

responsibility for the lifestyle changes that we must all make if coming generations are to survive.

### **Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Global Futures is a landmark study using cutting-edge modelling to explore the global economic impacts of natural capital depletion...across 140 countries and all key industry sectors. Global Futures adds significant new weight to warnings that the continued loss of nature under 'business as usual' will have severe economic consequences, and that investing in nature is essential for future global economic prosperity. <https://www.panda.org/?359334>

### **Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Of the 350 corporates and 150 investor bodies with the world's highest involvement in supply chains with high deforestation risks, around half have not publicly committed to eliminate deforestation from their value chains. That is according to a damning new report from NGO Global Canopy, which assesses large companies sourcing six globally traded commodities with links to deforestation - palm oil, soy,

beef, leather, timber and pulp and paper – as well as their investors. <https://forest500.org/analysis/insights/global-brands-ignoring-deforestation-caused-commodities-they-use>

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please email: [prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk)

Website: [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)  
Compiled by Emma King.  
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Green Christian is a Trading name of Christian Ecology Link Ltd.  
Correspondence Office: 10 Kiln Gardens, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, RG27 8RG, UK.  
Company Registration No. 2445198  
Registered Charity No. 328744.  
Tel: +44 (0) 345 4598460  
[info@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:info@greenchristian.org.uk)

## Prayer guide for the care of creation



## March 2020

“Be joyful and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have heard about and seen me do. I will walk the path that our fathers trod before us.” St David

### **Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Almighty God, on this special day for the people of Wales, we remember Saint David, your servant.

We give thanks for his passion for the Gospel which helped to spread Christianity; We give thanks for his purity and simplicity of life which enabled his pursuit of Christian perfection; We give thanks for his gentleness, but clear spiritual leadership.

Grant that we may learn from him and respond to the words that are thought to be his last:

‘Be steadfast, and do the little things’;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Copyright Anthony D. Miles March 2008*

<https://www.tonymiles.co.uk/a-prayer-for-staint-davids-day-1st-march/>

### **Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The health and future of every child in the world is under threat from degrading environments, climate change and "harmful" marketing, a report has warned. Analysis by the

World Health Organisation (WHO), Unicef and medical journal The Lancet says that no single country is adequately protecting children's health or environment. Titled ‘A Future For The World's Children?’, the report says that excessive carbon emissions, particularly from wealthier countries, threaten the future of all children. The index shows that youngsters in Norway, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands have the best chance at survival and well-being, while the UK ranks 10th. Children in Central African Republic, Chad, Somalia, Niger and Mali face the worst odds.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/19-02-2020-world-failing-to-provide-children-with-a-healthy-life-and-a-climate-fit-for-their-future-who-unicef-lancet>

### **Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The mining company BHP is putting pressure on vulnerable ecosystems and communities in a mega-biodiverse region of Ecuador despite flaunting its commitment to environmental sustainability. The world's biggest mining company is publicly committing to a clean, green transition .... Andrew McKenzie,

concerns. Joint sponsors Enea and Energa said on Thursday night that the billions of zlotys in promised funding would be pulled from the plant due to changing market circumstances triggered by climate policy, and the continued flight of global capital away from coal.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/19/poland-last-new-coal-plant-put-ice>

### **Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Public concern in the UK over the environment has climbed again this month, according to the latest Issues Index poll from market research company Ipsos MORI. The long-running monthly tracker poll of around 1,000 adults asks a representative sample what the most important issues are for the UK today. The results for January show pollution, the environment, and climate change were the third highest concern for the UK public, with nearly 10 percent highlighting it as the most important issue.

<https://ccbriefing.corporate-citizenship.com/2020/02/20/daily-media-briefing-1490/#2>

### **Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Just under half of the world's annual GDP is now covered by nations, regions and cities that are legislating for a net-zero emissions target, a new study has revealed. The latest analysis from the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU), a London-based think-tank, has found that 49% of GDP, representing more than \$39trn, is now covered by regions with an actual or intended net-zero target. A total of 121 nations have put mechanisms in place to deliver net-zero emissions in timeframes that are aligned to the calls of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) landmark report in 2018.

