

wholesome and right, and may we hold lightly all that we own. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who became poor that we might be eternally rich.

Monday 31st October

One of the last areas of total wilderness in the Amazon is the Tapajos River Basin, which supports almost 600 species of birds, 400 species of fish and is home to the Mundurucu people, who depend on this free-flowing river for food and transport.. The whole area is now threatened by a series of mega-dams – 43 in all – which would flood large swathes of the basin and drive deforestation, as has already happened with the Belo Monte dam on the Xingu River. Greenpeace has launched a worldwide campaign to avert this disaster. A study commissioned by the Brazilian government has shown that climate change can cause dramatic reductions in river flows, meaning that new dams are unlikely to achieve the energy output for which they are designed. Moreover, where flooded vegetation and soil decays, the resulting methane emissions are a

potent driver of climate change. Greenpeace research has shown that a mix of solar, wind and biomass can fulfil Brazil's energy needs, so these dams are not necessary.

Sources:

Clean Slate (CAT)
Resurgence & Ecologist
The Environment (CIWEM)
BusinessGreen

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

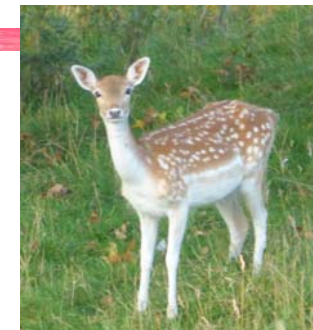
For further information and requests for prayer, please write or email:
Philip Clarkson Webb,
15 Valley View, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells TN4 0SY
Email: pcw@greenchristian.org.uk
Website: www.greenchristian.org.uk

Picture on front cover: Fallow Deer by Judith Allinson.

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

Prayer guide for the care of creation

October 2016



"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)

"We believe that Creation is a gift of God, an expression of our Creator's goodness.

We believe that, as humans, we are part of the creation and that we share in a special way in the creative work of God.

We believe that the resources of our land and waters and air are precious gifts from our Creator, to be used and looked after with loving care.

We believe that there is a rhythm to God's creation like a drum beat; when we lose heart, or the drum is damaged, the music is out of tune." (Pacific Women's Consultation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation)

Saturday 1st October

A report from Christian Aid called "Act Now or Pay Later", states that 8 billion people living in coastal cities are threatened by climate change. Indian cities such as Kolkata and Mumbai are the most exposed to coastal flooding, risking the safety and livelihoods of 14 million and 11.4 million people respectively. Miami comes 8th on the list of threatened cities and top of the list for financial losses from coastal flooding, with exposed assets worth \$3.5 trillion. New York has \$2.1 trillion of exposed assets and China's Guangzhou \$3.4 trillion.

Christian Aid's Alison Doig said: "We are facing a head-on collision between the growth of coastal cities and climate change, which makes coastal flooding more likely. Evidence shows that from New Orleans to Dhaka, it is the poorest who are most vulnerable because they have the worst infrastructure and no social or financial safety nets to help them recover. This horrifying vision of the future can be avoided. We can speed up the

global transition from dirty fossil fuels to the clean, renewable energy of the future. We can also do more to prepare for such occurrences. For every \$1 spent on reducing the risk of disasters, we save around \$7 later. Such investment is a no-brainer."

Sunday 2nd October

Father, we have been bad stewards of the world you have given us. We confess and repent of the ways in which we have misused your creation. Forgive us for the way we have exploited your world for selfish ends. Teach us to treat all creation with care, compassion and dignity, and to lead others along the same path, for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.

Monday 3rd October

Figures from the former Department of Energy & Climate Change have shown that British people reduced their carbon emissions by 38% from 1990 to 2014. But this ignores the continuous rise in imports of energy-intensive goods, meaning that electrical goods imported from

energy to all households. There are no shareholders and no directors' bonuses. It is Britain's first local authority-owned energy company and provides a useful model for other local authorities.

www.robinhoodenergy.co.uk

Friday 28th October

Aviation accounts for 2% of the world's carbon emissions, but if nothing is done to reduce them, its emissions are set to treble by 2050. In 2010 the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) set an "aspirational goal of carbon-neutral growth from 2020 levels", but to achieve this the industry needs to address a huge emissions gap of 7.8 billion tonnes of carbon pollution. This month a carbon-offsetting scheme for international aviation is expected to be agreed, whereby each airline is given the flexibility to either reduce its emissions or to purchase credits from the world's carbon markets. Meanwhile Virgin Atlantic has announced an intention to use waste gases to power its aircraft. A WWF report finds that there is a sufficient supply of high-quality

carbon offsets and sustainable alternative fuels to meet the ICAO's goal of "carbon-neutral growth from 2020 onwards."

