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Picture on front cover: Daffodils,
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Prayer guide for the care of creation

March 2018



“The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their desires, they will gather round them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”
(2 Timothy 4.3-5)

“Act as if everything depended on you, wait as if everything depended on God.”
(St. Ignatius Loyola)

Thursday 1st March

Records from the Met Office show that, of the 17 record-breaking rainfall months since 1910, no less than nine of them occurred since 2000. UK flood risk has also been compounded by rising sea levels due to climate change. Recent research finds that by the end of the century the oceans could be 66cm higher than they were in 1997. Sir James Bevan, head of the Environment Agency (EA), said that the threat was real and increasing. "Our flood defences reduce the risk of flooding and our flood warnings help keep communities safe, but we can never entirely eliminate the risk of flooding." The EA has launched a Flood Action Campaign to target younger people via social media and online advertising to raise awareness of how to check flood risk online.

Friday 2nd March

On Boxing Day 2015, Leeds experienced unprecedented rainfall with the highest levels of the River Aire ever recorded. There was damage to nearly 3,000 homes and 700 businesses. The Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme, opened last October, incorporates movable weirs whose gates can be lowered to create more capacity for flood water. Merging of the river with the Aire and Calder Canal creates further capacity. Some 300 acres of development land will benefit from the reduced risk of flooding, opening up regenerative opportunities in the South Bank area. The social and economic benefits are estimated to exceed £50 million.

Saturday 3rd March

"Climate change and us – more feet, more heat" is the title of a

of the Cross for our sakes. Make us more ready to take up our personal crosses and to follow you in faith, knowing that you will be with us to the end.

Saturday 31st March

According to the New York Times, many people, especially among 18-43 year-olds, are taking climate change into account when making decisions about the number and spacing of their children. Reasons given by the interviewees include:

- Poorer quality of life arising from extreme weather patterns such as wild fires, hurricanes and flooding
- Social instability as the effects of climate change worsen
- The knowledge that having a child is one of the costliest

environmental actions one can take – especially in high-consuming industrialised countries.

Sources:

Resurgence magazine
Environment (CIWEM)
The Ecologist
BusinessGreen

with colleagues off a proper plate with real cutlery

- Bring a reusable bottle of water with you and fill it up. If you have no bottle, stretch your legs for a few minutes and find the nearest water fountain (www.findafountain.org)
- For your Friday dinner, instead of buying plastic-wrapped food from the supermarket, head for the local bakery, greengrocer or butcher, where products are more likely to come loose or wrapped in paper.

- 1) Refuse plastic cutlery with takeaway food
- 2) Use reusable coffee/tea cups rather than disposable ones
- 3) Wash clothes at 30°C or below
- 4) Make your next vehicle an electric one
- 5) Re-use or compost leftover food
- 6) Become a flexitarian and eat less meat
- 7) Switch your energy to a green energy supplier. This can save 1.5 tonnes of carbon emissions a year – equivalent to taking a car off the road for 6 months

Friday 30th March.

Good Friday

Lord Jesus, you showed your love for us by treading the path

free public conference held by Population Matters today from 2 to 4.30pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Global population is expected to rise by 2 billion by 2050, putting nearly 30% more human carbon emitters on the planet. The conference is an opportunity to examine the issues and consider the options. Speakers include Adrian Hayes, adventurer and author, Farah Kabir of Action Aid Bangladesh, Judy Ling Wong of the Black Environmental Network, Sara Parkin of the Sustainability Living Project, Peter Wadhams, Emeritus Professor of Ocean Physics at Cambridge University and John Vidal, journalist. To register a place, go to:

<https://populationmatters.org/news/events/conference-2018>.

Sunday 4th March

Lord, as we begin to see the radical transformation needed in our society if we are to meet the crisis of climate change, we pray and beseech you to raise up and empower the leaders of the future who will challenge the forces of inertia and inspire us all to think and act as if we, individually and collectively, bear full responsibility for the lifestyle changes that we must all make if coming generations are to survive.

Monday 5th March

The Church of England is urging Christians to give up single-use plastic for Lent, and adds some tips for cutting out plastics from everyday life, such as:

- Giving up plastic cups
- Using bamboo toothbrushes

- Buying unpackaged bread.

