

for Brexit to fully play out before potentially biting us harder than ever.”

Sources:

Clean Slate (*Centre for Alternative Technology*)

The Environment (*Chartered Institution of Water & Environmental Management*)

Positive News

Resurgence and Ecologist

Additional Prayers

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



August 2017

“We know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character and character hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”
(Romans 5.4-5)

“Hope is not the same as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. It is hope, above all, which gives us the strength to live and continually to try new things.”
(Vaclav Havel)

“Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind.”
(Albert Einstein)



GreenChristian

Tuesday 1st August

Volvo has announced that from 2019 onwards it will only build electric and hybrid electric vehicles. Last year, US company Tesla produced 76,000 all-electric vehicles, but its prices started at £60,000 per car. The Nissan Leaf all-electric car starts at £25,000, but its battery range is limited to 125 miles. Mining giant Glencore has questioned whether production of copper, cobalt and rarer materials can be increased to meet the demand for electric cars and batteries. There are also concerns about the UK's capacity to generate enough electricity to meet future needs, and charging points, for thousands of electric cars.

Wednesday 2nd August

The Government, in its new Air Quality Strategy, has announced a ban on the sale of new diesel and petrol cars by 2040. It identifies 81 major roads and 17 towns and cities where there are breaches of EU emission standards, and allows councils to impose levies

on the most polluting vehicles by 2020. There will be a public consultation in the autumn on a possible diesel car scrappage scheme. France, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway already have plans to phase out combustion-powered vehicles. These measures cannot come early enough for the millions living in highly-polluted areas of Europe.

Thursday 3rd August

In the UK there are now 13,122 charging connectors – 2,331 of them capable of charging a car battery in under 30 minutes – across 4,569 locations in the UK. The website www.zap-map.com enables people to choose between different types of electric vehicle, to find the nearest charging point to their homes and to source the various schemes for obtaining a charge point for home or workplace.

Friday 4th August

According to a report from the Carbon Disclosure Project, just 100 firms are responsible for 71%

mineral structures with superior photovoltaic qualities. They capture far more light from the electromagnetic spectrum than does silicon. The small extra cost is offset by an increase in efficiency of at least 20%. According to Tom Green of Oxford Photovoltaics Ltd., “Perovskites offer a fantastic opportunity to take solar to the next level, making it a viable, sustainable and adaptable technology to deliver the needs of society as we seek to develop energy systems that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and energy security.”

Tuesday 29th August

A study by the Grantham Research Institute of the LSE finds that more than half of corporate bond purchases by the Bank of England back carbon-intensive sectors, in direct contradiction to the signals coming from financial regulators about the risks of high-carbon investments. Renewable energy companies are not represented at

all in Bank of England purchases. 49.2% of its bond purchases have been in the manufacturing and utilities sectors which make up just 11.8% of the economy, but produce 52% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. The study calls on central banks to work with policy makers and financial regulators to harmonise their policies aimed at achieving a rapid and smooth transition to a low-carbon economy.

Wednesday 30th August

CIWEM draws attention to the need for a new farming subsidy system post-Brexit that provides for sustainable food production alongside wider public benefits to strengthen the nation's resilience to climate change. “Brexit is obviously by far the greatest challenge any government will have to manage in modern history. But there are also pressing domestic environmental issues that need urgent action. Government must ensure that it has the capacity to tackle these too. . . Climate change won't wait

themes, with often fruitful conversations with people who care about the planet and want to know how they may help. Anyone interested in being a volunteer can email Judith at jallinson@daelnet.co.uk

Saturday 26th August

Environmental group 'A Plastic Planet' is calling for a plastic-free aisle in supermarkets to help shoppers make the case for a change in plastic wrappings. The group is asking the public to share pictures of products free from single-use packaging on social media alongside the hashtag #Plastic Free Heroes. The group will present the photos to the bosses of supermarket chains to show the sort of products that could fill a plastic-free shopping aisle.

Sunday 27th August

Father, we pray today for all who work closely with the natural world:
For farmers and gardeners who grow our food,

Fir scientists and technologists who probe the secrets of life,
For foresters who plant and harvest trees,
For photographers, artists and poets who capture beauty for others to see,
For conservationists and all who guard the precious heritage of the earth. Amen.

Monday 28th August

According to the International Energy Agency, increased urbanisation in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere will result in a 30% rise in energy demand by 2030. With the use of fossil fuels in gradual decline, solar energy has become the technology of choice. Last year half a million solar panels were installed every day around the world, amounting to 75 gigawatts – equivalent to the entire UK power network. The cost of thin-film silicon has plummeted from £366/kg in 2008 to £15/kg in 2015. But silicon costs are now as low as they can ever go, and the next technological advance will come from perovskites. These are

of CO2 gases emitted globally since 1988. Between 1988 and 2015 about 833 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent were emitted, compared to 820 gigatonnes from the start of the industrial revolution up to 1988. The Chinese coal industry was responsible for 14% of the emissions. Next came the Saudi oil company Aramco with 4.5%, Russia's Gazprom with 3.9%, Shell with 1.7% and BP with 1.5%. Shell backs a goal of a “net-zero emission world” by 2050. BP calls for an increase in the use of natural gas, investment in renewables, low-carbon innovation and energy efficiency.