Saturday 29th October

Good Money Week begins tomorrow. Good stewardship of money is a key element of the Christian message. Both the slave trade and, more recently, apartheid ended only when Christians began to understand that it was their money that was propping up the system. Today, the fossil fuel industry is supported by investors who would be horrified if they understood the destructive results of burning fossil fuels. Good Money Week is an opportunity to take stock of investment policies and to spread awareness of our responsibilities in this area. <http://goodmoneyweek.com/churches>

Sunday 30th October

Lord, teach us to value our possessions in the right way. Make us willing to use them freely for the good of others and to share them generously without grudging. May our enjoyment of possessions be

future generations to deal with. They have no votes.

Tuesday 25th October

The stockpile of plutonium held at Sellafield now exceeds those of Russia and the USA combined and each year a further 4 tonnes is added. A 2007 report of the Royal Society set out four immediate priorities for defusing the plutonium time-bomb:

- 1) Upgrading security
- 2) Halting further growth of the stockpile
- 3) Blending military plutonium with civilian stocks
- 4) Starting a project to turn the powder into mixed-oxide fuel (MOX)

Only the first has been implemented. Since 2007 the stockpile has grown by a further 40 tonnes and the planned MOX plant has been shut down due to the availability of cheap uranium fuel. The cost of storing what the Royal Society report calls "one of the most radiotoxic materials known" is now over £100 million a year. What chance does Britain have of persuading other nations to forego manufacture of plutonium?

Wednesday 26th October

A report from the Committee on Climate Change has found that Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions – including international aviation and shipping – fell by 8.6% in 2014, due to its enthusiastic roll-out of renewable energy coupled with excellent progress on community energy schemes and a well-developed energy efficiency policy. The CCC also praised Scottish efforts to cut food waste and introduce a nationwide circular economy. However, there has been slower progress on renewable heat, cleaner transport and changes to agriculture and land use. With its updated Climate Change Plan due out this autumn, the Scottish government needs to include clear and measurable objectives to ensure progress in these problem areas.

Thursday 27th October

In 2015 the Nottingham City Council set up Robin Hood Energy, a not-for-profit company which uses energy from an incinerator, solar panels and waste food plants. Its mission is to provide low-cost

the Far East do not count in the calculation of UK emissions. If these were included, annual emissions would be 15.5 tonnes per person. The closing-down of much of our energy-intensive industry, leading to the import of more goods from abroad, makes our official statistics look good, but do nothing to help the planet. The level of individual carbon emissions needed to keep global temperature rise to 2 degrees C. is about 3 tonnes per head per annum. Hence the UK still needs to cut its emissions, including imported goods, by 80%.

Tuesday 4th October

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, over 1 million people living in deprived communities in the UK are at risk of flooding. 40% of low-income households have no flood insurance. The effects of climate change always bear down hardest on low-incomer families. Despite the failure of the Government's Green Deal, investment in energy efficiency is still the best way to combat the twin

evils of fuel poverty and climate change.

Wednesday 5th October

80% of houses in Britain will still be with us in 2050, so the key to reducing domestic carbon emissions is through retrofitting houses with energy-efficient measures such as solid wall insulation, triple glazed windows, ventilation systems and solar panels. In Greater Manchester, the Carbon Co-op – a community benefit society – provides a package of home improvements which, during its first year, has led to an average saving on energy bills of nearly £900 a year. Gas usage is down by nearly a half and carbon emissions by over 60%. Few contractors however are familiar with whole house retrofits, and wider training is required if the model can be repeated elsewhere.

Thursday 6th October

The think tank Policy Exchange suggests that installing heat pumps in more than 80% of UK homes, as suggested by the Government, would be a "colossal waste of

money". It recommends instead a combination of energy efficiency measures, better gas boilers and using "greener gases" such as biomethane generated from agricultural waste.

