

wifi or mobile phone apps, automatically adjusts a household's heating with minimal interaction from residents. Energy use can be cut by up to 15% and data fed back to housing associations and local authorities.

Tuesday 31st October

Enabling women to choose the number and spacing of their children can help communities to create a robust environment and gives people a chance to leave poverty behind. CHASE Africa (Community Health & Sustainable Environment) works through partners in Kenya and Uganda to integrate health and family planning with better conservation of their environment. 78,000 women have been helped with family planning and 201,000 people reached by its health clinics.

Sources: Business Green
Resurgence
WWF News

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Picture on front cover:
Autumn Crocus by Poppy Pickard.

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



October 2017

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods but me.”
(Exodus 20.2-3.)

“Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink and do not keep worrying. It is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom and these things will be given you as well.”
(Luke 12.29-31)

“Our hearts have room only for one all-embracing devotion.”
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)



GreenChristian

Sunday 1st October

God our creator, whose good earth is entrusted to our care, delight and tenderness, we pray: For all who are in captivity to debt, whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning except through abundant harvest; For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel, whose forests are destroyed for the profit of a few; For all who labour in poverty, who are oppressed by unjust laws, who are banned from speaking the truth, and who long for a harvest of justice; For all who are in captivity to greed and waste and boredom, whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need. Turn us again from our captivity and restore our vision, that our mouths may be filled with laughter and our tongues with singing. (Janet Morley)

Monday 2nd October

Pope Francis, referring to the hurricanes that have lashed the Caribbean and America, has said:

“If we don't turn back, we will go down. Those who deny it (climate change) should go to the scientists and ask them. They are very clear, very precise. They (world leaders) decide and history will judge their decisions . . . All of us have a responsibility. Each person has their own. Even politicians have theirs.”

Tuesday 3rd October

Monsoon floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh have caused unprecedented losses. In Bangladesh alone 8 million people have been affected have been displaced. 700,000 homes damaged or destroyed, with over 100,000 now living in emergency shelters. In India an estimated 32.1 million people have been affected, where 2,000 relief camps have been established. In Nepal about 460,000 have been displaced. We pray for everyone affected by these floods – many of them the poorest of the poor – and for all those working, to help people rebuild their lives in ways that will be more resilient.

Friday 27th October

1.3 billion people across the world lack electricity, mainly in rural areas. Individual solar systems are the cheapest and most effective way to provide electricity across several continents. Greenlight Planet is on a mission, through its partners, to deliver light to everyone who can afford it. Its 9 Sun King products range from the smallest \$8 lamp to a \$125 solar home system with 3 lights and 2 charging sockets. So far, Greenlight Planet has provided clean light and energy to over 20 million people across 40 countries and was given an Ashden Award in 2016.

Saturday 28th October

In Nepal a quarter of people lack access to electricity and those who do have it suffer regular power cuts. GDP per capita is about \$700 and often 20% of this goes on kerosene and candles for basic lighting. Empower Generation is bringing clean energy to remote parts of Nepal, helping to alleviate poverty,

improve health and reduce carbon emissions. It enables women, who are disproportionately affected by energy poverty, to become entrepreneurs by training them to set up their own clean energy business and manage a sales force. So far, 23 entrepreneurs and 259 active sales agents have sold over 56,300 products. Empower Generation is a winner of a 2017 Ashden Award.

Sunday 29th October

Spirit of truth and judgement, who alone can exorcise the greed and covetousness that stains so much of this world, give us wisdom that we may name and shame what is evil, and help to point the way that leads to peace.

Monday 30th October

Domestic heating controls and smart thermostats that can minimise energy use, are often not suitable for social housing in the UK as they usually require wifi to work effectively. Ashden Award winner Switchee has developed a smart thermostat which, without

With as many as 51 trillion plastic particles – 500 times more than there are stars in our galaxy – polluting our seas and killing millions of marine wildlife, the crisis facing our oceans is said to be near the point of no return. To register as a beach cleaner, or to join a team, go to:

www.sas.org.uk/our-work/beach-cleans

Wednesday 25th October

After pressure from 18,000 online campaigners, Wyevale, the UK's biggest chain of garden centres, has instructed its suppliers not to use neonicotinoid pesticides on the plants they supply. This follows research by bee expert Professor Dave Goulson, who found that most of the flowers marketed as 'bee-friendly' actually contained significant concentrations of highly potent insecticides. He said: "It is great to see many garden centres responding positively to our research by moving to ban neonicotinoids. Hopefully we can soon reach a point where 'bee-

friendly' plants are completely free of insecticides." FoE recently handed the Government a petition by more than 33,000 people urging it to ban neonicotinoid pesticides. It now has an online petition asking Homebase to ban bee-harming pesticides from its plants.

