
Prayer guide for the care of creation



November 2016

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”
(Rev. 3.20)

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?”

(Matthew 7.9-11)

“Some people think of prayer as the means to get God to do things for us. That is not the primary purpose of prayer. The primary purpose is to bring the whole of life into the presence of God for cleansing and decision-making.”
(Selwyn Hughes)



GreenChristian

Tuesday 1st November

The continued stockpiling of nuclear waste at Sellafield is one of many examples where policymakers can afford to ignore the interests of future generations. The Welsh Assembly last year passed the “Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act” whereby a Future Generations Commissioner was appointed to guard the interests of future generations, to advise public bodies on achieving these goals and, assisted by an advisory body, to make recommendations to the Assembly. Before each election he must publish an assessment of the improvements public bodies need to make to achieve the Well-Being goals. A similar enactment by the UK Parliament is long overdue.

Wednesday 2nd November

Both the slave trade and, more recently, apartheid ended only when investors and consumers began to understand that it was their money that was propping up the system. Investors and

consumers today would be horrified if they understood to what extent their money was supporting the continuing emission of greenhouse gases, so risking devastating climate change.. A new book “Waste to Wealth” by Peter Lacy and Jakob Rutqvist maps in detail the paths to a non-consumerist society where nothing is wasted.

Thursday 3rd November

“Make Your Money Count” is the title of a conference taking place from 10 to 2 today at St. Andrew's and St. George's West churches at 13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA. The event will explore key issues around money investment and suggest practical ideas for making money count. Bodies represented include the Church of Scotland, Ethical Futures, Shared Interest, the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, Triodos Bank and Rathbone Green Investment. Tickets are free, but booking is required.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/make-

[your-money-count-2016-tickets-25346731757](https://www.eventbrite.com/your-money-count-2016-tickets-25346731757)

Friday 4th November

The Linear Economy describes a system where everything is made from virgin materials, has a limited life and is finally discarded as waste. The Circular Economy, by contrast, describes a system where products are designed to be recovered, recycled, re-manufactured or biodegraded. “Waste to Wealth” defines 5 ways of achieving this:

1. recovering materials that can be used in successive lifecycles
2. recovering end-of-life products to re-use valuable components
3. extending the life of products by collecting, repairing, upgrading and re-selling materials that would otherwise go to landfill
4. sharing products which are only used occasionally, so making it easier for people to use idle products and so squeezing more value from the original resources

5. purchasing the use of products rather than ownership. This gives manufacturers a powerful incentive to design for reliability, longevity and re-usability.

Saturday 5th November

Today sees the Green Christian Annual Members' meeting at St. Aloysius Church Hall, Phoenix Road near Euston NW1 1TA. Following the meeting, a workshop will discuss questions such as: Why are localism and Europeanism good and yet nationalism and globalisation bad? What distinguishes anti-globalisation and xenophobia and what do they have in common? Is there a welcome for economic migrants in a localised economy? Do we just want England's green and pleasant land to ourselves? What does the Bible say? Doors open at 1 pm. Bring your own lunch.

Sunday 6th November

Thank you, dear Lord, for the men and women of resource and

determination who have taken the lead in the struggle to protect your creation from exploitation and degradation. Help us in our turn to give of ourselves, not counting the cost, for the sake of your Son who died to redeem humankind and all your creation.

Monday 7th November

We are all consumers, and it is above all our patterns of consumption that continue to drive up carbon emissions around the world. According to the UN International Resource Panel “Rapid urban and industrial growth has put huge pressure on the world's natural resources, leading to threats of resource scarcity, price inflation and degraded ecosystems.” Figures from the OECD suggest that between 2014 and 2030 as many as 2.5 billion new middle-class consumers will have joined the competition for natural resources. Without a breakthrough in innovation, businesses that rely on primary resources will see their bottom lines eroded or be forced to raise

prices, while an ever-increasing share of household income will be lost to price inflation.

Tuesday 8th November

Higher recycling rates mean that less waste goes to landfill, but recycling doesn't prevent the waste being generated in the first place. Preventing waste by refurbishing and re-using products and components instead of recycling makes better economic sense. A vehicle engine weighing 500 kg., if recycled as waste steel, is only worth about \$160. But if the engine is re-manufactured, it will be worth at least \$4,900.

Wednesday 9th November

According to EC Commissioner Janez Potocnic, “We need to get away from today's linear model of resource use – where we mine, manufacture, use and throw away. We need to focus instead not only on getting more value out of every ton of material, but on using those materials again and again.” This is the essence of the Circular

Economy, and consumers have a crucial role in making it happen.

Thursday 10th November

To produce just 1 kg. of finished cotton requires at least 2,000 litres of water. CRAiLAR Technology, by applying a natural enzymatic process to flax fibre, produces garments as soft and durable as cotton, while minimising the environmental costs associated with cotton cultivation. The process uses just 17 litres of water to produce 1 kg. of material. The firm now uses flax, hemp and other bast fibres for a range of applications in the energy, medical and composite material industries.