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Report--49--of-world-s-GDP-covered-by-net-zero-targets/>

### **Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>**

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

appointed to Threadneedle Street in 2014, when she was the head of power station operator Drax Group.  
<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Bank-of-England-under-pressure-over-board-member-s-oil-links/>

### **Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Mining companies BHP and Rio Tinto have a long history of extracting minerals then pulling out, leaving devastation in their wake. Climate justice organisation London Mining Network reveals the extent of this in a new report. It has published a new report entitled 'Cut and run: How Britain's top two mining companies have wrecked ecosystems without being held to account'. The report includes examples from Southeast Asia of where the British-Australian multinationals BHP and Rio Tinto have left legacies of conflict and environmental destruction, long after they've fled the scene.  
<https://londonminingnetwork.org/2020/02/press-release-new-report-names-top-british-companies-responsible-for-toxic-mining-legacies/>

### **Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>**

National governments met in Rome a month ago to discuss and reflect on a 20-point UN draft proposal to halt irreversible ecological damage, which looks set to be formally adopted in October. Government ministers from across the globe discussed a draft plan aimed at halting the collapse of nature by 2030, a deal likened as the Paris Agreement for biodiversity. In January, the UN's 20-point draft plan surfaced, outlining commitments to protect at least 30% of the planet. It states that a third of the world's oceans and land should be protected to reverse biodiversity decline. Doing so, the report states, is vital to the survival of humankind and will avert Earth's sixth mass extinction.  
<https://www.edie.net/news/11/Governments-kickstart-negotiations-on-Paris-style-biodiversity-deal-to-protect-the-planet/>

### **Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Environmental lawyers have hailed "the end for new coal" in Europe as two Polish utilities announce that they will suspend funding to the country's last planned new coal plant, Ostrołęka C, over economic

BHP's CEO, proudly unveiled the company's new climate investment program in July 2019... Shareholders at their 2019 AGMs were regaled with reports of how well BHP is sticking to its coal reduction targets, and with its investment plans in copper to meet the world's growing demand for renewables. What BHP left out of [this] report is where all this copper is going to come from, and how the mining of it will impact on some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems and communities.  
<https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/21/bhps-divide-and-conquer>

### **Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>**

The new Labour leader will be announced in a month's time. But how do each candidate fare on environmental issues? Shadow business secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey masterminded Labour's Green New Deal, backing a 2030 zero-carbon target despite trade union pressure for a more conservative goal. Keir Starmer worked pro bono on the McLibel trial in the early nineties, helping London Greenpeace activists fight McDonalds' libel suit for handing out

leaflets critical of the company. Nandy was shadow energy and climate secretary for nearly a year. In September 2015, Global Justice Now praised her "bold and refreshing" proposal for a "just, sustainable and democratised" energy system.  
<https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/18/will-labour-still-lead-climate-action>

### **Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Multi-billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has just launched a new fund which will issue grants to charities and innovators working to fight the climate crisis. Bezos announced the creation of his Bezos Earth Fund on Instagram in February. According to the post, Bezos will begin doling \$10 billion in grants to environmental groups starting this summer. "Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet," wrote Bezos. "I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change on this planet we all share."  
<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/jeff-bezos-giving-away-10-billion-in-grants-for-fighting-climate-change/>

### Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>

Today is the start of British Science Week. The theme this year is Our Diverse Planet. Pray that children and adults alike will be inspired to learn about the planet, and how to look after it.

<https://www.britishecienceweek.org/>

### Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>

Closing a bottle with cork significantly reduces the carbon footprint of wine packaging and helps sustain vital ecosystems. Having already looked at the life-cycle impact of cork against their competitors, Amorim, the largest Portuguese cork industry company, hired Ernst & Young (EY) to conduct another independent study, this time looking at the true carbon impact of using cork closures. The findings released in February are quite a revelation. This new study by EY finds that a single natural cork closure is proven to retain up to 309g of CO<sub>2</sub>, while a sparkling wine stopper captures even more at 562g.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/17/wine-corks-co2-sink>

### Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>

Today is International Women's Day. Bridget Burns, the Director of WEDO (Women's Environment & Development Organisation) said at COP 25 in Madrid "When we try to create climate action without gender justice, we fail. When we try to deliver climate action without racial justice, we fail. When we try to do this without the rights of Indigenous peoples, we fail. If we fail to understand the deep intersection between misogyny, white supremacy, rising right wing fascism, and climate denialism, we fail."