Friday 7th October

The Conservative think tank Bright Blue proposes that sales of houses should be blocked if they fail to meet minimum energy efficiency standards. To enable householders to afford upgrades, there should be "Help to Improve" loans akin to the current "Help to Buy" schemes. Builders should be mandated to improve the home's energy performance whenever renovations take place. Landlords are already required to upgrade their properties to at least Band E energy efficiency rating, in effect banning them from letting more than 330,000 properties from 2018 onwards, unless energy efficiency is installed.

Saturday 8th October

14 local authorities in Lancashire, including the County Council, have jointly set up the Cosy Homes in Lancashire scheme, which has

assisted more than 7,000 households with external wall insulation and efficient boilers, focussing on the oldest properties in the most deprived areas. The scheme has won an Ashden Award for Sustainable Homes and provides a useful model for other local authorities.

Sunday 9th 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 10th October

Storage of electricity generated from wind turbines and solar panels has always been a problem. In Nevada the Advanced Rail Energy Storage system uses surplus electricity to push cargo trains uphill on a 6-mile track. When extra power is needed, the train is allowed to roll back downhill while its motors turn generators producing electricity. The system can produce 12.5 MWh of energy –

enables low-income households to purify their well or tap water without the need to boil it by burning wood or kerosene. This reduces disease, lowers household costs and reduces CO2 emissions. The company, a winner of an Ashden Award, has sold 53,000 filters and reached 200,000 people since 2009.

Saturday 22nd October

The Breakthrough Energy Coalition was formed in Paris last year when 28 high-profile investors came together to find a substitute for oil-based plastics by turning biomass into cellulosic sugars for use instead of oil-based polymers. A process called Plantrose, financed by Bill Gates and pioneered by Renmatix, uses high-pressure, high-temperature water to convert biomass into a usable cellulosic sugar state which, in turn, can be made into plastic-like materials for products ranging from drinking cups to cell phone parts to industrial adhesives. The French energy firm Total has agreed to produce 1 million tons of cellulosic sugar a year in its own facilities.

Sunday 23rd October

Father God, our newspapers and television programmes are full of the devastation caused by selfish political and economic agendas. We pray earnestly for a change of heart among the nations, their leaders and the leaders of business and industry. We pray for a massive diversion of human resources towards the relief of human suffering and the restoration of your world.

Monday 24th October

The Government has decided to finalise the £18 billion investment to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point to a French design of unproven capability, which has encountered serious problems elsewhere in Europe. Another nuclear power station – to a different Chinese design - is to be built at Bradwell in Essex. Hinkley Point is to be financed by a mix of French and Chinese investment, leaving the British consumer with eye-watering energy bills. The ever-accumulating stockpile of nuclear waste at Sellafield is to be left to

campaign said: "The huge financial challenge the NHS is currently facing requires new forms of thought, leadership and innovation. This is clear evidence that the Government should and must invest in a low-carbon NHS fit for the future."

Wednesday 19th October

In spring 2012 Britain was saved from a looming drought by unprecedented spring rainfall. A report from WaterUK models the possible effects of climate change, population growth, environmental protection measures and trends in water use over the next 50 years. It concludes that we face the prospect of longer, more frequent and more acute droughts than previously thought. It recommends, firstly, promoting more efficient water use in homes and businesses through improved building standards, smart metering and more ambitious reductions in leakages from water mains, plus, secondly, moving water from one region to another through existing waterways and new pipelines, building new reservoirs, treating

more water for re-use and building desalination plants to make use of sea water. The cost of inaction could reach £1.3 billion a day during severe droughts, while the cost of making the water supply more resilient could amount to about £4 per annum per household.

Thursday 20th October

WWF, commenting on this report, points out that the system of licences for water abstraction is out-of-date, unsustainable and not fit for purpose. "Only 1 in 5 licences offer anything by way of environmental protection. Some licences even allow abstraction of water that, in future, may not be there. The licensing regime needs reform, and DEFRA must bring forward its long-awaited plans for a new Water Bill.