Friday 11th November

In the mining sector, products are already being optimised for return, reprocessing and redeployment back into the economy as customers increasingly look to the returns industry for supplies. For example, one ton of electronic circuit boards contains 30-40 times more copper than in one ton

of copper ore. Maersk container ships are largely made of steel. Each ship has a “passport” containing an inventory of all the materials used. So, when the ship enters the recycling yard at the end of its life, each component can be recycled to a higher quality than ever before.

Saturday 12th November

Mushroom mycelium is a natural, self-assembling glue that digests crop waste. Ecovative uses it to make a biodegradable alternative to traditional plastic foam packaging, insulation and other synthetic materials. The fungi are grown in factories, so do not compete with food producers for land availability. In 2014, Mushroom Packaging was launched globally in partnership with the US Sealed Air Corporation. In the US, corn stalks are used as the basis for growing mushrooms. Elsewhere it is wheat straw or rice residues.

Sunday 13th November

Father, we thank you for your great gifts of wisdom and ingenuity. Help us to place them wholly at your service in the quest for technologies to protect your world, and all the creatures that live in it.

Monday 14th November

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has as its mission “to accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy” throughout the world. Last month it launched a Circular Cities Network of nine major cities including London and New York as an online knowledge-exchange platform on ways of embedding circular economy principles in their planning and operations.

Tuesday 15th November

Online shopping, home deliveries and courier services are now commonplace throughout the world. Belgian grocery delivery service Cirkle now doubles up as a collecting service for the disposal of household waste. Many of us are unsure whether

items such as batteries, printer cartridges, water filters, light bulbs and coffee capsules actually have value. Cirkle takes back over 20 waste streams from its customers. Everything that can be used goes directly to charities, the rest goes to recycling companies.

Wednesday 16th November

The enormous growth in the use of computers has made little impact on the growth of paper consumption. Now REEP Technologies, aware that it is the information on the paper, not the paper itself, that we value, has devised a system for scanning the information and wiping the paper clean ready for re-use. The type of paper used has to be ablation-resistant and erasable. A device containing a laser (called a REEPER) erases the page, removing the toner from the re-engineered paper. At the end of each day at the office, a stack of papers is taken to the REEPER for automatic processing. Document cabinets, shredders and recycling bins are no longer

needed. The REEPER saves the contents securely to the cloud and erases the paper. Each sheet can be used 10-20 times over. REEP estimates that a business can save up to 50% on its paper processing costs.

Thursday 17th November

The Scottish Government has adopted a strategy to move the country towards a circular economy, stressing four priority areas:

1. Food and drink. The beer, whisky and fish industries could reduce costs by £500-800 million a year by taking a more circular approach
2. Re-manufacture of goods contributes £1.1 billion a year to Scottish GDP and could contribute £1.7 billion by 2020.
3. Construction and buildings generate half of all waste produced in Scotland, so there is significant potential for increased resource efficiency.
4. Energy infrastructure. There is great potential to re-use equipment from oil, gas and

renewables infrastructure.

Decommissioning is expected to cost £30-35 billion up to 2040.

The new Scottish Household Recycling Charter promotes a consistent approach to household recycling of food, glass, paper/card and cans/plastics across the nation.

Friday 18th November

A meeting last month of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) agreed to control emissions from international aviation. However, WWF comments that “the agreement falls short of what is needed to achieve ICAO's goal of carbon neutral growth by 2020, let alone the ambition required by the Paris Agreement.” The agreement relies heavily on carbon offsets, but this system is vulnerable to double counting. “Cutting corners on critical aspects like alternative fuels and carbon offsets could undermine the entire deal.”

Saturday 19th November

From 10.30 to 4 today Quaker Peace & Social Witness with Operation Noah are hosting a “Skill Up Day” for campaigners and church officers to learn about the options for disinvestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in local projects aiming to transform our economy.. The event is open to all, but is of particular interest to church treasurers, diocesan finance officers and fossil-free campaigners. To register, go to: www.eventbrite.com/e/skill-up-day-church-divestment-and-reinvestment-for-a-zero-carbon-economy

Sunday 20th November

Help us, Father, so to deal with the things that we possess that they may never possess us. May we so order our lifestyle that we may tread lightly on your earth. May all the good things that you have entrusted to us be used in your service and for the glory of your Kingdom.

Monday 21st November

Around thirty redundant salt caverns in Cheshire, Teesside and East Yorkshire could be used to store hydrogen, which could be burnt in gas turbines when demand for electricity is high. The technology is already in use on a small scale in Teesside. Engineers Atkins have been selected to explore the potential in partnership with existing storage operators. ETI, the commissioning body, said: “A single cavern could provide enough storage capacity to satisfy the peak demands of a UK city. This project provides details on the suitability of individual caverns and the associated costs.”

