

internationally; the attempts of conventional economists such as William Nordhaus to downplay the risks; the disagreement between rich and poor countries about the responsibility for historical emissions or the constant attempts to disrupt the negotiations by oil-producing countries like Saudi Arabia. However, a special place must be reserved for the big oil, gas and coal companies for the disgraceful role that they have played and continue to play.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/mar/10/oil-giants-greed-huge-betrayal-future>

### Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>

The outdoor gear retailer Patagonia not only resells its own used clothes through its Worn Wear program, but also hosts repair events around the world, where people can bring their favourite Patagonia items to get fixed by professionals. Now the company is outsourcing some of that repair work to owners themselves. It has partnered with iFixit to offer a series of online sewing tutorials that will

help people make basic repairs. They have also made their clothing's waterproof shells out of recycled materials and fairtrade.

<https://www.treehugger.com/sustainable-fashion/patagonia-will-teach-you-how-repair-clothes.html>

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Picture on front cover: River Tees, near Middleton in Teesdale, Emma King

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## Prayer guide for the care of creation

# April 2020

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturg-and-prayer-resources>

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.—Philippians 4:6 (NIV)



### **Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Campaigning groups have called for any Government bailout of airline companies due to the impact of the coronavirus to include conditional links for worker rights, fair taxing systems and transparent action plans on climate change. In late March the aviation sector was in discussions with the UK's transport secretary Grant Shapps to propose a rescue package. The Financial Times reported that billions of pounds of taxpayer money would be used to buy equity stakes in UK airlines like British Airways; these shares would then be sold back to private investors at a later date. While discussions on the bailout continued, two UK think tanks, IPPR and Common Wealth, called for any deal to consist of strong conditions for workers' rights and decarbonisation aligned to the Paris Agreement.

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Link-airline-coronavirus-bailouts-to-climate-targets--campaigners-urge/>

### **Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

If humans hope to limit climate change to just 2°C of warming, we've got a lot of work to do, scientists say: reducing emissions, planting trees, and scrubbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the skies with the latest technologies. Now, a new process can convert gaseous CO<sub>2</sub>—the product of burning fossil fuels—into solid carbon at room temperature, using only a trickle of electricity. But getting it to work on a planet-wide scale will be a formidable challenge.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/02/liquid-metal-catalyst-turns-carbon-dioxide-coal>

### **Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The sheer scale of the challenges faced by our planet is difficult to comprehend, but there is now at least recognition of the fact that ecological and social crises must be tackled together. In order to protect biodiversity and environments such as forests, the world must also protect women's rights, traditional knowledge and sustainable livelihoods so that

### **Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Today is the start of National Gardening Week. Did you know the UK's gardens cover a combined landmass that's bigger than the Lake District and Peak District put together? That's a huge area and means gardens can provide vital space for wildlife in a human-dominated landscape. During this time of social distancing, many people might have more time for gardening, albeit with less access to shops and garden centres.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/01/environmentally-friendly-gardening-10-top-tips/>

### **Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>**

MPs have yet again called for the trustees of the Parliamentary Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuel companies Royal Dutch Shell and BP, having finally integrated investment into renewables into the fund. The £733m MP Pension Fund has faced calls from ministers since 2014 to divest from fossil fuel assets in accordance with the need to limit global heating to no more than 2°C as envisioned by the

Paris Agreement. The Fund's holdings in fossil fuel companies have decreased following public lobbying and pressure from ministers and for the first time now has 5% of its investments dedicated to a "low-carbon investment vehicle" that will help build solar capacity globally. However, the annual update of the fund also disclosed that £8m remains invested in Royal Dutch Shell and £4.4m has been invested into BP.

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/Parliamentary-Pension-Fund-still-investing-in-fossil-fuels/>

### **Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup>**

How will future historians answer when asked questions about which actors or factors were the biggest obstacles to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the 2000s? The candidates are many: the reluctance of accepting supranational decision-making by countries such as the US and China; the reluctance of political leaders such as Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro to cooperate

the world's largest fossil fuel financiers. The analysis, conducted by a group of organisations, estimates that J.P. Morgan Chase provided nearly \$65 billion in fossil fuel financing last year, the largest out of any of the 35 banks listed in the report. It also found that other top banks included Citi, which provided an estimated \$52 billion, Bank of America, which provided an estimated \$48 billion and Wells Fargo, which provided an estimated \$45 billion.

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/488098-four-us-banks-are-the-worlds-largest-fossil-fuel-financers-analysis>

#### **Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>**

The number of investigations into businesses launched by the Environment Agency increased by 12 per cent from 5,518 in 2018 to 6,164 in 2019, according to a new analysis from City law firm RPC. The analysis, released this week, shows that the watchdog's planned crackdown on businesses breaching water, waste management, and agricultural rules

has been intensifying, with RPC noting that there had been a "significant step up activity in the lead-up to the UK's exit from the EU, amid fears that environmental standards could slip following Brexit".