Saturday 5th August

The cost of building Hinkley Point C nuclear power station has risen by £1.5 billion since 2015 to £19 billion after a string of delays. In 2007 EDF expressed the hope that Hinkley Point would provide the electricity for us to cook our Christmas turkeys in 2017. Now completion of the project has been put back to 2027.. The price of electricity to be generated has

been agreed at £92.50 per MWh – about double the current market rate. The National Audit Office warns that sinking prices on the electricity market have already increased the cost to be shouldered by bill payers from £6 billion to £30 billion.

Sunday 6th August

Lord, we belong to you – conceived in your mind long ages ago, brought to birth by the patience of evolution and redeemed by the love of Jesus. Help us to realise the neighbourliness of creation. Forgive us our desire to exploit and destroy. Bring us to new horizons of kindness and service. Restore in us reverence for all your works, for you are the same God, yesterday, today and for ever.

Monday 7th August

As the use of coal declines and the cost of nuclear energy climbs ever upwards, fossil fuel companies such as BP are investing heavily in gas projects. The Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, running 3,500 kilometres from

Azerbaijan to Italy would supply Europe with gas for decades to come and is designed to embed gas in European energy policy. In Italy hundreds of local people have blocked the building of a gas terminal that would destroy centuries-old olive groves. In Catalonia there is growing resistance to the Midcat gas pipeline which is planned to import Algerian gas to Spain and France. In the UK anti-fracking protests continue to grow in strength. Many fear that new gas projects would lock us into a situation that would make it impossible to fulfil the terms of the 2015 Paris climate deal.

Tuesday 8th August

A report from engineering consultants Arup concludes that onshore wind farms can now be built for the same cost as new gas power stations and less than half the cost of Hinkley Point C. The 2017 Conservative election manifesto said that it did not believe that more large-scale onshore wind farms were right for

England, but there was no mention of Wales and Scotland, where there are some of the windiest sites in Europe.

Wednesday 9th August

Energy storage is a crucial pillar of a low-carbon strategy as it enables the increased use of renewable energy. The establishment of the Faraday Challenge will bring together the best minds in the field of battery storage and is a big step towards ensuring that Britain leads the world in the development of batteries for electric vehicles. One aim is to develop the means of using the energy from vehicles batteries to power large buildings when the vehicles are not in use.

Thursday 10th August

A cross-party group of MPs, peers and MEPs has called on the Government to back the EU-supported Sharing Cities initiative which is aimed to accelerate the uptake of clean, low-carbon technologies across Europe's cities. The director of the

Tuesday 22nd August

Milton Keynes has an electric car club to enable residents and businesses to hire electric cars by the hour, so enabling them to benefit from the low running costs without actually buying a car. London, Oxford, Milton Keynes and Bristol all have electric buses in operation, while in the Netherlands all new buses must be zero-emission by 2020 and the electricity used must be generated from renewable sources.

Wednesday 23rd August

60% of aircraft emissions are associated with only 20% of the population. A Frequent Flyer Levy could replace the present Air Passenger Duty, focussing on those who are most responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions while still allowing for occasional holidays.. The levy would be set at zero for the first outbound flight each year and be increased progressively for each subsequent flight. The money raised could be used to support improvements to

the rail infrastructure and rolling stock.

Thursday 24th August

Numbers of North Sea cod have recovered sufficiently to justify the Marine Stewardship Council's decision to re-classify the fishery as 'sustainable'. However, WWF comments: "The amount of cod at breeding age is well below late 1960s levels and recovery remains fragile. . . . Embracing new technology and installing cameras on the UK fleet would be a cost-effective and efficient way to manage and monitor cod catches, as well as a range of other fish also caught by these boats."

Friday 25th August

From today until the 28th the Greenbelt Festival takes place at Broughton Park near Kettering. Green Christian will have an exhibition stand and volunteers are needed to represent GC at the event. There will be a great variety of talks and activities on Social, Justice, Eco and Religious

insists that, before approving any new runways, the Government must set out clearly how legally-enforceable carbon limits for aviation will be met. Otherwise, airport expansion could result in a legal challenge as the Government falls foul of its own legislation.

Saturday 19th August

“Zero Carbon Britain: Making it Happen” from the Centre for Alternative Technology explores ways of transforming our highly-polluting transport system into one that is clean, green, accessible and affordable. For example, Tower Hamlets in London has a car-free homes planning policy to help reduce traffic congestion and better manage the limited supply of on-street parking spaces. It helps reduce air pollution and encourages people to walk, cycle or use public transport. This kind of policy could be introduced into every new housing development in Britain.