Thursday 26th October

More than a quarter of the UK's energy use and CO2 emissions are due to domestic energy use, the largest portion of which is for space heating. Buildings often fail to achieve the level of energy efficiency they were designed for, so they are less comfortable to live or work in, cause higher energy bills and higher CO2 emissions. Passivhaus buildings use controlled ventilation to achieve significant energy savings while providing high levels of comfort and indoor air quality. There are now 500 Passivhaus-certified homes and buildings in the UK. Over 240 organisations are Passivhaus members.

Wednesday 4th October

In the Caribbean and USA Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have devastated regions already prone to hurricanes. Understanding the causes of hurricanes is complex, but there is general agreement that rising sea levels increases the impact of storm surges, and high temperatures at sea surfaces give storms more fuel, making them more powerful.. We pray for wisdom to address both natural and man-made vulnerabilities, and for people in power to hear what scientists are saying about the way climate change is 'loading the dice' towards more extreme weather.

Thursday 5th October

As Arctic regions heat up, the permafrost which covers 25% of the Northern hemisphere is releasing large amounts of organic matter including methane and CO2, both powerful greenhouse gases. If there is insufficient action to control man-made emissions, the thawed permafrost could cause 1.7

degrees of global warming plus any unforeseen positive feedbacks. Yet if all countries were to meet the climate goals agreed in Paris, permafrost losses could be stabilised by mid-century.

Friday 6th October

Christians believe that truthfulness matters, and that 'fake news' and misinformation have serious consequences. Some questions in climate science and policy are rightly the subject of debate, but there have been attempts to publicly discredit the climate science consensus and even, by some US authorities, to prevent people from even talking about it. We pray for the people who go to great lengths to understand and communicate the reality of climate change, that God will give them strength, courage and a platform for their findings.

Saturday 7th October

Today from 9.50 to 16.30 at St. James's Church, 167 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL, an Eco Church

conference provides an opportunity for churches of all denominations to come together and learn about protecting nature and caring for God's earth as an expression of our discipleship and mission through the Eco Church award scheme. The conference is hosted by A Rocha UK with Shrinking the Footprint.

Tickets available from:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-south-tickets-36275965389>.

Sunday 8th 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 mankind, and to declare your lordship over all creation and our responsibility to care for it.

Monday 9th October

EU environmental legislation has hitherto been enforced by the European Court of Justice, but after Brexit that will no longer be so. UK governments have a track record of backsliding on its legal

commitments, such as the commitment to reduce air pollution from nitrogen dioxide.

When the ECJ no longer has power to enforce EU legislation, it will be down to NGOs and ordinary citizens to enforce them. Yet the costs of bringing cases against the Government could be prohibitive. Automatic cost caps for private citizens were introduced after a legal case brought by Client Earth, but a judge can still remove the cap and expose litigants to unlimited costs. Furthermore, if the Government can amend environmental protection by secondary legislation, without even consulting Parliament, the situation could be even worse. Citizens need assurance that environmental protection cannot be reduced without parliamentary scrutiny.

Tuesday 10th October

At the recent Frankfurt Motor Show, Volkswagen claimed that diesel cars had a great future. Greenpeace commissioned

the Footprint. Tickets (free) are available from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-north-tickets-36276079731>

Sunday 22nd October

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have given us:

For the universe. Let our wonder grow.

For this world. Teach us better stewardship of earth and sea and sky.

For people everywhere. Let us see your image in every human face, discern your hand in every human culture, and hear your voice in the silences as well; as in the talk of neighbours and friends. For our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is at work in the world.

(A prayer from Australia)

Monday 23rd October

Pollution of the seas with plastics has become a major concern throughout the UK. The Welsh Assembly has opened a public consultation. The Scottish Parliament has signalled its

intention to introduce a national deposit return scheme for drinks containers. In Scandinavian countries with such schemes, recycling rates for containers are now above 95%. In England the rate is 1 in 400.

Now an enquiry by the Environment Audit Committee is being re-launched. Its chairman, Mary Creagh, said: "The nature of our throwaway society can be seen first-hand on our litter-strewn beaches and in the dead mammals, seabirds and fish that wash up on them. Our inquiry will focus on the solutions to this problem, including using different materials, improving our recycling methods and the establishment of bottle deposit return schemes."

Tuesday 24th October

Surfers Against Sewage has called for 300 volunteers to help organise beach cleans throughout this week. Beach clean leaders aim to unite and inspire local coastal communities to take action to care for beaches all year round.

Thursday 19th October

A new WWF report called “Getting the house in order – Priorities for homes in the Clean Growth Plan” shows that, without action to make new homes ultra-low carbon, total emissions from homes will actually rise by 2030, as opposed to the 10% fall required by the Committee on Climate Change. Millions of households still haven't done the basics, such as adding loft insulation or filling cavity walls. Britons spend £7.5 billion a year on home improvements, but most of it goes on new kitchens and bathrooms rather than insulation. Many people just aren't aware of the savings they could make by proper insulation. It just isn't part of the routine conversations they have with tradespeople.

