farm, recently granted planning permission despite concerns over wildlife, will consist of 300 turbines 55 miles offshore, generating up to 1.8 gigawatts – enough to power 1,6 million homes. Hornsea One, consisting of 174 turbines now under construction, will be the world's biggest wind farm when completed in 2020. Greg Clark, the Business and Energy Secretary, said: "We're determined to be one of the leading destinations for investment in renewable energy, which means jobs and economic right across the country."

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

The RSPB has commented on the proposed Hornsea Two wind farm:

"This wind farm, in combination with other wind farms in the North Sea, poses an unacceptable level of threat to gannets and kittiwakes as well as potential threats to guillemots, razorbills and puffins." However, Greg Clark concluded that the project would not have "adverse effects on the integrity" of the protected wildlife areas after adjustments were made to the size and number of the turbines. The RSPB is considering a legal challenge.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Both wind and solar power are naturally intermittent and need back-up over periods when they cannot provide the power we need. The US Energy Department is funding 75 projects for electricity storage, using various types of batteries, storage in molten glass or advanced flywheels. These are all methods of storing excess power produced from solar energy during the day and using it for consumption during the evening peak demand.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

Virtual power plants are electricity generators designed to provide back-up power when demand is high, but spend much of the time lying idle. New technology has enabled much of this spare capacity to be fed into the National Grid, so earning income for the generator's owners. For example, Thanet Earth in Kent has the biggest greenhouse in the UK, covering nearly 80 football pitches and powered by two gas-fired combined heat and power generators which provide 5.4 MW of electricity. Just under half this capacity lies idle at any one time. Now it is made available to the grid at times of peak demand as a substitute for dirty and expensive auxiliary power plants. Universities and hospitals throughout the UK are taking up this opportunity.

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

A new 2.2 MW facility under construction in Rufford, Nottingham, will use agricultural feedstock from nearby farms to fuel a combined heat and power plant. Surplus electricity will be fed into

the grid, while 16,000 tonnes a year of recycled digestate will be used as compost on local farms. The head of the Green Investment Bank commented: "Anaerobic digestion is widely recognised as one of the most effective ways of processing organic waste. AD facilities have an important role to play in the development of a circular economy."

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Horizon 20 is an EU-funded scheme which enables UK companies to innovate and collaborate internationally on energy projects. Notable UK projects backed by the scheme include Aquamarine Energy's plan to develop wave energy converters and Surrey University's plan for "Smart Cities Research". Now the Treasury and Department for Business and Energy have announced that payments under the scheme will be underwritten by the Treasury up to and beyond the UK departure from the EU. Innovation is essential for securing Britain's energy security, so this

poor quality irrigation. The US wastes 7 billion gallons of water every day and the UK does scarcely better. Problems of pollution, especially in cities, affect the quality of accessible water. Moreover, much of the water we consume comes from underground aquifers which are being drained much more quickly than they are being replenished by rainfall.

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

There are many ways to save water. Technology can make industries less water-dependent. We can invest in desalination installations, fix leaking pipes, adopt drip irrigation techniques, develop large-scale transfer methods to replenish dry areas, reduce waste generation and adopt more sustainable lifestyles. But reducing water usage per head is only one side of the story. The total number of people using water is equally important. Only when population growth reduces or reverses will humankind be able to enjoy reliable water supplies in the long term.

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

A report from the Guttmacher Institute on "The Unmet Need for Contraception in Developing Countries" examines women's reasons for not using family planning. Based in research in 52 countries, it was found that the commonest reasons for not using a method were concern about side-effects and health risks (26%) and the belief that they have sex too infrequently to warrant their use (34%). The study concludes: "It is essential that family planning providers offer women and couples contraceptive counselling that includes accurate information about potential side-effects and how to address them. Providers should ensure that all women can choose from a wide range of contraceptive options so as to select a method that suits their needs"

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

Father, we pray, each one of us, for an honest appraisal of our own lifestyle, so that we may admit, to ourselves and to you, all that we are contributing, directly and indirectly, to the pollution of your

ago, it is even more obvious that the more we are, the more we degrade our life-support system, and the smaller each person's share of our dwindling natural resources. Getting these simple facts across to people, and killing off the 'mad taboo' on recognising them, is more important than ever."

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

This year also marks the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough. A patron of Population Matters, he writes: "The growth in human numbers is frightening. I've seen wildlife under mounting human pressure all over the world, and it's not just from human economy or technology. Behind every threat is the frightening explosion in human numbers. I've never seen a problem that wouldn't be easier to solve with fewer people – or harder, and ultimately impossible, with more."

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

Today is International Day of Peace. From 5 to 9 pm at St. John's Church, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8TY, a 'Faith for the

Climate Symposium' takes place for all concerned about the question "How should people of faith be praying, protecting and campaigning for the earth, which is given us in sacred trust?" Speakers include Bishop Nick Holtam, Sir David King, George Marshall of COIN and co-chairs Rabbi Natan Levy, Maiya Rahman of Islamic Relief and Canon Goddard of Operation Noah. The £5 entry includes supper. See <http://www.stjohnswaterloo.org/climatechange> .