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4012928/reveals-environment-agency-beefed-business-investigations>

#### **Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Creator God, who placed this planet and all its resources into our care, encourage those who now remind us of our responsibilities, both to you and future generations, to do all that is necessary, whatever the cost, to save this world that we call home, so our children and theirs might not look back, both in shame and anger, at what we, in denial, have failed to do.  
Amen

Prayer by John Birch -  
<https://www.faihandworship.com>

communities can co-exist with the ecosystems they depend on. The Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 biodiversity framework therefore must be highly gender-responsive, with gender justice as a key element.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/mar/19/womens-rights-traditional-knowledge-and-biodiversity>

#### **Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Women's organisations in Kyrgyzstan serve as an example of the inseparable linkages between gender, environmental and economic justice. Women there face numerous threats, from economic and political marginalisation and forms of gender-based violence – from bride theft to mining and infrastructure developments that affect their health and ability to grow food. With virtually no representation in local government and little power in household decision-making, civil society and women's groups must organise to overcome the challenges they face. Essential to the success of these initiatives is

rooting the struggle for women's rights in ecological conservation and the sharing of traditional knowledge, where solidarity between women from different places serves as the foundation for their power.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/mar/19/womens-rights-traditional-knowledge-and-biodiversity>

#### **Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>**

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet.  
Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.  
Amen.

Prayer written by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nicholas Baines.

#### **Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Despite heightened public concern about single-use plastics in recent years, UK household recycling rates fell in 2018. The latest official statistics show a decline in the

amount of waste sent for recycling in 2018, leaving the country almost certain to miss its EU targets for 2020. Data released by Defra in March shows the recycling rate for UK households stood at exactly 45 per cent in 2018 - the most recent year of data available - slipping back from the 45.5 per cent rate achieved the previous year.

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4012767/uk-recycling-rate-slips-putting-eu-target-jeopardy>

### **Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Within waste management, England makes up the lion's share - 85 per cent - of the total waste produced in the UK due to its larger population, and its recycling rate fell to 44.7% in 2018, a drop of 0.5% on 2017. Defra said the decline in England was driven primarily by a reduction in organic waste - such as that from garden - sent for recycling, which it said was linked to "adverse weather conditions for plant growth". Wales remains the strongest performer in the UK, having recycled 54.1 % of its waste in 2018. And Scotland had the

lowest recycling rate at 42.8 %. Only Northern Ireland bucked the wider UK trend, becoming the only region of the UK to see its recycling rates increase in 2018, rising 1.4 percentage points to reach 47.7 %.

For full report, see [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874265/UK\\_Statistics\\_on\\_Waste\\_statistics\\_notice\\_March\\_2020\\_accessible\\_FINAL\\_rev\\_v0.5.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874265/UK_Statistics_on_Waste_statistics_notice_March_2020_accessible_FINAL_rev_v0.5.pdf)

### **Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>**

The UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) will introduce stricter rules on carbon offsetting for airlines next year, in a bid to reduce greenwashing and ensure robust carbon accounting. In mid March, they made the decision to alter eligible emissions units and offsets permitted under the industry-wide Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), following calls to action from green groups and financial and climate advisors. Under the alterations, older and smaller carbon offsetting

way. There is huge potential for the growth of agroecology - agriculture that works together with natural ecology. Since 2009 the Ecological Land Cooperative (ELC) has worked to develop affordable, low impact, small farms for ecological agriculture that can improve soil health, boost biodiversity and invigorate rural communities. The ELC is the only national organisation in England and Wales to offer residential farms for ecological land users.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/mar/19/small-ecological-farms-regenerate-rural-areas>

### **Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Today is Earth Day. The theme this year for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is climate action. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. The Covid-19 pandemic has inspired some ideas for combining the two.

<https://www.earthday.org/11-actions-for-the-planet-during-a-pandemic/>

### **Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Wells Fargo committed to ruling out funding oil and gas drilling in the Arctic region, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, according to the company's updated environmental and social risk management policy. The megabank is now the third in the United States to withdraw lending for drilling projects in the region following a years-long campaign by Indigenous groups and environmentalists pressuring Wells Fargo and other lending institutions to halt financing fossil fuel projects.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/wells-fargo-top-banker-fracked-oil-and-gas-ditches-arctic-drilling>

### **Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>**

It's not all good news for Wells Fargo. They are in the global banks' top four financiers of fossil fuel industries. A new analysis from a coalition of environmental groups has found that four U.S. banks are

140,000 jobs across solar, wind, storage and electric vehicle (EV) charging markets could be added, alongside an additional 100,000 bioenergy jobs, if the UK Government can deliver favourable policy changes.

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/Comprehensive-net-zero-strategy-could-increase-UK-green-jobs-by-85/>

### **Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Creator God, forgive us if we think this world is simply to be exploited. Open our eyes to see the damage that we do.

Open our ears to hear and not ignore the signs.

