

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210121000014-d77xj/>

Saturday 27th February

Heinz is replacing plastic shrink-wrap packaging across its multipack canned products for sustainably certified paperboard, a move which will reduce the company's plastics footprint by 550 tonnes. Heinz is switching to a paperboard sleeve for multipack canned products. The new "eco-sleeve" is fully recyclable and is approved by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The new sleeve also uses 50% less material than a fully enclosed box and 10% less than traditional paperboard sleeves. Heinz estimates that a rollout across all canned products and major UK retailers will remove 550 tonnes of shrink-wrap packaging. The first products – a selection of Heinz Soups – are available in the new packaging, with a UK-wide launch to commence in Autumn 2021.

<https://www.edie.net/news/5/Heinz-ditches-plastics-for-canned-product-packaging/>

Sunday 28th February

Loving God, help us in our unbelief, our apathy and our distractions. Help us to do the things we ought to do, and not do the things we ought not to do.

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: a valley in Kashmir, Philip Clarkson Webb.

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

February 2021

Show the Love Blessing 2021

May our loving God,
who created the world and all that is in it,
Inspire us to delight in our beautiful home,
And to live in wonder, peace and joy.
May our living God keep our hearts turned to loving our
neighbour and to respecting the creation we share.
May our merciful God help us to live this week in
goodness and hope,
And fill us with God's peace.
Amen

Ash Vale Chapel Poetry Group



Monday 1st February

Show the Love is an annual three week celebration, starting today, of everything we care about and want to protect from the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Every February, since 2015, people from across the UK use the power of green hearts to join together and ask politicians to put aside their differences and tackle the climate crisis. The past year has been a year like no other. The devastating impacts of the pandemic have impacted us all, and made us value what we love more than ever.

<https://www.theclimatcoalition.org/show-the-love>

Tuesday 2nd February

In 2020, Britain's electrical use was the lowest it had been since 1983. This wasn't entirely due to COVID – demand for electricity had been falling for more than a decade anyway, thanks to savings from energy-efficient appliances, moving industry offshore and consumers becoming more careful as costs increased. But demand will bounce back after COVID. And the electrification of transport and heat, both critical to achieving net-zero emissions, will require lots more electricity in future.

<https://theconversation.com/britains-electricity-use-is-at-its-lowest-for-decades-but-will-never-be-this-low-again-152360>

Wednesday 3rd February

Overall, 2020 was not a particularly windy year but wind still managed to generate more than a quarter of Britain's electrical energy. Broadly speaking, generation from other renewables and coal were all similar to 2019. Reductions in generation came mostly from gas, while nuclear output also dropped to its lowest level since 1982. Net imports were also down on recent years. From a climate perspective, major power production was coal-free for more than 5,000 hours in 2020 – more than half the year. This

meant the electricity that was generated was on average Britain's cleanest ever.

<https://theconversation.com/britains-electricity-use-is-at-its-lowest-for-decades-but-will-never-be-this-low-again-152360>

Thursday 4th February

A landmark ruling from Panama's Supreme Court has ceded much of the largest nature reserve in Central America to Indigenous land claims. The Naso tribe will share management responsibilities of 400,000 acres of land within La Amistad National Park and Palo Seco Nature Reserve after the court granted them authority to create a comarca: a semi-autonomous tribal kingship, in the two parks. The Naso live in small villages in Northwest Panama where they practice subsistence farming and maintain their own forests, language, and culture.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/panamas-naso-tribe-land-rights-claim-granted-in-national-park/>

Friday 5th February

RSPB Scotland has voiced concerns about bird populations if the Stornoway Wind Farm proposal goes ahead in its current form. A 33-turbine wind farm proposed near Stornoway is predicted to have significant negative impacts on important bird populations on Lewis, including establishing hen harriers and white-tailed eagles. RSPB Scotland has submitted an objection to the application, due to the likely scale of impact on birds through risk of collision, displacement and disturbance. The charity is seeking the removal of six turbines. Robin Reid, Conservation Officer for the RSPB on the Outer Hebrides said: "...We are supportive of renewable energy development, as it is needed to combat the climate emergency, but proposals must be at a scale and located in areas where they do not have a detrimental impact on wildlife."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-19/cerrejon-coal-mine-colombia-in-environment-rights-abuse-probe/13069168>

Tuesday 23rd February

Internationally-funded climate adaptation projects reinforce, redistribute and create new sources of vulnerability in developing countries, a review led by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) and the University of Oxford has found. The paper, published today in *World Development*, examined 33 empirical studies documenting projects with evidence of maladaptation, to understand how and why this had happened. Twenty critical adaptation scholars around the world contributed to the collection and analysis of cases. "The fact that adaption projects are making people even worse off in the face of climate change than they were before is worrying," said Dr Lisa Schipper, Environmental Social Science Research Fellow at Oxford's Environmental Change Institute. "Our findings go beyond unintended negative consequences, to suggest that adaptation interventions risk becoming tools for marginalisation and instruments of power abuse."