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Paul Ehrlich, a patron of Population Matters, writes about global water scarcity: "Overdrafts on aquifers are one reason why some geologist colleagues are convinced that water shortages will bring the human population explosion to a halt. There are substitutes for oil. There is no substitute for water." While world population has tripled over the past century, water consumption has increased six-fold. 70% of all water is used for agriculture, yet much of this evaporates or seeps away due to

announcement has been widely welcomed.

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Almighty God and Father, we pray that this year will see good harvests throughout the world, but especially in places that are prone to extreme weather conditions of flooding, droughts and heatwaves. Please help all the farmers who struggle to grow crops and raise livestock in a world of climate instability, and grant them success in their labours.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

The Treasury has guaranteed until 2020 the present level of farming subsidies under the CAP, including any agri-environmental schemes agreed before the coming Autumn Statement. Arrangements after 2020 will be subject to negotiations. These will need to recognise a top priority for food production in this country while safeguarding the biodiversity of the countryside. Andrea Leadsom, the Environment Secretary, said: "I'm delighted we can provide this crucial certainty and continuity to our rural communities while we develop a

new approach to supporting agriculture and protecting our precious countryside."

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

A landmark map produced for CPRE by consultants LUC shows the areas of England most blighted by light pollution as well as areas, such as parts of Devon, Cumbria, Northumberland and Herefordshire where the skies are still dark... Only 22% of England is untouched by light pollution, with major roads a significant source of the problem. The Astronomer Royal said: "These maps will encourage remedial efforts that will not only save energy, but also enable more of us to enjoy a dark sky just as did earlier generations."

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

A report from the government-backed Centre for Ecology and Hydrology has analysed the effects on bee populations of neonic-treated oilseed rape over 17 years. Bee decline was found to be "three times stronger" in species which rely on neonic-treated crops for food, compared with bee species

that feed from a wider range of plants. For some vulnerable species, the use of neonics on crops was responsible for at least 20% of local population extinctions. FoE comments: "The study adds a new peak to the existing mountain of independent evidence showing the risk to our bees of using neonicotinoid chemicals."

#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

A report from WWF highlights the benefits to businesses that switch their sourcing of timber to sustainably-managed forests, namely:

Advantages from regulations;

- Easier raising of finance;
- Added brand value;
- A more engaged workforce.

Some key facts:

- Brazil has only 16 years of timber forests remaining, south Africa 7 years, Colombia 12 years, Mexico 11 years, Thailand 9 years and Pakistan 10 years
- Primary forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Since 1990 Nigeria has lost 99% of them

and Vietnam 80% - 2 million hectares in these countries alone.

- In the UK by 2050 less than 22% of timber used will be of indigenous stock.
- All the UK foresters interviewed expressed grave concern for the future supply of domestic softwood. "Committing to sustainable timber sourcing isn't just an added bonus, but something that every timber-dependent business must invest in if they want a healthy and resilient business to survive."

#### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas produced mainly by diesel vehicles and is linked to respiratory and heart diseases. During a single week in January parts of London breached the legal limit for NO<sub>2</sub> emissions over a whole year's allowance. Now the City Corporation has banned the purchase of diesel vehicles for its fleet and is exploring the benefits of hybrid vehicles. In addition, it has introduced a city-wide 20 mph limit, a cutback on engine idling and a

City Air" app offering low-pollution travel routes around the capital. The new Mayor of London has vowed to introduce Clean Bus corridors and a diesel vehicle scrapping scheme.

#### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), according to the Committee on Climate Change, is likely to be "a crucial part of the least-cost path to decarbonisation in the UK and globally." The IPCC estimates that it would cost 140% more to meet the goals agreed at Paris without CCS technology, given what we know about the alternatives.

Canada's SaskPower plant extracts 90% of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, though it loses 18% of its power output in the process.. The industrial clusters of Teesside and Humberside are linked by a network of pipes to depleted and well-mapped oil and gas fields in the North Sea. The Paris agreements imply a tightening regime of higher carbon penalties over the next 50 years, ending in net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. According to Professor Gibbins of Edinburgh University "Storage will then be

much more valuable than the fossil fuels themselves. If you are an energy-intensive industry and you don't have CCS technology, you are s - - - - d."

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Father, we thank you for this beautiful world, for the food you provide and for the abundance of its store. Help us to look after all of nature, to watch it and to learn from it. Weed out from our lives all that hinders peace, so that your kingdom may be spread through us and that we may become channels of your peace.

#### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

This year Population Matters celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jonathon Porritt, a patron, writes: "The future of humankind depends on one simple insight: that there can be no just and truly sustainable world unless we urgently prioritise investment in family planning, and keep on doing so until our population stabilises and then starts to decline." Its retiring president, Roger Martin, writes: "With some 2 billion more people than 25 years