

corporate abuses overseas to sue companies in Canada.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/07/canada-not-walking-the-walk-on-its-miners-abuses-abroad-campaigners-say/>

Tuesday 29th September

Use of coal is falling and renewables are surging around the world, but the progress is not enough to meet the targets set under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, scientists have warned. Over the first half of 2020, wind turbines and solar panels together produced a record 10 per cent of the world's electricity - a rise of 14 per cent compared with the same period last year. Meanwhile power output from coal plants fell by 8.3 per cent, and overall electricity demand fell 3 per cent due to coronavirus lockdowns, according to a report by independent climate think tank Ember. Despite the drop, coal plants still produced 33 per cent of the world's electricity during the period.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/renewable-energy-wind-solar-coal-how-much-electricity-climate-change-a9669651.html>

Wednesday 30th September

Environmental NGO BVRio has launched a new online platform connecting circular economy projects with corporates and impact investors, whose aim is to help small programmes scale-up and large organisations put sufficient finance behind their resource goals. Called the Circular Action Hub, the platform will connect sources of finance with local projects, which will have to prove that they are "ambitious and scalable" to standard-setter Verra be listed. There is a particular focus on plastic waste - particularly removing plastic waste from habitats and diverting it for reuse or recycling - but the platform will cover all waste streams and all stages of the material lifecycle.

<https://www.edie.net/news/5/New-platform-to-help-corporates-forge-circular-economy-partnerships/>

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

Website: www.greenchristian.org.uk

Picture on front cover: Golden Acre Park, Leeds. Pic by Emma King.

Websites accessed 16th August 2020.

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



September 2020

“The ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

Gaylord Nelson

“As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.”

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Tuesday 1st September

In the face of climate change, diet related ill-health and widespread decline in wildlife, the need to change our food systems has never been greater. Organic September is a month-long campaign to raise awareness of the many benefits of organic food and farming. According to the Soil Association, organic farms have around 50% more bees, butterflies and other pollinators than non-organic farms, and if Europe's farmland all followed organic principles, agricultural emissions could drop by 40% by 2050, with plenty to feed the growing population healthy diets.

<https://www.soilassociation.org/organic-living/why-organic/>

Wednesday 2nd September

A group of 100 moderate Conservative MPs have called on Boris Johnson to beef up green legislation and investment through the UK's Covid-19 recovery strategy, and are particularly keen for the national petrol and diesel car ban to be moved forward to 2030. In a 'Recovery Paper' report published [last month], the One Nation group, which represents around one-third of the Conservative Party, outlined 25 recommendations for climate and environmental action from Boris Johnson's cabinet in the context of the UK's net-zero transition and its Covid-19 recovery plans. A headline recommendation is for the UK to bring its ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars forward to 2030. The date was originally set at 2040 under the Road to Zero Strategy, published under Theresa May's government.

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/Tory-MPs-call-for-Boris-Johnson-to-go-further-and-faster-on-climate-in-Covid-19-recovery-plans/>

Thursday 3rd September

After a 150-year absence, 750 ... large blue butterflies have successfully emerged from their

cocoons to repopulate parts of their historic habitat in South West England. *Phengaris arion*, ... went completely extinct in Britain in 1979, but efforts from private trusts and ecological associations created the world's largest and most successful insect conservation program in the world, and from 1984 to 2008, it saw the large blue return to 30 previously occupied and new breeding sites. The most recent project in Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons in Gloucestershire is where conservationists recorded the rousing success, with 750 butterflies emerging after 1,100 larvae had been released in the area.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/english-conservationists-see-750-large-blue-butterflies-survive/>

Friday 4th September

The Amazon fire season is building momentum, with 227 fires covering nearly 128,000 hectares, reported between May 28 and August 10. By August 13th, that number rose to 266 fires. More than 220 of the May 28 to June 10 fires occurred in Brazil, with just six in Bolivia, and one in Peru. 95% of the Brazilian fires were illegal and in violation of the nation's 120-day ban on fires. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has called the 2020 reports of deforestation and fires a "lie." Most Amazon blazes are set, with land grabbers, ranchers and farmers using fire as a deforestation tool, and as a means of converting rainforest to pasture and croplands.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/08/more-than-260-major-mostly-illegal-amazon-fires-detected-since-late-may/>