<https://wedo.org/at-cop25-womens-rights-and-climate-activists-advocate-a-feminist-green-new-deal/>

### Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>

Rainforest Connection has developed a fast and affordable way to detect illegal logging and send real-time alerts to locals on the ground – mobile phones. Detecting illegal logging has typically relied on aerial surveys or satellites, which can take days or weeks to alert rangers to tree cover loss, but Rainforest Connection says its phones are a faster and cheaper alternative. Old Android smartphones are put into a

polluted or all three. As the global population grows, so does the demand for water, which depletes natural resources and damages the environment in many places.

Solutions include protecting carbon sinks such as oceans and wetlands, adopting climate-smart agricultural techniques, and increasing the safe reuse of wastewater.

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

### Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>

The International Day of Forests is held annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March to raise awareness of the importance of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security.

Forests cover one third of the Earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world. Around 1.6 billion people - including more than 2,000 indigenous cultures - depend on forests for their livelihoods, medicines, fuel, food and shelter. Forests are the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on land, home to more than 80% of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. Yet despite all of these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, global

deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually.

<https://www.un.org/en/events/forestsday/background.shtml>

### Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Dear Mother earth,  
Who day by day unfolds rich blessing on our way,  
O Praise God! Alleluia!  
The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,  
Let them his praise abundant show.  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
- St. Francis

### Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Environmental groups have called into question the Bank of England's commitment to tackling the climate emergency while it retains one of Britain's most senior oil company executives on its governing board. Greenpeace joined with Friends of the Earth and the campaign group Oil Change International (OCI) to condemn the role played on the Bank's board of directors by Dorothy Thompson, the executive chair of Britain's largest independent oil company, Tullow Oil. Thompson was

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/d%C3%BAAn-laoghaire-council-proposes-fines-of-500-for-single-use-plastics-1.4171752>

### **Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Global Recycling Day, today, was created to celebrate the importance that recycling plays in preserving the earth's primary resources (water, air, coal, oil, natural gas and minerals). Aiming to bring people together and champion ways to put our planet first, it highlights the need to consider recyclable materials as resource rather than waste, celebrating the power of the "Seventh Resource" - the goods we recycle every day. These resources save over 700 million tonnes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and this is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030.

<https://www.globalrecyclingday.com/>

### **Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>**

British scientists have succeeded in cultivating tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and herbs in the desert using discarded mattresses bound for landfill. The innovative system, which was tested in a refugee camp in Jordan, could be rolled out to every shelter in the world, helping

millions of people to thrive in barren landscapes. Since aid workers often discard thousands of used foam mattresses in refugee camps across the globe, University of Sheffield scientists began developing foam "soils" in their labs in hopes of using old bed materials as a growing medium for crops. The research team, led by Professor Tony Ryan, is made up of experts in hydroponics: a technique in which plants are grown with their roots resting in a solution of water and essential nutrients instead of soil. The method uses 70-80% less water than planting straight into the soil and eliminates the need for pesticides.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/scientists-grow-crops-in-desert-using-discarded-mattresses/>

### **Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>**

World Water Day 2020, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, is about water and climate change – and how the two are inextricably linked. Adapting to the water effects of climate change will protect health and save lives. Using water more efficiently will reduce greenhouse gases. Extreme weather events are making water more scarce, more unpredictable, more

recycled plastic box fitted with an extra microphone, battery pack and solar panels. The finished devices look like mechanical flowers and are fastened to trees high up in the canopy, often up to 150 feet.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/25/old-mobile-phones-are-spying-illegal-loggers>