<https://theecologist.org/2021/jan/22/adaptation-funds-increase-climate-vulnerability>

Wednesday 24th February

Tonight's Green Christian workshop at 7pm is *Establishing an organic allotment, for environment, health, and community* with Marisa Mann. This workshop focuses on the practical aspects of developing your own organic allotment, and the associated benefits in terms of health, environment, fitness, and community engagement. Marisa Mann is an artist focused on humanitarian issues and the environment. She was born in the foothills of the Himalayas and raised in environments heavily affected by international conflicts. Register in advance for

this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZUofumtrj8oGdXxnsZY8Sr1jRo4wLacakQO>

Thursday 25th February

The European bison's population has increased sufficiently for it to be removed from IUCN's list of vulnerable species. Thanks to long-term conservation work, the population has increased to more than 6,200, up from a 2003 figure of only 1,800. Rather than vulnerable, the European bison is now classified as "almost threatened." The 5-year LIFE Bison project started in 2016 and is set to end March 30, 2021. Its mission is to create a viable population of bison in Romania that would breed in the wild, promoting biodiversity. The project also aims to use bison as an ecotourism draw that will help local communities. The LIFE Bison project is co-funded by the LIFE Programme, the European Union's funding instrument for the environment and climate action that was created in 1992.

<https://inhabitat.com/the-european-bison-population-is-no-longer-vulnerable/>

Friday 26th February

For three generations, the family of Suwit Rattanachaisi has farmed a plot of land in a forest in northeastern Thailand's Chaiyaphum province, growing cassava and maize while living in a modest home a few miles away. The forest was declared a national park in 1992, and under a forest reclamation law passed in 2014, Suwit and dozens of other farmers from Ban Sabwai village were evicted. With no other means to make a living, many returned to the Sai Thong National Park. In 2016, authorities charged 14 villagers, including Suwit and nine women, with trespassing. Out on bail, they are awaiting a Supreme Court hearing while they try to reach an agreement with local authorities for a community title to the land.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/interior-least-tern-leaves-endangered-species-list/>

Friday 19th February

UK Government faces fresh accusations of backtracking on post-Brexit environment pledges. MPs and Lords, including former Shadow Environment Secretary Lord Clark, are urging the Government to prove that it won't export low-quality plastics to developing nations for recycling, arguing that policy loopholes currently exist. The UK has exported around two-thirds of its plastic waste over the past ten years, according to campaign group A Plastic Planet. Much of this material will have been sent to non-OECD countries which often do not have the infrastructure to process it. As a result, plastic is regularly dumped or burned. In its Manifesto ahead of the 2019 General Election, the Conservative Party pledged to end exports of plastic waste to developing nations – both because of the environmental and social issues which can result and due to an appetite to grow the UK's domestic recycling sector after Brexit. The commitment is also noted in the Environment Bill. Now, more than 20 MPs have voiced concerns that the Government is failing to uphold this promise.

<https://www.edie.net/news/5/UK-Government-faces-fresh-accusations-of-backtracking-on-post-Brexit-environment-pledges/>

Saturday 20th February

Once the UK left the EU, it would be free to invest in gene editing of crops and livestock to “feed the world”. That's what the prime minister, Boris Johnson, told the House of Commons in 2019. And following the UK's formal departure from the EU in January 2021, the government quickly launched a public consultation on the issue. Whereas GM crops typically contain the DNA of two different species, gene editing is more precise and allows scientists to tweak the

DNA of a single species by itself. Today, many plant scientists see a clear difference between first-generation genetic modifications and the “new plant breeding techniques” of gene editing. These include tools like CRISPR, which can be used like “genetic scissors” to make changes to a plant that mimic natural variation. In the US and Canada, for example, a non-browning mushroom has found a quick path to market thanks to breeders' ability to “knock-out” the gene that controls the browning enzyme, improving shelf-life and potentially minimising food waste.