Several government ministers have pledged to avoid single-use plastics, as have the royal family and the BBC. This is just the beginning of a long haul in the campaign to eliminate plastic waste altogether.

Tuesday 6th March

Some communities have begun to tackle growing amounts of litter by encouraging the practice of 'plogging'. Joggers run selected routes equipped with rubbish bags to pick up any litter they see on the ground. This new fitness trend is sweeping across Scandinavia, Thailand and now the UK. 'Ploggers' get a boost to their workout by squatting to grab discarded bottles, cans and other forms of waste.

Wednesday 7th March

Last year Ecover launched a washing-up liquid bottle made from 50% ocean plastic. This year it will trial 100% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles which can themselves be recycled to form clear PET bottles. These have a 70% lower carbon footprint compared to virgin non-recycled plastic bottles. The bottle caps are also recyclable, so saving 14 tonnes of polypropylene plastic annually from the manufacturing process.

Thursday 8th March

Veteran environmentalist Herbert Girardet, in 'Resurgence' magazine encapsulates the contradiction faced by humanity: "We are in the process of building a consumerist future, yet consumerism in its current form is threatening the very future of

rise between 2.6 and 4.8°C, all 571 European cities will see a worsening of heat waves, an increase in droughts and a sharp rise in river flooding. In the UK, 85% of our cities sited on rivers face increased flooding, even under the most optimistic scenario. Water-saving technologies and rainwater collection could mitigate drought impacts, and homes and offices could be better designed to withstand heat waves through better ventilation, use of through-draughts and strategic planting of trees and shrubs.

Tuesday 27th March

Energy storage is the key to balancing supply and demand for electricity. Gravitricity has secured £650,000 of Government funding to harness the power of gravity to capture and store the energy generated by renewables, such as wind

and solar, in disused mine shafts. A cylinder weighing up to 3,000 tonnes is suspended in a shaft up to 1,500 metres deep. Electricity is absorbed or generated by raising or lowering the weight. This year Gravitricity will deploy a 250 kW demonstrator and next year trial a full-scale prototype. Models will range between 1 and 20 MW and will require much less maintenance than conventional; battery storage systems.

Wednesday 28th March

FoE has launched a campaign to ditch the use of plastics every Friday. Here are some tips:

- Choose a reusable coffee cup every time you drink coffee
- At lunchtime, ditch the heavy-plastic supermarket meal deal and bring in your own tasty food, or take lunch

findings to governments and technological companies in the hope that they will lead to new rules and guidelines, and that companies will build safeguards into the technology in anticipation of threats from criminals. Last month, Theresa May called AI “one of the greatest tests of leadership for our time.”

Saturday 24th March

Tree planting rates in Britain have dropped from 25,000-30,000 per year from the 1960s to 1980s to just 5,000 today, according to Suzi Martineau, organiser of the Glastonbury Tree Conference. David Read of the Forestry Commission, at the same conference picked out Sitka spruce among the trees best capable of fixing CO₂. “What is remarkable is that its very high rates of carbon fixation are achieved on land that is too poor for agricultural

use, meaning that mitigation of climate change can be achieved without competing for better quality land that can continue to be used for food production.”

Sunday 25th March

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”
(Psalm 111.10)

Loving Father, teach us how to use your great gifts of inventiveness in the service of the world that you created, acknowledging you as the source of all wisdom and strength.

Monday 26th March

In January the River Seine rose to three times its normal height and flooded several Metro stations and the ground floor of the Louvre. Research by Newcastle University finds that, as average global temperatures

humanity and the natural world. Can we create a more effective framework to assure a plausible future for people and planet?” In his view we need to think about 'regenerative development' rather than just 'sustainable development'. We need to regenerate soils, forests and watercourses rather than just allowing them to be sustained in an increasingly degraded condition. We already have the knowledge to make renewable energy our main energy source. We now need to regenerate local communities and economies that have fallen by the wayside as economic globalisation has become an overwhelming force.