Sunday 20th August

Loving Father, we praise and thank you for all those who work in science and technology. We pray that misplaced human ingenuity may not lead us up blind and dangerous alleys, but that we may have the wisdom to use your gifts of freedom and inventiveness in your service and in the service of your creation.

Monday 21st August

London's congestion charge has reduced the volume of road traffic by 14% between 2001 and 2014 despite a similar increase in population over the same period. More low-income households benefit from the improved public transport than are burdened by an increased charge. Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham, Derby and Southampton are legally bound to provide clean air zones by 2020, though only high-polluting vehicles will be affected. A congestion charge could have as much of a beneficial effect in these cities as it does in London.

programme said: “Electric vehicles and bikes are crucial in the fight against air pollution and climate change. In order to achieve the ambitious aim of almost every car and van to be zero-emission by 2050 it is clear that cities will need to work together.” It is planned to unlock 500 million euros of investment in clean technologies and engage more than 100 cities across Europe, beginning with Bordeaux, Burgos, Lisbon, Milan and Warsaw.

Friday 11th August

More than 480 billion plastic bottles were sold in 2016. That's about 20,000 per second. If placed end to end, they would extend more than halfway to the sun. Fewer than half of these were collected for recycling, and just 7% of those collected were turned into new bottles. Most plastic bottles end up in landfill or in the oceans. The growth in production is partly driven by rising standards in China and the Asia Pacific region, where there are ongoing concerns about

groundwater contamination and the quality of tap water. Although plastic bottles can be recycled, the top six drinks companies currently use only about 6% of recycled materials in their products. A third of them have no targets to increase their use of recycled plastics.

Saturday 12th August

Michael Gove, in his first speech as Environment Secretary, said that the government had no intention of weakening our environmental protection laws and, in particular, environmental standards will not be compromised in pursuit of free trade. This is particularly important in relation to trade negotiations with the US.

Sunday 13th August

Father, we thank you for your gifts of resilience and inventiveness which enable us to respond to the challenges of a changing climate. Help us to acknowledge our dependence on you for every human achievement. Teach us to

recognise the limits to human ingenuity and to acknowledge that we must all play our part in reducing our demands on natural resources in a finite world.

Monday 14th August

Richard Louv, author and coiner of the phrase 'Nature Deficit Disorder' writes: "Martin Luther King Jr taught us that any movement will fail if it cannot paint a picture of a world that people will want to go to. Our cultural problem is not the presence of dystopian images of post-apocalyptic storylines, but the virtual absence of images of a good, decent beautiful future. . . . Today, people who work and learn in a predominantly digital environment spend enormous energy blocking out many of the human senses in order to focus narrowly on the screen in front of our eyes. That's the very definition of being less alive. What parent wants their child to be less alive? Who among us wants to be less alive?"

Tuesday 15th August

Christians intuitively understand that all spiritual life begins with a sense of wonder. "For children nature is one of the first windows into wonder. And for many children, that window is in danger of closing. The human spirit is inseparable from the natural world. As eco-theologian Thomas Berry wrote: 'A degraded habitat will produce degraded humans.' Yet there is progress. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature passed a resolution titled 'A Child's Right to Connect with Nature and to a Healthy Environment'. This connection is indeed a basic human right.

Wednesday 16th August

A study by the UN Environment Programme finds that 177 countries recognise the right of citizens to a clean and healthy environment. Law courts are increasingly being asked to define the implications of this in the age of climate change. Generally, governments are the defendants

in such cases. Citizens from vulnerable islanders to US teenagers concerned about wildfires are increasingly seeking resolution in the courts. The report concludes: "The science can stand up in a court of law, and governments need to make sure their responses to the problem do likewise."

Thursday 17th August

A study from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology looked at crop areas totalling the equivalent of 3,000 football pitches and found that pollinating insects were being harmed, not just by foraging on crops treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, but also by foraging on crops planted near, or after, the treated crops. Another study, published in 'Environmental Protection', carried out by researchers from Sussex and Padua Universities found that 29 pollinator-friendly plants purchased at five retailers contained pesticide residues. Erica carnea contained 10 different insecticides and

fungicides. B & Q will not allow its suppliers to use neonicotinoids from February 2018, but that still leaves a few other unpleasant chemicals, so the safe option is to buy plants from an organic nursery, grow your own or swap with like-minded friends. A shoppers 'guide can be found at www.foe.co.uk/bee-friendly-shoppers-guide-rape-seed-oil which lists farmers who have pledged not to use restricted neonicotinoid pesticides on rapeseed oil crops – even if the current ban was lifted.

Friday 18th August

The Government has launched a public consultation on its new Aviation Strategy, which proposes a £1 billion programme to double the size of Manchester Airport's Terminal 2 and to explore new ways of assisting passengers e.g. by check-in facilities in town centres and luggage portering services. Nowhere is there any mention of limiting emissions in accordance with our commitments under the Paris Agreement. WWF