<https://theconversation.com/gene-edited-crops-are-now-a-reality-but-will-the-public-be-on-board-153663>

Sunday 21st February

Lord, you know the obstacles your people face in adapting their lifestyles to the new imperative of sustainable living. Support the trailblazers, we pray – those who are committed to change and can lead us towards a better way of living. Help us all to set our sights on zero-carbon living by 2030 and to work together to achieve that goal.

Monday 22nd February

Three of the world's biggest miners including BHP could be forced to close down Latin America's largest open pit mine, with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) set to investigate environmental destruction and alleged human rights abuses. The probe comes just months after the United Nations called on BHP, Anglo American and Glencore to suspend some operations at the massive Cerrejon thermal coal mine in Colombia, in the La Guajira region, near the border with Venezuela. The mine has operated for 30 years and has long been accused by the local community, including the Indigenous Wayuu people, of forced evictions, pollution and human rights abuses.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/stomoway-windfarm/>

Saturday 6th February

C40 is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. Its Executive Director, Mark Watts, has highlighted ten things to look out for in 2021. He says “Last year defied expectations to become a landmark year for the climate, as a wave of countries announced net-zero targets, the price of renewables continued to drop while fossil fuel majors sustained serious reductions in share price, and the pandemic opened a window for us to rethink the way we live.” Some of his ten things to look out for include:

- Economic stimulus to fund a green and just recovery
- Climate talks that deliver commitment to immediate action
- A green 14th 5 Year Plan in China
- Greater integration of racial justice into climate policies

https://www.c40.org/blog_posts/climate-and-cities-what-to-watch-out-for-in-2021

Sunday 7th February

Loving God, you have given humankind matchless gifts of skill and ingenuity. Help us now, in this time of crisis, to pool all our resources and work together, in your Name, to save your world from the dire consequences of our ignorance, greed and folly.

Monday 8th February

A new WWF report *Deforestation fronts: Drivers and responses in a changing world*. has revealed how and why our planet has lost an area the size of California to deforestation in just over a decade. This shocking loss, totalling 43 million hectares in the tropics and sub-tropics alone, demonstrates the need for urgent action

to halt deforestation and restore our forests – so vital for the future of people and nature. The report highlights 24 “deforestation fronts” across Africa, Asia, Australia and South America where forest loss is accelerating rapidly. These places have been hard hit by a variety of activities, ranging from the clearance of land for growing crops and livestock to the building of roads and development of mining operations. But the impacts aren't only felt by the people and wildlife who live in and around these forests – deforestation contributes to the global climate crisis, as well as makes future pandemics more likely by increasing the risk of disease jumping from wildlife to people and their livestock.

<https://updates.panda.org/world-can-still-act-against-alarming-deforestation-rates>

Tuesday 9th February

Oxford City Council has approved local air pollution targets through to 2025 that are stricter than the national legal target. In what it claims is a UK first, members of the Council's cabinet voted this week to approve an Air Quality Action Plan spanning 2021-2025. The Plan is headlined by a commitment to ensure that levels of NO₂ are no higher than 30 micrograms per cubic metre of air (30 µg/m³) by the end of 2025. Currently, the UK Government's target is to limit NO₂ levels to 40 µg/m³. These limits could be altered via the Environment Bill. Oxford City Council said in a statement that it wanted to go further, as some research has concluded that this is not a safe limit. NO₂ has repeatedly been linked to reduced lung function and inflammation of the airways.

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/Oxford-approves-UK-s-first-local-air-quality-targets/>

Wednesday 10th February

Tonight at 7pm is a Green Christian online workshop on Forest Church with Neil Clark. Forest Church is a powerful way for people to

connect their faith and spirituality with nature, something that has been long missing in many people's lives. It is about "connecting with who you are, deep down, with nature and with God". Neil Clark has been involved in Forest Church movements for 8 years and works in environmental sustainability. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-6prD0rHtCaD80I-rTSgW02fga7CEHF>

Thursday 11th February

Total has acquired a combination of solar, wind and storage projects at an average rate of 1 GW per month since January last year. [It] has acquired a stake in India's Adani Green Energy (AGEL), a move that continues to push the French oil major ahead of its European peers when it comes to renewables. AGEL has 3 gigawatts of operating renewable capacity, another 3 GW under construction and 8.6 GW in development, adding up to 14.6 GW. The company is targeting a total of 25 GW by 2025. It claims to be the world's largest solar developer. In June 2020, it won the world's largest solar tender, an 8 GW auction in India. <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/total-buys-stake-in-adani-green-energy-the-worlds-biggest-solar-developer>

