

Friday 30th November

A new Global Commission on Adaptation, headed by Ban Ki-Moon, Bill Gates and the head of the World Bank, with the participation of 17 countries including the UK, addresses the anomaly that, while \$380 billion was spent on reducing CO₂ emissions in 2015-16, just \$20 billion was spent on boosting protection from extreme weather. The former UN Secretary General said: "The costs of adapting to the changing climate are less than the cost of doing business as usual and the benefits are many times larger. Scientists and economists believe the cost of adaptation could rise to \$300 billion by 2030. The money can be mobilised if there is political will. We should not expect all the money to come from governments. The private sector has to be fully engaged."

Sources:

- The Environment (CIWEM)
- Resurgence and Ecologist
- www.BusinessGreen.com

- www.edie.net

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



November 2018

"Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7.9-11)

"The work of praying is pre-requisite to all other work in the kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of heaven to our own helplessness." (Ole Hallesby)

Thursday 1st November

Following publication of the latest UN Climate Change report, the Bank of England urged companies to pick a top executive to manage climate change risks and to run their own testing for climate change readiness. The New Economic Foundation pointed out that there was no incentive for banks to act on this advice. "The Bank needs to practise what it preaches by applying climate impact methodology to its own monetary policy and investments made through QE." Investor Group Share Action has criticised HSBC for financing new coal projects in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam when other banks such as Standard Charter have stopped funding new coal power stations.

Friday 2nd November

Many car companies have agreed to phase out production of diesel cars. Greenpeace has published a [list](#) of manufacturers that have made no such commitment:

20.6% of VW Group sales (VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda) are of diesel cars, 12% of BMW sales are diesel, 10% of Mercedes, 9.6% of Ford and 8% of JaguarLandRover. Yet Toyota and many other companies have already stopped diesel car sales and others are committed to doing so.

Saturday 3rd November

The Delphi factory in Sudbury which produces diesel cars [was](#) to close with the loss of 250 jobs, ascribing this to the increasing popularity of electric cars (EVs). This should be a warning to the Government that the automotive industry, which employs 714,000 people, is at risk of decline if it fails to adapt to the growing demand for EVs. The Government has expressed support for EV development, but there is a lack of policy to encourage investment in essential charging points and so to encourage consumers to buy the cars.

resilience and adaptive capacity for climate-related hazards, of which flood risk is a notable example. CIWEM points to natural flood management and the creation of intertidal habitat as a response which can also provide carbon sequestration. Already more than half the UK population lives in cities. Development of the planned new 'garden city' at Ebbsfleet in Kent could provide an example to the rest of the world of how to build for flood resilience and a secure water supply.

Wednesday 28th November

The Government has announced its support for protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. A start has been made with last month's agreement by governments to set a deadline of 2020 for the creation of an Antarctic Ocean Sanctuary which will protect from exploitation an area five times the size of Germany. Current ocean laws focus more on the right to exploit these waters than the duty to protect them. In order to protect

30% of our oceans we need a global network of ocean sanctuaries which are off-limits to extractive activity and provide a haven for marine life to recover from multiple threats and to build resilience to the growing menace of acidification and global warming.

Thursday 29th November

Cement is a crucial material for the construction industry, but manufacturing it accounts for 5% of global carbon emissions from the use of coal, gas and oil required to heat the kilns. At a meeting next month, the World Cement Association will launch a climate action plan to enable all cement manufacturers to assess the carbon footprint of their business, to report their emissions and to embrace best practice. The WCA will recognise and reward best practice and the most innovative low-carbon products and solutions developed by members.

- Every care home has a garden
- Every hospital is re-designed on greener, pro-social principles.

“A wandering mind is unhappy and stressed, tending to visit memories of the past and imagine scenarios of the future. We now know that there is an off-switch, but it requires certain behaviour – to be attentive, mindful and immersed in something, whether it be a walk, gardening, knitting, crosswords, tai chi, or your local book club – all activities that burn few of the Earth's resources, but bring well-being and happiness.”
(Professor Jules Pretty)

Sunday 25th November

Father God, you have given us so many good things. Give us also a thankful and praising heart. Forgive us that often we cannot see the blessings that stare us in the face. Deepen in us the conviction that everything good in our lives comes from you, and that nothing, but nothing, can ever happen to us that cannot be

turned to your glory.
(Selwyn Hughes)

Monday 26th November

A new Drone Code came into force in July making it an offence to fly a drone over 400 feet up or within 1 km. of an airport boundary. Drones are rarely in the news for positive reasons, but unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) play a crucial role in monitoring the environment. Three of our nuclear power stations were plagued by swarms of jellyfish and seaweed which clogged their cooling systems, reducing output and even causing shutdowns. UAVs provide an early warning system which can avert these problems. UAVs accurately identified the extent of flood damage at Cockermonth in 2017 and regularly assess flood risks for the insurance industry under a special licence from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Tuesday 27th November

UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 calls for strengthened

Sunday 4th November

Dear Father, who guides us by ways we know not, through joy and sorrow, victory and defeat, beyond our understanding, give us faith to see your guiding hand in all things, so that, being neither lifted up by seeming success, nor cast down by seeming failure, we may press forward with single minds to the goal you have set before us, so that your Name may be glorified throughout the world.