Friday 21st October

Most people in Indonesia, as in other parts of the world, rely on wells or springs for their water supply, but 15,000 Indonesian children under 5 die annually from waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea. Nazura Water Filters

far more than most battery storage systems. www.aresnorthamerica.com

Tuesday 11th October

A "State of Nature" report was published last month based on the findings of over 50 nature conservation and research bodies. Between 1970 and 2013, 56% of all species declined in numbers, while 53% declined between 2002 and 2013. Sir David Attenborough wrote in the foreword: "The natural world is in serious trouble and it needs our help as never before. We continue to lose the precious wildlife that enriches our lives and is essential to the health and well-being of all who live in Britain." The report found that "agricultural change was the most significant driver of declines" as a result of switching from spring to autumn sowing, which reduces food and habitat for many species, intensification of grazing, increased use of pesticides and fertilisers, and loss of marginal habitats such as ponds and hedgerows. E.U. stewardship schemes carried out by some were beneficial, but remained on a small scale. "The

hoped-for recovery of farmland wildlife has yet to be seen."

Wednesday 12th October

Last year the UK population for the first time exceeded 65 million and is expected to grow by almost 10 million by 2040. Population growth means that more food is required from the same amount of land. Inevitably this means that more intensive farming methods are needed to keep up with the increase in demand. Trying to make farming less intensive without stabilising the population means that we have to import more food, which is often produced in even more damaging ways.. The State of Nature report mentioned urbanisation as a major cause of species loss, yet urbanisation will certainly increase as more people are born in cities or migrate there. It is baffling to know why such a well-researched report made no mention of population growth as a driver of species decline.

Thursday 13th October

Colin Tudge's latest book "Six Steps Back to the Land" suggests a

pathway towards what he calls “enlightened agriculture”. The first hurdle for new entrants to farming is to secure loans from friends and banks such as the Triodos Bank. Renting land is however a perfectly good option for aspiring food producers. Livestock farming and/or vegetable growing are good places to start. Arable farming may come later. The current economic climate favours intensive farming, but organisations such as Sustainable Food Trust are working on a project to ensure that producers using intensive methods are economically accountable for the damage they cause to natural capital, while sustainable producers need to benefit from the goods and services they provide.

Friday 14th October

Many Middle Eastern countries suffer from serious water shortages and water quality issues. The British Government's Science & Innovation Network, in partnership with British Council Israel and research bodies, is working with Israeli and Palestinian scientists on ways of addressing these

problems. Robin Grimes of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office said: “In the Middle East and many other regions there is great need for improved access and management of water. The UK is proud to be working with the best scientists and entrepreneurs in the region to improve access to water. The benefits of this work will echo far beyond the region.”

Saturday 16th October

According to Donella Meadows, joint author of “The Limits to Growth”, the first commandment of Economics is to Grow. National economies need to swell. People should want more, make more, earn more, spend more – for ever.

The first commandment of the Earth is Enough. Everything on Earth grows to its appropriate size and then stops. The planet does not get any bigger. Its creatures learn, mature, diversify and evolve, but always live within absolute limits.

We don't choose which of these two commandments will ultimately prevail. We can choose which one

we will permanently live under, and whether to make our economic laws consistent with planetary laws. Or we can find out what happens if we don't.

Sunday 16th October

God our Father, teach us how to live more simply, that others may simply live. 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 us all.

Monday 17th October

A new book called “Eden 2.0: Climate Change and the Search for a 21st Century Myth” by Alex Evans explores the search for a transformative “myth” that could unify the world in a clear idea of what is required to restore the earth and redeem humanity. For the author, that “myth” is Christianity, with its focus on “the everlasting covenant”, Jubilee, the Sabbath, redemption and restoration. We need, and quickly, a “myth” that will inspire us to take a radically new course – something as powerful as the campaign against slavery – to

bring about the transition so urgently needed. He concludes with some policy prescriptions and a set of ten personal actions that could make a big difference, including activism, lifestyle changes, discussions with family and friends, and a special effort to reach those not yet moved to address world issues from a perspective of faith.

Tuesday 18th October

A report from the NHS Sustainability campaign finds that a range of initiatives from energy efficiency and waste management to the uptake of low-carbon vehicles has resulted in savings of £5.5 million over a 12-18 month period, with a reported reduction in CO2 emissions of 35,000 tonnes. Real savings are likely to be far higher since not all hospitals reported their results. Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust saved up to £20,000 through the adoption of electric vehicles. Derbyshire Community NHS Trust reported savings of more than £218,000 a year thanks to energy efficiency initiatives used for front-line patient services. The manager of the