Tuesday 22nd November

In 2014 the then Prime Minister David Cameron told a House of Commons committee that people were “fed up with wind farms.” Since then, the withdrawal of the Government's Renewable Obligation subsidy and the Contracts for Difference scheme have driven away many potential

investors in onshore wind. Now a survey of 2037 people across the country finds that 73% of them support onshore wind farms, but only 1 in 10 believe that there is this degree of support. Max Wakefield of climate change charity 10:10 said: "Onshore wind is already the cheapest tool we have to achieve energy independence, keep bills under control and tackle climate change. Moreover, unlike fracking projects, it's really popular. With such high public support, it's time for a fresh debate."

Wednesday 23rd November

George Marshall, in his book "Don't Even Think About It", suggests that climate change is seldom presented as a voluntary **choice** rather than an **unavoidable condition**. "Imagine a medical volunteer being offered an immediate boost to his standard of living if he agreed to pass on to his children an irreversible disruption of the world's climate. How much more income would he be willing to

receive for that?" "Most energy and fuel use is entirely automatic or woven into our daily lives. Government deliberately sidelines climate change in its choices. Even deniers of climate change never choose short-term personal gain over long-term climate disaster. Instead, they have chosen to ignore the problem altogether."

Thursday 24th November

Sociologist Kari Norgaard describes how, in a survey of Norwegians' responses to climate change, people initially reacted with concern "and then we hit a dead zone where there was suddenly nothing to be said." In the words of a local teacher "We live in one way, and we think in another." Norwegians have particular reasons for ignoring climate change as Norway is the world's 8th largest exporter of crude oil and its emissions grew 5 times faster than was allowed under the Kyoto Protocol.

Friday 25 November

Ecologist Garrett Hardin in 1968 argued that we are forced by our evolutionary drives to maximise our personal benefit from a common resource, even when we know it will lead to its ultimate destruction. He called this “the tragedy of the commons.” He also argued that appeals to responsibility and conscience are a waste of time, and that only “mutual coercion” will curtail insatiable personal interests. However, Nobel Prizewinner Elinor Ostrom has argued that people will sustain and even improve shared resources provided there is free communication, a shared vision and a mobilisation of participating communities from the bottom up.

Saturday 26th November

Why, asks George Marshall, has discussion on climate change focussed on harmful gases such as CO₂ instead of on the fossil fuels that produce them? Sir John Houghton, in his 14 years as chairman of the IPCC Science

Committee, cannot recall a single proposal or debate about controlling the production of oil and gas. “It’s a pity it has never been addressed” he says “but it’s not a science question. It’s a policy question.”

Now, at last, communities and individuals around the world are united in the determination to halt the production of fossil fuels for ever.

Sunday 27th November

Grant to us, dear 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. May we look up and lift our heads as we look for the promised redemption of your world through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

Monday 28th November

A public lecture takes place today from 6 to 8 pm at the University of Suffolk, Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ on “Sustainable

Prosperity”. The speaker is Professor Tim O’Riordan, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia. The event will explore some of the thinking associated with Steady State/Sustainable Prosperity Economics and the challenges of continued economic growth whilst living within the earth’s environmental limits and ensuring strong, healthy and just societies. For more information, contact Justine Oakes on 01473 338006 or email justine.oakes@uos.ac.uk For tickets, go to: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sustainable-futures-lecture-series-sustainable-prosperity

Tuesday 29th November

According to the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, resolutions by the UN General Assembly over the past 10 years to protect deep-sea ecosystems from destructive fishing practices still have not been fully implemented. Many areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are

known remain open to bottom trawling, despite concerns repeatedly highlighted by scientists regarding the destructive impact of deep-sea bottom trawling on biodiversity and, more recently, the capacity of deep-sea species and ecosystems to capture and sequester carbon. WWF comments: “Stopping destructive fishing practices is an urgent challenge. We must protect ecosystems like seamounts, submarine canyons, sponge grounds and cold-water corals by excluding these areas from bottom trawling. Only by banning harmful fishing practices and introducing effective management can we successfully rebuild stocks and end the destruction of fragile marine ecosystems.”

Wednesday 30th November

A report from the Worldwatch Institute called “Can a City be Sustainable?” finds that urban growth drives deforestation in two ways. Firstly, rural migrants to cities adopt city-based lifestyles

including a greater share of animal products which, in turn, drives forest clearance for livestock grazing and fodder. Secondly, urbanisation may cause the loss of up to 3.3 million hectares of prime agricultural land each year. The most obvious solution is to use resources more efficiently. "The impact of the dietary share of higher consumption could be sharply reduced by eliminating food waste and creating incentives for much lower meat consumption." Even in productive European agriculture it takes just 0.3 sq. metres of land to produce 1 kg. of vegetables, but 7.3 for chicken, 8.9 for pork and 20.9 for beef.

Sources:

"Waste to Wealth"

by Peter Lacy and Jakob Rutqvist

"Don't Even Think About It"

by George Marshall

The Environment (CIWEM)

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Picture on front cover:

Mushrooms and mint

by Quentin Pickard

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