

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/Report--Green-recovery-would-cut-global-emissions-by-7--and-create-millions-of-jobs/>

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please email:

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Picture on front cover: Autumn leaves by Emma King

Websites accessed 24th October 2020

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



November 2020

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.”

Luke 12v6

“He that plants trees loves others besides himself.”

Thomas Fuller

Sunday 1st November

Father, we pray for a vision of your world as your love would make it:
A world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor;
A world where the benefits of life are fairly shared;
A world where nations, races, cultures and religions live with mutual respect;
A world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love, and that we may have the courage and inspiration to play our part in building it.

Monday 2nd November

Norway's Supreme Court set to rule on whether the country can keep searching for new Arctic oil. Almost all of Norway's electricity comes from hydropower and its domestic emissions are relatively low, meaning the country is often perceived as clean and sustainable. Yet this contrasts with the trillions it has accumulated from four decades of producing oil for export, increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere. Norway is the seventh largest exporter of emissions in the world, and its emissions from exported oil and gas are ten times greater than the country's direct emissions. This is known as the Norwegian paradox, and on

November 4 2020 the country's supreme court will hear a crucial case that will highlight the issue... [T]his [case] focuses on whether the court can direct the government on what action to take – specifically, to stop issuing licenses for further oil exploitation.

<https://theconversation.com/norways-supreme-court-set-to-rule-on-whether-the-country-can-keep-searching-for-new-arctic-oil-148485>

Tuesday 3rd November

Today are the US elections. The result either way will have a huge impact on climate, nature and the global environment in the future. Here is one set of assessments on the Presidential candidates and their environmental credentials:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/tags/trump-vs-biden-whats-stake-climate>

Wednesday 4th November

Tonight is the next in Green Christian's series of workshops – "Developing communication approaches for Green issues". Staffan Engstrom has worked with many different organisations on strategy development for over 20 years. Attitudes towards climate have been evolving quickly over recent years,

the EU's plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050. EU countries spent 159 billion euros (\$188 billion) on energy subsidies in 2018, according to a Commission report published this month. Nearly a third of that went on fossil fuels.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201022140618-ep9ta/>

Saturday 28th November

Today is the start of National Tree Week, marking the start of the winter tree planting season. The main focus of the week is to plant more trees in schools and communities. It started in 1973 as a response to the Dutch Elm disease – *Plant a tree in '73* and the Tree Council was born. Pray for lots of trees to be planted in the right places, despite the covid restrictions, and for a new generation of tree enthusiasts to be created.

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week/>

Sunday 29th 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 30th November

If all major nations developed strong plans for a green recovery from Covid-19, global annual emissions would be 7% lower in 2030 than in 2019 and millions of new jobs would be created in sectors including energy, transport and materials. That is according to a new report from the We Mean Business Coalition, which has been engaging dozens of corporates with the global green recovery movement over the past few months. The report models a 'return to business-as-usual' scenario against a green recovery scenario globally, in terms of cost to governments; greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; economic returns and jobs created. In the green recovery scenario, policy supports are rolled out at scale for energy efficiency; wind and solar power; upgrading electricity grids; tree planting and electric vehicles (EVs). On the latter, the introduction of national car scrappage schemes in which subsidies are only provided to pure EVs is modelled.

enormous task of restoring degraded habitats across the planet.

<https://theconversation.com/four-reasons-why-restoring-nature-is-the-most-important-endeavour-of-our-time-147365>

Wednesday 25th November

Here, [are] four key reasons why ecological restoration is the most important endeavour of our time. If we are to reverse the ecological crisis that we are currently facing, and protect biodiversity for itself and for future generations, we must turn pledges into immediate action and restore our ecosystems on a global level.

- Our food systems depend on healthy soils. The revival of plants, crops and forests depends on the revival of degraded soils.
- Ecosystem degradation is contributing to our failing relationship with nature: people's accepted view of ecological conditions are continually lowered, a phenomenon known as shifting baseline syndrome.
- Indigenous cultures and knowledge is being lost
- The restoration of ecosystems is intrinsically linked to the restoration of human health.