Saturday 5th September

RSPB Cymru is raising grave concerns over the proposed Morlais Tidal Energy Demonstration Zone off the coast of Anglesey. The environmental charity fears that the political and economic pressures to complete the application

Thursday 24th September

Ocean Voyages Institute's marine plastic recovery vessel, S/V KWAI, docked in Honolulu in early August, after 35 days at sea, successfully concluding the second and final haul of the non-profit group's 2020 open ocean recovery mission, adding 67 tons to the record-setting 103 tons (206,000 pounds) removed in June, which became the largest open ocean clean-up in history. The non-profit group's total for the summer season now amounts to 170 tons (340,000 pounds) of ghost nets and plastic debris removed from the North Pacific Gyre (Great Pacific Garbage Patch), a staggering amount, which quadruples the group's previous year's record.

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

Friday 25th September

Today is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Friday, which each year promotes sustainable forest management. By choosing FSC, consumers are supporting the responsible management of the world's forests to ensure they exist for our children, for biodiversity and for the communities which depend on them. Consumers really can make a difference to the world's forests just by taking the time to look for the FSC logo on forest products. While there have been criticisms of FSC over the years, it is still a useful brand that helps consumers think about where their products come from.

<https://fsc.org/en>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2018/03/greenpeace-international-ends-its-forest-stewardship-council-membership/>

Saturday 26th September

The websites of three environmental advocacy groups in India – Fridays for Future, Let India Breathe, and There Is No Earth B – were blocked in July this year at the behest of the

Indian Government. Of the three, the domain name owner of 'Fridays for Future' (FFF), the Indian chapter of the climate change movement initiated by the Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg, received a legal notice from the cyber crime unit of the Delhi police under sections of the draconian anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The notice accused FFF of depicting "objectionable contents and unlawful activities or terrorist act, which are dangerous for the peace, tranquility and sovereignty of India" and directed that its website be blocked.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/aug/10/criminalising-ecological-dissent-india>

Sunday 27th September

Lord God, we pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move the hearts of the men and women who govern the nations that the barriers of fear, suspicion and hatred which separate us may crumble, and the body of humankind may be healed of its divisions and be united in addressing the serious problems of resource depletion, overpopulation and climate change. This we ask in the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday 28th September

Canada is home base for nearly half of the world's mining companies, but the country's efforts to improve corporate accountability for environmental and human rights violations have fallen short, observers say. Internal documents show the government has stressed a voluntary approach to regulation, despite campaign promises to address abuses and outcry from campaigners. A government spokesperson says Canada has launched new initiatives to safeguard environmentalists and land-rights activists and to promote corporate responsibility. A recent Supreme Court decision could open the country's legal system to allow victims of

50% in previous forecasts to account for falling costs. According to the Commission's Renewables, Recovery and Reaching Net-Zero report, ... there is "no material cost impact, either over the short or long term", of deploying renewables at an accelerated pace, in line with the nation's net-zero target. The Commission had previously said, in line with the UK's original Climate Change Act target of reducing net emissions by 80% by 2050, that renewables should account for 50% of consumption by mid-century.

<https://www.edie.net/news/10/National-Infrastructure-Commission--Renewables-could-meet-two-thirds-of-UK-s-energy-demand-by-2030/>

Sunday 20th September

Creator God, we commend to your care all the scientists and others who are engaged in finding new sources of energy, all who are seeking solutions to environmental problems and ways to provide enough food and water for our growing populations. Please be with them as they search for solutions to the many environmental problems that the world faces. Amen.

Monday 21st September

Recycle Week starts today. England's household waste recycling rate is 45.1% - with East Riding of Yorkshire recycling the most at 64.8%. Wales' household recycling rate is 57.6%, Scotland's is 44.7% and Northern Ireland's is 50%. The theme this year is 'Together we recycle' and it will thank the public and staff for recycling in the pandemic and encourage them to keep recycling.

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/recycle-week-campaign>

Tuesday 22nd September

[Researchers from the University of Stirling] looked at plastic pollution and five European seabird species – great cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), European shags, great black-backed gulls (*Larus marinus*) ... herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and lesser black-backed gulls (*Larus fuscus*). The latter four of these are of "Conservation Concern" in the UK according to the RSPB, due to their declining populations. Plastic pollution was intimately intertwined with the nesting behaviour and daily lives of these species, possibly affecting their breeding success and survival. [They] found that 32% of herring gull nests, 53% of great black-backed gull nests and, worryingly, 80% of European shag nests contained plastic. Even worse, 39% of herring gull pellets – regurgitated bits of indigestible food – also contained plastic.