Friday 12th February

Australia's government is in no rush to sign up to a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, although it recognises the importance of working toward that goal, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in an interview published [in late January]. Morrison's conservative government, in a surprise change of policy last [December], said it would achieve its 2030 carbon emissions pledge under the Paris climate agreement without counting carbon credits from over-achieving on its previous climate targets. But in the interview with *The Australian* newspaper,

Morrison said he will not take a new 2030 or 2035 emissions reduction target to a key United Nations climate conference in Glasgow in November.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210123005656-8fm6e/>

Saturday 13th February

Britain's natural gas network operators set out a strategy for delivering the U.K.'s first hydrogen-heated town by 2030. The Hydrogen Network Plan ... follows Prime Minister Boris Johnson's commitment to harnessing the clean fuel's potential in his November 10-point plan for a "Green Industrial Revolution." Enthusiasm for hydrogen is booming, with many countries seeing it key to decarbonizing some of the most polluting sectors. "Building the U.K.'s first hydrogen town is not just about replacing the natural gas that most of our homes rely upon today; it's about reducing our carbon emissions in a safe and secure way," said Chris Train, ex-chief executive officer of Cadent Gas Ltd. and head of the Gas Goes Green program at the Energy Networks Association.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/renewables-energy-transition/hydrogen/uk-hydrogen/292957/hydrogen-uk-gas-grid/>

Sunday 14th February

As Green Christian's contribution to The Climate Coalition's 2021 *Show the Love* Campaign, we are asking churches and individuals to use this *Show the Love* prayer and Blessing (see front cover) in worship today - Saint Valentine's Day.

O God who is love
Let love empower our compassion
Let love embrace each and everyone
Let love unite humans and non-human
In restorative co-existence.

O Jesus, love come down to earth
May we honour the earth
May we honour all that dwells in the earth
May we be reconciled with the earth
Become what we are, of the earth.

O Spirit of love
Grant us a spirit of humility
Grant us a spirit of carefulness
Grant us a spirit of friendship
For the earth and all that dwells with us here.

Toni Bennett

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer/>

Monday 15th February

The UK Government is being accused of backtracking on non-regression pledges around post-Brexit food standards, after MPs voted against amendments to the trade bill this week. Bodies including the Aldersgate Group, the National Farmers Union, WWF, Greenpeace and ClientEarth, along with big businesses like John Lewis Partnership and BASF, had been urging ministers to accept an amendment filed last month. The amendment was designed by members of the House of Lords to give MPs and Lords more of a say on the shape of all future trade deals, holding the Government to account over its non-regression commitments on environmental standards, animal welfare and protecting workers. But a vote on the amendment [in January] came as a disappointment to proponents. 277 MPs voted in favour of the amendment but 353 MPs voted to scrap it. Only a handful of Tory MPs backed the proposed changes.

https://www.edie.net/news/11/Trade-Bill--UK-Government-votes-to-allow-food-imports-with-lower-environmental-standards---

Tuesday 16th February

Tesla Inc chief and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk ... took to Twitter [in January] to promise a \$100 million prize for development of the "best" technology to capture carbon dioxide emissions. Capturing planet-warming emissions is becoming a critical part of many plans to keep climate change in check, but very little progress has been made on the technology to date, with efforts focused on cutting emissions rather than taking carbon out of the air. The International Energy Agency said late last year that a sharp rise in the deployment of carbon capture technology was needed if countries are to meet net-zero emissions targets.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210121233521-ie7t3/>

Wednesday 17th February

Today is Ash Wednesday. Lent can be a good time to give up or change something in our lives that might be bad for us, or the planet. Let's choose wisely and be steadfast in our commitment to God and creation care.

Thursday 18th February

The Interior Least Tern, a bird which survived waves of attacks from dam building, hat making, and more, can now be classified as an Endangered Species Act success story [in the US] as its numbers have increased 900% over 35 years. It was announced [earlier this year] by the Fish and Wildlife Service that it would now leave the Endangered Species List, having returned to around 480 breeding colonies, along 2,800 miles of riverways, in 18 states across the Great Plains and the Lower Mississippi Valley. "Dozens of states, federal agencies, tribes, businesses and conservation groups have worked tirelessly over the course of three decades to successfully recover these birds," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Aurelia Skipwith said in a statement.