### **Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>**

The UK government recently pledged to bring forward a ban on new diesel and petrol car sales from 2040, to 2035. The move surprised some, but perhaps most surprising was the confirmation that the ban will also include hybrid vehicles... So how can the next decade and a half set Britain on track for zero-carbon car travel? We need to improve on:

1. Skills and training in designing and building vehicles
2. Battery innovation and charging infrastructure
3. Battery lifetime and recycling
4. Hydrogen fuel cells

<https://theconversation.com/four-things-the-uk-government-must-do-to-phase-out-petrol-diesel-and-hybrid-cars-by-2035-131225>

### **Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

While China battled one of the most serious virus epidemics of the century, the impacts on the country's energy demand and emissions are only beginning to be felt. In February, electricity demand and industrial output remained far below their usual levels across a range of indicators, many of which are at their lowest two-week average in several years. These include:

- Coal use at power stations reporting daily data at a four-year low.
- Oil refinery operating rates in Shandong province at the lowest level since 2015.
- Levels of NO<sub>2</sub> air pollution over China down 36% on the same period last year.
- Domestic flights are down up to 70% compared to last month.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-coronavirus-has-temporarily-reduced-chinas-co2-emissions-by-a-quarter>

### **Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>**

An exciting new study calculated that, contrary to expectations, global carbon dioxide emissions did not continue their increase in 2019, but

actually flatlined as renewable energy sources, efficiency, and other factors, chipped away at worldwide energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

The research, conducted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and published in February, found that global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy sources were unchanged at 33 gigatons in 2019 even as the world economy expanded by 2.9% over 2018. This was primarily due to declining emissions from electricity generation in advanced economies, thanks to the expanding role of renewable sources (mainly wind and solar), shutting down coal plants, and higher nuclear power generation. Other factors included milder weather in several countries (to require less cooling or heating), and slower economic growth in some emerging markets.

<https://www.iea.org/articles/global-co2-emissions-in-2019>

### Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>

Netflix, Warner Bros. and Sky are among the 30 businesses to have signed a new film and TV industry commitment to sustainability, covering issues such as plastics, food waste and energy efficiency.

Orchestrated by the Motion Picture Association (MPA), the 'Joint Declaration for Sustainable Film and Series Production' pledge binds signatories to removing single-use plastic water bottles from productions and production facilities; donating all surplus food from catering to those in need; re-using props, costumes and furniture, or else donating them to non-profits; and switching to energy-efficient LED lighting.

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/netflix-sky-warner-brothers-film-giants-sustainability-green-pledge-no-red-meat-plastic-bottles--/>

### Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>

Beavers are set to recolonise the UK – despite centuries of hunting that caused the Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*) to disappear from the UK during the 1500s... In 2015, two beaver families were released on the River Otter in Devon. Researchers followed this reintroduced population and tracked their distribution and health. They also monitored how the amphibious rodents affected river flow and other wildlife, along with any disruption on adjacent land. By 2019, there were at least seven breeding pairs that had spread throughout the

river catchment, well beyond the release sites.

<https://theconversation.com/beavers-are-set-to-recolonise-the-uk-heres-how-people-and-the-environment-could-benefit-132116>

### Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>

I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me  
Afar and anear,  
Alone or in a multitude.

(Part of St Patrick's Breastplate prayer, attributed to St Patrick)

### Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>

Humanity is facing an existential contradiction: we are building an urban future for ourselves, yet urbanisation in its current form is threatening the very future of humanity and the natural world. Urban growth is a seemingly

unstoppable worldwide process. Much has been written about this historic trend, but the environmental impacts of an urbanising world are barely discussed. Whilst urban-centred communication, transport and trading systems connect humanity as never before, they are also causing ever-larger global ecological footprints and environmental externalities.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/26/people-and-nature-urban-world>

### Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>

Take-aways, supermarkets and other food businesses across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in south Dublin could face fines of up to €500 for supplying single-use plastics to customers. The Council is set to become the first local authority to ban the supply or sale of take-away plastic containers, utensils, bottles and other packaging, under draft bylaws that will shortly be available for public consultation. The plastics ban was proposed by Fine Gael councillor Barry Ward, who said he wanted to take a stand against the "wilful proliferation" of single-use plastics.