<https://theconversation.com/plastic-found-lining-uk-seabird-nests-on-a-worrying-scale-142118>

Wednesday 23rd September

A London bus garage is set to become a "virtual power station" in the world's largest trial of a new technology to help Britain meet its 2050 net-zero climate change target. From November, the government-funded vehicle-to-grid project will take energy from 28 parked zero-emission electric buses and feed it into the grid during times of high energy demand, making the electricity network more efficient. "If the entire London bus fleet of around 9,000 vehicles was converted with the technology, it could meet the energy needs of more than 150,000 homes," said SSE Enterprise, an energy company involved in electrifying London's bus garages, in a statement.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200813184929-6uonw/>

are pushing this development to take unmanageable risks with our fragile marine environment. RSPB Cymru recognises that there is an urgent need for clean, renewable energy generation as an important part of the decarbonisation of Wales. However, poorly located or ill-designed renewable energy generation projects pose significant risks to our natural environment. The Environmental Impact Assessment by Menter Môn states that the development has the potential to cause the loss of 60% of the breeding guillemots and 97% of the breeding razorbills from the sea cliffs at the South Stack nature reserve run by the RSPB – which with 250,000 visitors a year is a key tourist attraction on Anglesey.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/morlais-tidal-energy-project-risks-future-of-angleseys-marine-wildlife/>

Sunday 6th September

Father, we thank you at this harvest time for creating this wonderful world and for giving us the task of caring for it. Have mercy on us and our planet. Fill us daily with your grace, that we may always remember that we are here as your stewards, who will one day be asked for our account. Amen.

Monday 7th September

Peatlands cover just a few percent of the global land area but they store almost one-quarter of all soil carbon and so play a crucial role in regulating the climate. [Scientists from Stockholm University] have just produced the most accurate map yet of the world's peatlands – their depth, and how much greenhouse gas they have stored. [They] found that global warming will soon mean that these peatlands start emitting more carbon than they store...

There are regions of very extensive permafrost

peatlands in Western Siberia and around Hudson Bay in Canada.

<https://theconversation.com/we-mapped-the-worlds-frozen-peatlands-what-we-found-was-very-worrying-144235>

Tuesday 8th September

Greenland's ice sheet may have shrunk past the point of return, with the ice likely to melt away no matter how quickly the world reduces climate-warming emissions, new research suggests. Scientists studied data on 234 glaciers across the Arctic territory spanning 34 years through 2018 and found that annual snowfall was no longer enough to replenish glaciers of the snow and ice being lost to summertime melting. That melting is already causing global seas to rise about a millimeter [sic] on average per year. If all of Greenland's ice goes, the water released would push sea levels up by an average of 6 meters -- enough to swamp many coastal cities around the world. This process, however, would take decades.

"Greenland is going to be the canary in the coal mine, and the canary is already pretty much dead at this point," said glaciologist Ian Howat at Ohio State University.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200814211926-cyaxz/>

Wednesday 9th September

Billions of dollars spent promoting and subsidising commercial seeds and agrichemicals across Africa have failed to fulfill their promises to alleviate hunger and lift small-scale farmers out of poverty, according to a new white paper published by the Tufts University Global Development and Environment Institute. African and German civil society organisations produced a report based on the research, "False Promises" calling on governments to stop funding and subsidising the so-called "green revolution" and shift support to programs that

help small-scale food producers, particularly women and youth, develop climate-resilient ecologically sustainable farming practices. The research examines the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), a nonprofit launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates and Rockefeller foundations in 2006 with promises to double yields and incomes for 30 million farming households while cutting food insecurity in half in 20 African countries by 2020.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/aug/14/gates-failing-green-revolution-africa>

Thursday 10th September

When Australia's bars and restaurants closed down in March because of COVID-19, huge stores of beer went stale. Those ales haven't gone to waste though. They're being turned into renewable energy—enough to power 1,200 homes in a month. Outside Adelaide in South Australia, almost 40,000 gallons of expired beer has been donated every week to a local water treatment plant. That beer is converted into biogas, which then gets used as electricity to power the plant. And, best of all, the beer donations have boosted energy production to giddy new levels, thanks to its high calorie content.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/beer-unsold-during-australias-lockdown-provides-renewable-energy/>

Friday 11th September

Magnum, which is owned by Unilever, is set to introduce recycled plastic across more than seven million ice cream tubs. Unilever debuted Magnum ice-cream tub made using 25% post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastic content last year in a trial across Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands. Following the success of the trial, Magnum will roll out the tubs across Europe by the end of the year and globally from 2021. By

the end of 2020, Magnum will use an estimated 160,000kg of certified recycled plastic material.