Friday 9th March

Today from 7 to 9 pm at St. John's Church, Menston, Ilkley LS29 6EU, in partnership with Hope for the Future, there will be talks and debate addressing

these questions: Can renewable energy reduce fuel poverty? Can it provide benefits to the local community? Is it affordable? Can it protect our environment? Speakers include Philip Davies MP, Sam Hall (Bright Blue) and Andy Stephenson (Narec Distributed Energy). The event is free, but donations are welcome. To register an interest or submit a question, please go to: <http://bit.ly/RenewablesEvent> or ring 07943 874220.

Saturday 10th March

According to Herbert Girardet, cities are the primary location of economic development. However, much damage has been done to the world's ecosystems by urban resource use. The time has come for cities to take specific measures to help regenerate soils, forests and watercourses rather than

just sustaining them in a degraded condition, and to make renewable energy their main source of energy supplies. “Regenerative development is as much about honest give-and-take between humans and Nature as it is about reviving human communities at local level.

Sunday 11th March

Loving Father, we confess that we are too prone to say 'no' to any new technology – 'no' to wind farms, 'no' to tidal barrages, 'no' to anything other than the fossil fuel supplies that feed our addictions. Help us to make honest judgements about the best technologies for the protection of your creation, not forgetting that the best results often flow from self-denial and a more economical use of resources. Guide our leaders as they make decisions which will affect all future generations.

This we pray in the Name of your dear Son, who died to save us and all your creatures.

Monday 12th March

A paper released by Boston Common Asset Management looked at how 59 of the world's biggest banks were managing the risks and opportunities of climate change. Sixty one percent of them still allow unrestricted financing of coal projects, the most carbon-intensive energy source, while just 46% set targets to promote low carbon products and services. “In some areas, and in some individual banks, we are seeing encouraging steps forward, but too often climate progress is skin-deep at best. Investors want to see much wider implementation of climate risk assessments if they are to align their businesses with the Paris Agreement”.

sector produces 2.25 tonnes of CO₂. Now Stuart Balfour of Sail Line Fish, a company based in Shetland, is developing a zero-emission fishing operation using wind energy from sails and onshore wind turbines. The key feature is a retractable mast called the Balpha Mast which can easily be raised and lowered at sea. An electronic weather vane detects wind speed and direction, prompting the sails to unfurl or fold up. If the sails are not in use, the boat is powered by a battery-charged electric motor. The electricity generated from an onshore wind turbine is stored on site in a transportable battery.

Thursday 22nd March

A group of 26 scientists from Oxford's Future of Humanity Institute, Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk and OpenAI report that the malicious use of AI (Artificial

Intelligence) presents a clear danger to society. Terrorists could use vulnerabilities in AI to crash fleets of driverless vehicles or hijack swarms of autonomous drones to launch attacks in public places. Miles Brundage of the Future of Humanity Institute said: “AI will alter the landscape of risk for citizens, organisations and states – whether it's criminals training machines to hack or 'phish' at human levels of performance or privacy-eliminating surveillance, profiling and repression”.

Friday 23rd March

The report warns that humans may place too much trust in AI systems such as driverless cars, despite evidence that they could easily be manipulated, for example, by defacing stop signs, so causing them to be ignored by computers. The group plans to present its

Monday 19th March

Despite a significant growth in UK electricity demand in the last 60 years, renewables in 2017 produced more electricity than the total electricity used in 1958. The power system in that year emitted 93 million tonnes of CO₂. Renewables in 2017 emitted just 3 million tonnes while producing the same amount of electricity. Last year half of Britain's electricity came from low-carbon sources, while coal and gas output fell by one-tenth.

Tuesday 20th March

Purchasers of electric vehicles (EVs) are often motivated by concerns about air pollution. Now automotive data experts cap.hpi find that second-hand EVs can actually sell for more than their original purchase price. For example, even after 12 months and 10,000 miles on

the clock, the Nissan Leaf, the most popular EV, has an average appreciation of 4% after 12 months, i.e. £456 on its original value. The Toyota Yaris Hybrid appreciated by an average of 2.6% (£292) over the same period. The research suggests that a combination of air quality concerns, cheaper running costs and regulatory changes have raised the value of second-hand EVs. These findings come as the National Grid publishes plans to install rapid EV charge points along our motorways capable of powering up an EV in 5-12 minutes, compared to an average of 7 minutes for refuelling a petrol car.