Monday 5th November

A report from Centrica Business Solutions finds that clean energy technology such as battery storage and solar generation could deliver more than half the emissions reductions required under the UK Clean Growth Strategy by 2030. Distributed energy generation and energy efficiency could deliver an 11% carbon reduction in the healthcare, hospitality and heavy industry sectors. Crucially, UK productivity could be boosted by £12.9 billion if just half of

manufacturing firms took up clean energy technologies.

Tuesday 6th November

The Government has launched a £40 million venture capital fund to support clean technology development. Patrick Sheehan of ETU Partners said: “Declining costs of clean energy, cheaper data processing and consumer demand is driving investor interest in clean energy assets. Traditional energy giants, comfortable with power plants and cables, are taking note. They see large-scale change happening and they want to begin to understand the world of innovation rather than the world of energy generation and distribution”

Wednesday 7th November

A report from the House of Commons Business Select Committee calls on the Government to bring forward to 2023 the proposed ban on the sale of new cars with petrol or diesel engines. It also calls for state backing to expand the

charging infrastructure for EVs, saying it should not be left to local authorities or private industry. The current regime was 'not fit for purpose.' A director of National Grid added: "Consumers are holding back on buying their next car due to range anxiety. A robust network of rapid charging points would provide the confidence to drive the UK faster towards mass market take-off for EVs.

Thursday 8th November

Scottish Power has become the first of the Big Six energy giants to abandon fossil fuels and become a 100% renewable energy operator. It has agreed to sell its entire gas generation business to Drax for £702 million. The deal will support Drax's plans to reduce its reliance on coal power and shift towards lower-carbon gas and biomass.

Friday 9th November

Britain's first electric vehicle factory has been opened by LEVC near Coventry, where 750 staff work to build electric black taxis.

Every month, 5,000 new EVs hit British roads compared to just 500 in 2014. Every major car company is now making EVs, which are cheaper to run and result in less air pollution and lower carbon emissions. LEVC also has plans to build electric vans at its new factory, which will have the capacity to deliver up to 20,000 vehicles a year.

Saturday 10th November

Gatwick Airport is consulting the public on its plans to widen its emergency runway so as to increase flights by 100,000 by 2032. The extended runway would allow an additional 10-15 short-haul flights to take off every hour. FoE comments: "The challenge of preventing dangerous climate chaos means that further airport expansion, anywhere, can't be up for consideration. We can't be serious about stopping catastrophic climate change while at the same time send aircraft emissions soaring. The environmental case for expanding airport capacity is non-existent. To

Thursday 22nd November

Tickell concludes: "No more plastic is an unattainable ambition and, for now, an undesirable one. We must be guided by a broader, longer-term vision of the sustainable future we need to create, one that accounts for all environmental costs, not just the most fashionable ones. That will involve drastically reducing material consumption across the board, and a planned transition to a zero-waste society. Bring this off, and the plastic problem will solve itself."

Friday 23rd November

Edward Davey, reviewing the book "How to Give Up Plastic" by Will McCallum, concludes: "The time for hand-wringing is over. No single action is futile. We are all part of the problem to a lesser or greater extent, and so we must all act to address it. While we mourn the amount of plastic already in the ocean, blighting the lives of so many creatures in the marine environment and ruining some of our precious coastline, it is not

enough to wallow in pity and regret. There is an ethical value in doing everything we can, irrespective of the scale and challenge. Even one plastic straw saved from landfill and the ocean is worth the effort."

Saturday 24th November

Fifteen years of research at Essex University into the benefits of activities in natural places have resulted in the "Manifesto for a Green Mind" which calls for changes that would deliver health benefits for all. The way we live now is killing people in affluent countries through cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, mental ill health, dementia and loneliness, which together cost the NHS £60 billion a year. The manifesto proposes that:

- Every child spends time outdoors every day
- Every adult is physically active daily
- Every adult learns a new skill or craft throughout life

chain. The report urges the Government to tackle three priorities:

- Create incentives to develop more eco-friendly fabrics
- Develop a method of tackling false sustainability claims
- Support development of fibre-recycling technology in order to separate blended fibres

The report urges manufacturers and retailers to promote more eco-friendly fibres and do more to tackle waste synthetics that pollute our waters and clog landfill sites.