Open hearts to change.

Make us the gardeners and caretakers that you created us to be,

that this fragile world might be handed on with pride, not shame, to future generations.

Amen

Prayer by John Birch

<https://www.faihandworship.com>

### **Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Global beverage firm Coca-Cola and packaging company Indorama Ventures have ignited controversy by claiming that polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles are not single-use packaging because they are 100% recyclable.

Environmental activists have disputed the claim, arguing that both companies' PET recycling facility does not change the fact that PET bottles are largely discarded after being used only once. And unlike other materials like aluminium or glass, PET can only be recycled a certain number of times.

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/will-cokes-new-recycling-facility-help-ease-the-philippines-plastic-woes/>

### **Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Nearly half the land in the UK is owned by just 25,000 people – less than 1 percent of the population. Much of that land is dominated by industrial methods of production that come at great cost to the natural world. Yet there is another

schemes will be excluded from the list of permitted sources from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/UN-tightens-carbon-offsetting-rules-for-aviation-sector/>

### **Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Peru is Planting A Million Trees Around Machu Picchu. When it was rediscovered, the trees that covered it were removed. Due to the large numbers of visitors and the lack of tree protection it is at risk from mudslides. The President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra, has pledged to plant a million trees around the site to protect it again.

<https://operationearth.ca/2020/02/28/peru-is-planting-a-million-trees-around-machu-picchu/>

### **Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Good Friday

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:5

### **Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>**

My Lord, today all is silent. You have given Your precious life for the salvation of the world. You died a horrific death, poured out all Mercy from Your wounded Heart, and now You rest in peace in the tomb as the soldiers keep vigil. Lord, may I also keep vigil with You as You sleep. I know that this day ends with Your glorious triumph, Your victory over sin and death. But for now I sit quietly mourning Your death.

<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/triduum-and-easter-prayers/prayer-meditation-for-holy-saturday/>

### **Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Sunday:

"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,"

Sons of men and angels say.

Raise your joys and triumphs high;

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

(Charles Wesley)

### Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>

Building new wind and solar plants will soon be cheaper in every major market across the globe than running existing coal-fired power stations, according to a new report. The analysis by the Carbon Tracker Initiative, a climate finance thinktank, found renewable power was expected to cost less than electricity from existing coal plants by 2030 at the latest. Other key findings include:

- Over half of coal plants operating today cost more to run than building new renewables.
- Governments and investors should cancel coal power projects or they will waste \$600 bn in capital costs.

<https://carbontracker.org/reports/how-to-waste-over-half-a-trillion-dollars/>

### Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>

The world's largest companies and heaviest polluters are falling behind on the urgent emissions reductions needed to limit global warming to 2°C in line with the Paris

Agreement. According to a new report by the asset owner-led corporate climate action monitoring group Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI), titled "State of Transition 2020", eight in 10 of the world's highest-emitting listed companies are not on track to meet the key goal of the Paris climate accord.

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/8-in-10-big-polluters-off-track-for-2c-climate-target-as-iea-warns-coronavirus-could-derail-energy-transition/>

### Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>

If the Philippines banned waste imports, why is it still the world's dumping ground? Despite highly-publicised cases of returning illegal waste shipments last year, foreign scrap continues to flood Philippines shores. Policy gaps that make illegal waste trade into the country seem legitimate are to blame, a new Greenpeace report has found. China abruptly banned trash imports from 2018 to cut back on heavy pollution. This left Southeast Asian countries to pick up the slack.

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/if-the-philippines-banned-waste-imports-why-is-it-still-the-worlds-dumping-ground/>

### Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>

A new renewable energy start-up company has come up with a low-cost, zero-emissions solution to the thorny issue surrounding what happens when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing, i.e. how the power can be stored for later use. Swedish company Azelio has starter to manufacture their patented, industry-first thermal energy storage system that will allow people to keep the energy that their standard PV solar panels generate during the day so they can use it in evenings – by using recycled aluminium. It would be particularly effective in places with lots of sun and an unreliable electricity supply.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/azelio-system-uses-recycled-aluminum-instead-of-batteries/>

### Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>

Commercial tree plantations in Britain do not store carbon to help the climate crisis because more than half of the harvested timber is used for less than 15 years and a quarter is burned, according to a new report. While fast-growing non-native conifers can sequester carbon more quickly than slow-growing broadleaved trees, carbon is released again if the trees are harvested and the wood is burned or used in products with short lifespans, such as packaging, pallets and fencing.

[http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/Forestry%20and%20climate%20change%20report%20Feb%202020\\_tcm9-478449.pdf](http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/Forestry%20and%20climate%20change%20report%20Feb%202020_tcm9-478449.pdf)

### Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>

The UK Government can deliver an 85% increase in renewable and clean technology jobs in a decade by implementing better taxation systems and outlining a roadmap for net-zero emissions, a new report from the Renewable energy Association (REA) has found. The REA also estimated that up to