<https://theconversation.com/four-reasons-why-restoring-nature-is-the-most-important-endeavour-of-our-time-147365>

Thursday 26th November

ArcelorMittal produces more steel than any other company. It is also taking a leading role in developing technologies to reduce CO₂ emissions from steel-making. [S]teel is essential for our economy but it is also responsible for 8 percent of the world's carbon emissions, according to one estimate. So it's a huge deal that the world's largest steel company, ArcelorMittal, said [in early October] that it is setting a target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/07102020/inside-clean-energy-steel-net-zero>

Friday 27th November

A senior European Union official [has] urged member nations to stop subsidising fossil fuels responsible for greenhouse gases which are undermining the bloc's policies to tackle climate change. "The European Green Deal is clear: fossil fuel subsidies have to end," EU Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson told the European Parliament ... referring to

and there is now an urgent need to develop new approaches to address communications to address the current issues including: climate change denial, complacency, consumerism, eco-anxiety, and the role of faith. This session is designed to discuss the key issues and develop new approaches for communication. Free, but you need to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYrduqgrzMjG9Co4rOf-ikjKwXotpMtNdfi>

Thursday 5th November

A pair of Persian leopards, a species that numbers less than 50 individuals in the Russian Federation, have been released as part of a WWF captive breeding program to try and revitalize a declining species. Kodor (male) and Laba (female) were born and brought up in a special leopard breeding and training center in Sochi National Park, which was established in the Caucasus Mountains back in 2009. They were released as adults, having learned independence, hunting skills, and socialization within the safety of captivity to ensure they stand a chance at surviving long enough to help the species recover.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/wild-persian-leopards-reintroduced-to-russia/>

Friday 6th November

Even if nations do not bolster their climate targets, renewables will meet 80% of the global growth in electricity demand by 2030, with solar leading the way, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) new World Energy Outlook. The Outlook forecasts that, in a scenario in which national governments deliver on climate and clean energy policies already enshrined in law, solar capacity installations will return to pre-pandemic levels more rapidly than any other renewable energy sub-sector. Record levels of deployment will be recorded in 2023 and then every subsequent year through to the end of the decade.

<https://www.edie.net/news/10/World-Energy-Outlook--IEA-forecasts-boom-for-solar-in-wake-of-Covid-19/>

Saturday 7th November

European funds with \$3.4tn of assets have criticised South Korean and Japanese groups over developing a coal-fired power plant in Vietnam, underscoring mounting pressure from investors over climate change. In a

letter ... published [in October], a consortium of 18 investors — including Nordea Asset Management, Danish state fund MP Pension and the Church of Finland — warned the Japanese banks and South Korean industrial companies over their involvement in Vung Ang 2, a multibillion-dollar project in northern Vietnam. The investors' objections come as big institutions increasingly restructure their global portfolios away from fossil fuels and sharpen their focus on environmental, social and governance issues. The development also highlights the growing divestment risk for companies that continue to invest in polluting projects.

<https://ccbriefing.corporate-citizenship.com/2020/10/21/daily-media-briefing-1645/#1>

Sunday 8th November

Father, we thank you for your great gifts of wisdom and ingenuity. Help us to place them wholly at your service in the quest for technologies to protect the world that you created, and all the creatures that live in it.

Monday 9th November

Lack of inclusive disaster response policies are leaving disabled people in Pakistan more vulnerable. Climate change's impacts on Pakistan are

already widespread and intense. Melting glaciers, heat waves, and a swarm of locusts are among the list of the climate-related disasters that the country has had to endure in the last couple of months alone. Those who are at the highest risk during disasters - as they are across the world - are disabled people. A recent report - the result of a historic resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2018 - examines the impacts of climate change on the rights of disabled people and makes recommendations about states' human rights obligations in the context of climate action.