Wednesday 21st March

The trawler fishing industry has a big carbon footprint. According to the Sea Fish Trawling Authority, every tonne of fuel used by the fishing

Tuesday 13th March

Figures from DEFRA reveal that, although air pollution remains above the legal limits set by the EU, between 2015 and 2016 emissions from sulphur dioxide dropped 29% and from nitrogen oxides by 10%. Emissions from particulates – mainly from diesel vehicles – fell to the lowest level recorded. ClientEarth comments: “Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide are still at harmful levels in our towns and cities, where the majority of people are exposed to it. The government needs to focus on tackling illegal levels of air pollution with policies like clean air zones, targeted diesel scrappage schemes and other initiatives designed to help people move to cleaner forms of transport. Meanwhile, research by the US National Oceanic & Atmospheric administration reveals that chemicals from

everyday cleaning and personal care products could be contributing significantly to urban air pollution. In one street in Los Angeles, scientists found that air pollution from household products rivalled that from cars. Regulators are urged to take a closer look at the chemicals sector's contribution to air pollution.

Wednesday 14th March

Swiss company Climeworks has partnered with Reykjavik Energy to open the first pilot facility combining direct air capture of CO₂ with underground permanent storage, a system it claims can provide an economically viable and scalable way to prevent dangerous global warming. Sited at a geothermal power plant, it draws in ambient air, separates the CO₂ with a special filter and pipes it more than 700 metres underground,

where it reacts with the basalt bedrock to form solid minerals. The technology is applicable in many other regions which have similar rock formations.

Climeworks has set a goal of filtering 1% of global CO₂ emissions by 2025.

Thursday 15th March

Climeworks has now signed contracts with several companies and individuals, among them Antarctic explorer Robert Swan and his son Barney who recently completed the South Pole Energy Challenge by skiing 965km across the continent, using only renewable energies. The company offsets their carbon emissions by storing an equivalent amount of CO₂ at its facilities in Iceland and, more recently, in Zurich. However, critics warn that carbon offsetting can provide

businesses with an excuse to keep polluting.

Friday 16th March

Unilever has mapped and published the 1,400 palm oil mills and 300 suppliers from which it derives palm oil for its consumer goods. Last year it suspended sourcing from an Indonesian based palm oil supplier which was in breach of its policy on deforestation and peatland clearance. Unilever's CEO said: "Some people think that if you outsource your value chain, you can outsource your responsibilities. I don't think so. We need to be at the forefront of change. This is why Unilever is committed to greater transparency and continues to work with our partners to drive positive change in the palm oil industry."

Saturday 17th March

Today an environmental conference on "Transport Now and in the Future", sponsored by the John Ray Institute, takes place from 9.30am to 4.30pm at Westmead Hotel, Hopwood, Birmingham B48 7AL

"Transport emissions are a major issue as we seek to meet our commitments under the Paris Agreement. What are the ethical and theological issues about e.g. driverless vehicles? How do we make sensible personal decisions about the transport we use?" Keynote speakers are David Banister, Emeritus Professor of Transport Studies at Oxford University, Michael Talbot of the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles, and John Weaver, Chair of the John Ray Institute. Seminars deal with a range of transport issues. For details, go to: <http://www.jri.org.uk/events-2/transport-now-and-in-the->

[future](https://annualenvironmentday.ventbrite.co.uk) To book online, go to: <https://annualenvironmentday.ventbrite.co.uk> or send a cheque for £48 to include lunch and refreshments (£24 for under 26s) to: JRI, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF

Sunday 18th March

Dear Father, we acknowledge that too much human effort and ingenuity is devoted to the accumulation of money and power, in defiance of your command to seek first your Kingdom. Help us, as we face the increasing possibility of climate disaster, to repent and turn back to the ancient wisdom contained in your Word, and to resolve to choose life for ourselves, our children and the whole of your wonderful Creation. Amen.