<https://www.edie.net/news/5/Magnum-to-rollout-recycled-plastic-ice-cream-tubs-across-Europe/>

Saturday 12th September

[In early August], the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality refused to grant a water quality permit needed to go ahead with construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate Extension Project. Basically, this means the project is delayed indefinitely because it would have too many negative environmental effects. [The project] is a proposed interstate natural gas pipeline system that would span about 75 miles, running from southern Virginia to central North Carolina.

<https://www.greenmatters.com/p/mountain-valley-pipeline-southgate-extension-delayed>

Sunday 13th September

Dear Father, you have given us matchless gifts in the realm of science and technology. Help us to understand that you alone are the source of all truth and understanding. Let us never be blinded by the lure of the market-place or tempted to put at risk the lives and health of our fellow-humans. Watch over our motives, loving Father, that we may always give prime place to the furtherance of your Kingdom. This we ask in the name of your Son, who died that we might live. Amen.

Monday 14th September

Researchers in Italy have looked at quantities of micro- and nano-plastics in common fruit and vegetables, noting that no data for such contaminants already exists elsewhere. Samples were bought at various sites in the Italian city of Catania, and apples were the most contaminated fruit samples, while carrot was the most contaminated vegetable. Lettuces were the least contaminated.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935120305703>

Tuesday 15th September

Airborne pollutants affect all kinds of life, even insects... Car exhaust fumes are known to interrupt the scent cues that attract and guide bees towards flowers, while also interfering with their ability to remember scents. Now, a new study from India has revealed how air pollution may be depleting the health of honey bees in the wild. These effects may not kill bees outright. But like humans repeatedly going to work under heavy stress or while feeling unwell, the researchers found that air pollution made bees sluggish in their daily activities and could be shortening their lives.

<https://theconversation.com/air-pollution-could-be-making-honey-bees-sick-new-study-144155>

Wednesday 16th September

Today is World Ozone Day. This year, we celebrate 35 years of the Vienna Convention and 35 years of global ozone layer protection. When scientists working in the late 1970s discovered that humanity was creating a hole in this protective shield, they raised the alarm. The hole – caused by ozone-depleting gases (ODSs) used in aerosols and cooling, such as refrigerators and air-conditioners – was threatening to increase cases of skin cancer and cataracts, and damage plants, crops, and ecosystems. The global response was decisive. The slogan for this year, 'Ozone for life', reminds us that not only is ozone crucial for life on Earth, but that we must continue to protect the ozone layer for future generations. In this year of the coronavirus pandemic that has brought such social and economic hardship, the ozone treaties' message of working together in harmony and for the collective good is more important than ever.

<https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/ozone-life-35-years-ozone-layer-protection>

Thursday 17th September

Frankfurt-based Deutsche Bank is joining a lengthening list of European lenders and insurance companies that say they won't back new oil sands projects. The German bank said ... its new fossil fuels policy will also prohibit investing in projects that use hydraulic fracturing or fracking in countries with scarce water supplies, and all new oil and gas projects in the Arctic region. It says its ban on oil sands financing, effective immediately, will include exploration, production, transport or processing, seemingly including oil sands pipelines and upgraders or refineries.

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/deutsche-bank-says-it-won-t-back-an-new-oil-sands-or-coal-projects-1.1471404>

Friday 18th September

The Great British Beach Clean week starts today. The Marine Conservation Society's iconic annual event has been leading the way in tackling ocean pollution for 26 years, helping make some of the most significant impacts on beach litter ever - the plastic bag charge, banning microplastics in personal care products, better wet wipe labelling, and supporting a tax on single-use plastic items. Last year 11 tonnes were collected on beaches on this one weekend. This year the need is as great as ever, with more people staying in the UK and enjoying British beaches.

<https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/greatbritishbeachclean>

Saturday 19th September

The National Infrastructure Commission has stated that up to 65% of the UK's energy demand could be met by renewable generation within a decade - increasing the proportion from