<https://theecologist.org/2020/oct/15/climate-crisis-policies-must-be-inclusive>

Tuesday 10th November

Forested areas greater than the size of the Netherlands have been burned in Indonesia in the past five years, with 30% of the fires occurring on pulpwood and palm oil concessions, environmental group Greenpeace said [in October]. Greenpeace said analysis of official data showed 4.4 million hectares (10.8 million acres) of land burned over 2015 to 2019, with 1.3 million hectares of that lying in the concession areas. The group's report said eight of the 10 palm companies

[EU-s-biodiversity-funding--despite-criticism/](#)

Sunday 22nd November

"We must do what we conceive to be the right thing and not bother our heads or burden our souls with whether we're going to be successful, because if we don't do the right thing, we'll be doing the wrong thing and we'll just be part of the disease and not part of the cure." (E.F. Schumacher)

Lord God, strengthen our weak wills and our feeble frames so that we may work tirelessly for the fulfilment of your promise for the redemption of all creation from the bondage of corruption. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

Monday 23rd November

Wealthy nations are giving less money to poorer ones for climate projects than their official statistics make out, according to analysis by Oxfam. In a report published [in October], the anti-poverty charity found that nearly 80% of climate finance to developing countries took the form of loans, rather than grants. Poor nations were expected to pay richer countries back, often for investment in projects with

weak climate credentials. "The excessive use of loans and the provision of non-concessional finance in the name of climate assistance is an overlooked scandal," the report said.

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/10/20/oxfam-rich-countries-not-delivering-100bn-climate-finance-promise/>

Tuesday 24th November

Ecosystem degradation is a global phenomenon. It is expected that by 2050, 95% of Earth's land will be degraded. A whopping 24 billion tons of soil have already been eroded by unsustainable agricultural practices. This land degradation is the leading cause of losses of ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycling and climate regulation. These functions sustain life on Earth. It is recognised that this constitutes a crisis. At a UN summit this September, more than 70 world leaders – bar those from the US, China or Brazil – signed the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, promising to clamp down on pollution, eliminate the dumping of plastic waste and strengthen environmental agreements worldwide... Next year will mark the start of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, aimed at addressing the

(CCAMLR) was created and charged with the development of international fishing rules for Antarctica's Southern Ocean in reaction to concerns over Antarctic fisheries. Since then, the Commission has established two marine protected areas (MPAs)... Now, three new MPAs are under consideration by CCAMLR: the Weddell Sea, the East Antarctic, and the Antarctic Peninsula. Together, the establishment of these new MPAs would expand Antarctic protections to include 20% of the Southern Ocean – or 1% of the world's oceans.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/allenelizabeth/2020/10/06/antarctic-commission-pursues-largest-conservation-action-ever-taken/#23a060fd2c73>

Friday 20th November

HSBC has become the latest bank to commit to achieving net-zero financed emissions, announcing ... that it intends to align its portfolio of investments and debt financing with global climate targets by mid-century. The bank, currently Europe's second largest financier of fossil fuels, has committed to reaching net-zero across its supply chain and operations by 2030, before reaching net-zero across its customer portfolio 20 years later.

The pledge does not include any firm commitments to phasing out support of fossil fuel companies, but confirms the bank's plans to channel between \$75 billion and \$1 trillion of financing and investment over the next 10 years to support its customers' transition towards net zero emissions.

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/hsbc-latest-bank-pledge-net-zero-financed-emissions-mid-century>

Saturday 21st November

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), voted on [in October] in the European Parliament and Council, will remain by far the biggest funding source for biodiversity protection schemes at EU level, despite claims that it has encouraged intensive and damaging farming. Funding allocated under the policy's Rural Development fund currently makes up around two thirds of the money member states put towards biodiversity and species protection. ... [T]he Council voted to ring-fence 20% of direct payments from the CAP for 'eco-schemes' in an effort to 'green' the policy, but environmentalists say this is far from enough.

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/Common-Agricultural-Policy-to-remain-part-of->

with the largest burned areas in their concessions for the five years have not been sanctioned.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201022033822-19xos/>

Wednesday 11th November

Banned and disused chemicals from our more industrial past continue to poison wildlife in rivers throughout the UK. But since these pollutants tend to exist in low concentrations in water and sediments, their modern influence is somewhat hidden. Animals accumulate chemicals over longer periods of time though, and in new research, [researchers from Newcastle University have] discovered how these toxic relics are funnelled through food chains to contaminate entire ecosystems.... In rivers with the highest concentrations of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers), the invertebrate prey was dominated by freshwater shrimp, which are good at tolerating pollution but make a nutritionally poor meal for dippers. In these rivers, dippers accumulated more toxic chemicals in their eggs as they were having to eat a greater number of this low-quality and highly contaminated prey.