Tuesday 20th November

According to the report, three-fifths of all clothing produced is sent to landfill within a year of being made. “We need to fundamentally rethink the way clothes are manufactured. They should be created so that they don't fall apart at the seams and so that they can be recycled after being worn for many years. Fabrics should be designed not to shed microfibres when washed, and the industry needs to address

the cutting process, which sees 60 cubic metres of cut-off material discarded on factory floors every year. Given that 20 new garments are manufactured per person per year and that consumers are buying 60% more than in 2000, the environmental implications must be addressed as a matter of urgency.”

Wednesday 21st November

Oliver Tickell, reviewing the book “No More Plastic” by Martin Dorey, while endorsing the solutions in the book, writes: “Simply to stop using synthetic clothing instantly creates massive extra demand for cotton, which is far worse than polyester or nylon. It takes over 20,000 litres of water to grow just 1 kilo of cotton – against 17 litres for a kilo of polyester – together with intense applications of pesticide and fertiliser. The world's 25 million tonne annual cotton crop takes up 3-4% of the world's arable land, and growing cotton emits twice as much CO₂ per kilo as producing polyester.

plan for yet more flights is totally at odds with the policy direction needed to meet the unfolding climate crisis.”

Sunday 11th November

We thank you, Father for the men and women of determination who have taken the lead in the war 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 dear Son who died for us all.

Monday 12th November

A new report from the OECD called 'Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060' concludes that, while resource efficiency is improving, huge increases in demand for resources will more than outweigh any efficiency savings. Consumption of raw materials will nearly double by 2060, putting twice the pressure on the environment that we see today. Analysing the impacts from extraction and production of iron, aluminium, copper, zinc, lead,

nickel and manganese, as well as concrete, sand and gravel, the report concludes that increased demand will have 'significant impacts on acidification, air and water pollution, climate change, energy demand, human health and toxicity of water and land'. The report comes days after the International Energy Authority told an audience in Poland, where crucial climate talks take place next month: “My numbers are giving me some despair - - - Emissions this year will increase once again - - - Global emissions will reach a record historical high - - the chances of reaching the Paris Agreement targets are getting weaker and weaker every year, every month.”

Tuesday 13th November

The past three months have seen a crop of Government decisions with serious climate-destroying consequences:

- 1) The Government has given approval for a third runway at Heathrow – something

incompatible with our climate commitments

2) It has withdrawn incentives to install solar panels

3) It has railroaded communities into accepting fracking for gas, despite strong local opposition

4) It has scrapped plans for higher energy-efficiency standards for new homes

5) It has effectively banned onshore wind farms – the cheapest form of renewable energy.

Individuals can certainly play a part by flying less and eating less meat etc. but all the really effective ways of avoiding catastrophic climate change depend on the actions and leadership of Government and industry.

Wednesday 14th November

Environmental activists 20 years ago were mobilising action through a combination of anxiety and blame. Now public pressure has led the government to introduce an Environmental Bill

early next year with the aim of 'enhancing and restoring habitats and landscapes'. The restoration of Geldersee Poort near Nijmegen in the Netherlands provides a model to show how Nature can spontaneously recover, aided by a careful grazing regime. Rare species have returned, dune and freshwater systems have re-appeared and citizens benefit from lower flood risks, reduced insurance costs and all the outdoor recreation opportunities offered by a restored natural landscape.

Thursday 15th November

Capetown's recent water crisis has alerted major cities all over the world to threats to their water supply. One in four of the world's major cities are already facing water stress. Global water consumption has doubled every 20 years and by 2050 4.3 billion people are expected to live in cities. Cities depend on a vast catchment area. Mark Fletcher of consultants Arup says: "Recognising the importance of

the entire water basin is essential as urban water resilience is impossible without rural water resilience. This is something city leaders and water managers need to be looking at now."

Friday 16th November

Arup, with the Rockefeller Foundation, is [developing](#) a City Water Resilience Framework to help cities prepare for shocks and stresses to their water systems. The five cities that will shape CWRP are Amman, Capetown, Mexico City, Miami and Hull. Pioneering research will enable these cities to diagnose water challenges by utilising field research and stakeholder engagement to inform planning and investment decisions.

Saturday 17th November

Today at St Andrew's Church Hall, Short Street, London SE1 8LJ, the Green Christian Annual Members Meeting welcomes the Rt Rev Dr David Atkinson who will introduce his new book "Hope Rediscovered". The meeting

begins at 2 pm and at 1 pm there will be a shared lunch with people bringing their own food. To book a free place, go to:

<https://gcam2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sunday 18th November

Father God, our Creator, who has made this planet to sustain a myriad forms of life, help us to stop abusing it for wrongful gain, exploiting it for selfish greed and spoiling through callous indifference. Help us to be responsible, caring stewards of our inheritance, and give us the wisdom to find the right means to sustain it.

Monday 19th November

A report on microplastics from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers suggests that 35% of microplastics found in our seas come from synthetic fabrics. A typical 5 kg machine-wash releases 6 million microfibrils from polyester clothes, which enter our drainage networks and end up in the sea, where they enter the food