Friday 20th October

The report shows how the Government could help insulate 4 million homes by 2025 by:

- Setting a target to improve energy efficiency in all home to EPC C by 2035

- Tightening standards to prevent the continued construction of high-carbon homes
- Providing new incentives to encourage householders to improve their homes
- Doubling annual funding in England to enable the fuel poverty eradication target to be met

Doing so would save emissions equivalent to taking 1.7 million cars off the road, wipe £500 million from domestic energy bills each year, i.e. £25 per household, and make homes warmer and healthier.

Saturday 21st October

Today from 0950 to 1430 at St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8YL, an Eco Church conference provides an opportunity for churches of all denominations to come together to share and learn about protecting nature and caring for God's earth. The conference is hosted by A Rocha with Shrinking

experts from Emissions Analysts to test the latest VW and Vauxhall diesel models in rush-hour conditions in London. The results showed that both models emitted 2.5 times the legal limits for nitrogen dioxide. Why does Europe's biggest car manufacturer not get the public's message urging them to embrace the now worldwide transition to affordable electric vehicles?

Wednesday 11th October

The Government has set new targets for the use of biofuels in the transport sector. However, these fall short of the Committee for Climate Change's recommendations that sustainable biofuels should represent around 8% of transport energy by 2020 to keep the UK on the most effective decarbonisation pathway. However, WWF comments: “The future of road transport is electrification, not biofuels. But, with electric aircraft still some way off, it makes sense to shift truly sustainable waste-based fuels away from cars and on to planes.

We urgently need a robust plan for tackling aviation CO2 before the Government can even contemplate expanding our airport capacity. Without this, we will miss our carbon targets and exacerbate the dangers of climate change.”

Thursday 12th October

Tearfund, as part of its 'Renew Our World' campaign, has launched a call to action on food waste. Woodlands Church in Bristol is hosting a 'Food Waste Feast', beginning at 7pm, based entirely on food that would otherwise go to waste. Joining the feast will Bristol MP Kerry McCarthy, baker Tom Herbert, Fairshare director Julian Mines and Tearfund's Clare Lyons. Discussions will explore how we can renew the world by the way we consume our food. Entry is free, but to ensure a place with a ticket, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/food-waste-feast-tickets-36275459877>

Friday 13th October

Recent extreme weather events have taken over our news, but politicians are still struggling to make the connection with climate change. Hope for the Future, a registered charity, is the only climate change researcher that specialises in training people to communicate with politicians on climate issues. Thanks to her training, 90-year old Eileen managed to find common ground with her climate sceptic MP. Many others have had similar success. HftF are a resource for everyone who wants their MP to take strong action on climate change. From one-to-one advice through to accompanying trainees to meet their MP through to training days on how to impact climate policy, HftF are available to help. To find out more, email info@hfff.org.uk or go to www.hfff.org.uk

Saturday 14th October

The UK currently uses 2.5 billion coffee cups every year, but the vast majority are not recycled. The mix of paper and plastic as well as

left-over coffee makes them difficult to recycle. Now waste company Veolia has teamed up with papermaker James Cropper to transform the paper content of disposable coffee cups into high-quality paper such as Selfridge's iconic yellow shopping bags. The polyethylene liners are recycled into products such as plastic tubing and cable wraps.

Sunday 15th October

Dear Father, please teach us how to live simply, that others may simply live, to be more sensitive towards your created world and to care for all the life in it. Turn us from our arrogant ways, where humans appear to hold unbridled power over all your creation. Redeem us all, redeem your world, heal its wounds and dry its tears, for the sake of your Son, who died for our salvation.

Monday 16th October

The costs of offshore wind energy have halved over the last 5 years to less than £58 per MWH. This is well below the £92.50 strike price

that consumers will have to pay for Hinkley Point C. However, the national grid will need to be upgraded if it is to cope with large inputs from power sources that turn on and off every so often. Also, for periods of peak demand, when the wind is not blowing, there will need to be additional generation capacity which can be turned on and off at the flick of a switch. In the UK this may require expensive open cycle gas turbine plants, whose output can cost more than £150 per MWH. The alternative is some form of demand management that reduces the peaks and troughs of energy demand. The absolute necessity is a clear, firm and consistent Government energy policy for the long-term future.

Tuesday 17th October

Production of hydrogen for use as a fuel is very energy-intensive, cancelling out much of its value as a carbon-free fuel. Now however, in a world-first, clean hydrogen has been generated by using electricity from tidal arrays off

Orkney. The hydrogen will be shipped to Kirkwall, where a fuel cell installed on the pier will convert the hydrogen back to electricity to power ferries docked in the harbour. The eventual aim is to power the inter-island ferries permanently on hydrogen.

Wednesday 18th October

Wind turbines in Scotland during August provided enough electricity to supply the average energy needs of 2.25 million Scottish households. Wind power generated 48% of Scotland's entire electricity during this month. WWF commented: "We've made huge strides forward on electricity and now we need to do the same in heating, building efficiency and transport. Last week's commitment from the Scottish Government to phase out petrol and diesel cars is a major step forward. We now need to build on that in the forthcoming Climate Change Bill and Warm Homes Bill to ensure Scotland is best positioned to develop the global industries of the future."