<https://theconversation.com/pollutants-banned-for-over-30-years-linger-in-uk-rivers-our-wildlife-is-the-evidence-145109>

Thursday 12th November

In an effort to restore Singapore's once-rich mangrove forest ecosystems, the nation is embarking on a 1 million tree planting spree in hopes that they can save numerous bird, reptile, and tree species from extinction, and provide a ton of valuable ecosystem services. The development of the small island into a world economic juggernaut which has brought billions in foreign investment currency to impoverished East Asian and Indo-Pacific communities has also replaced many of the island's original mangrove forests with urban infrastructure. The government is also sponsoring the creation of rooftop gardens, curbside foliage, and other green city projects like therapy garden parks.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/singapore-to-plant-1-million-trees-bringing-parks-to-people/>

Friday 13th November

The RSPB is calling for new regulation and better enforcement of existing laws for the most intensive forms of

gamebird shooting in the UK, driven grouse shooting and the practice of releasing tens of millions of non-native pheasants and partridges into the countryside each year. At its AGM ... the RSPB's Chair of Council, Kevin Cox, announced the results of the organisation's review on gamebird shooting and associated land management, concluding that there is a need for urgent reform. The review found that self-regulation by the shooting community had failed to address the environmental impacts anywhere near adequately and as a result the RSPB is taking a tougher stance on these most intense forms of shooting.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/the-rspb-announces-call-for-new-regulation-of-gamebird-shooting/>

Saturday 14th November

Representatives from the likes of Tesco, Waitrose, Aldi and the Co-op have signed an open letter to Ministers calling for a ban on plastics which are only degradable in industrial conditions with chemical additives. The letter urges the UK to follow suit from the EU and implement a legally binding ban on oxo-degradable plastics. This law will not be

transposed after the Brexit transition period. Oxo-degradable plastics have proven controversial for years. They are technically degradable and some strains do break down outside of industrial conditions. But studies have found that some strains simply break into smaller and smaller pieces, resulting in microplastic pollution, while others need to be exposed to additives under industrial conditions for degradation to begin.

<https://www.edie.net/news/5/Supermarket-and-packaging-giants-call-for-UK-wide-ban-on-degradable-plastics/>

Sunday 15th November

Help us, Father, so to deal with the things that we possess that they may never possess us. May we so order our lifestyle that we may tread lightly on your earth. May all the good things that you have entrusted to us be used in your service and for the glory of your Kingdom.

Monday 16th November

In a survey of 150 executives from some of the world's biggest fashion firms, including H&M Group, Puma and Adidas, 60% named implementing sustainability measures as their top strategic priority in the wake of Covid-19. When asked to list their top

sustainability priority, respondents most commonly cited the sourcing of sustainably produced raw materials and the sourcing of greater quantities of recycled materials. Improving circular economy provisions and reducing emissions in line with climate science were also frequent answers and investing in new technologies was also found to be a common goal... Most respondents, however, said they are not planning to produce less product in the name of sustainability.

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/Report--6-in-10-fashion-giants-see-sustainability-as-key-priority--amid-Covid-19/>

Tuesday 17th November

If 10 per cent of the global population switched from eating meat to plant-based alternatives, 176 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions could be avoided annually, a study from alternative meat investor Blue Horizon and PwC has found. On top of generating emissions reductions that it would take 2.7 billion trees to offset, the switch would also free up 38 million hectares of land, an area roughly the size of Germany, and save 8.3 billion cubic metres of water

annually, according to the new analysis.

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4022156/study-swapping-tenth-meat-intake-veg-free-land-size-germany>

Wednesday 18th November

Australia's Great Barrier Reef has lost more than half its coral in the last three decades and scientists fear the loss caused by frequent bleaching will compromise its ability to recover. Record-breaking temperatures that triggered bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 have meant fewer small, baby corals and breeding adult ones, said Terry Hughes, professor at ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University.

"That means the resilience of the reef, its ability to bounce back from recurrent mass bleaching events, has been compromised," said Hughes.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201014045325-17amu/>

Thursday 19th November

While restrictions have ... been implemented to reduce the exploitation of Antarctic resources, only 5% of Antarctica's Southern Ocean is currently protected. In 1980, the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources