

and sea grass meadows have a significant role to play a role in helping the UK hit net zero by 2050. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-study-shows-importance-of-nature-in-hitting-net-zero>

Sunday 30th May

Compassionate God, you know our hearts and share our sorrows. We are hurt by the despoiling of the living Earth, which we love. We are angry at the loss we contemplate. We long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear. Turn our grief to active love
Turn our anger to energy for repair of the world
Turn our guilt to solidarity and by your forgiveness make us whole with all creation
Andii Bowsher
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 31st May

Industry and green groups in Australia [have] called ... for the government to step up action to cut carbon emissions after it failed to match ambitious new targets pledged by the United States and

others at U.S. President Joe Biden's climate summit. Australia is the highest per capita carbon emitter among the world's richest nations, yet Prime Minister Scott Morrison made no pledge at the summit on Thursday to hit net zero by 2050. Nor did Morrison proffer any change to Australia's commitment under the Paris Agreement to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% from 2005 levels by 2030, although speaking to media [in April] he left the door open to a new target. <https://news.trust.org/item/20210423072851-svr1q/>

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: *Lilium martagon*, by Philip Clarkson Webb

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

May 2021



“The Lord answered Job out of the storm and said: 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? . . . Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you understand. who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line along it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?’”
(Job 38.1-7)

“The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.”
(John Paul II)

Saturday 1st May

Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement. Prayer points for May are on their website.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now: (prayer from Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief)

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/>

Sunday 2nd May

Loving God,
You saw everything that you had made – and it was very good.
We are awed by what we see that is still good but weep for what we have spoilt.
Give us the heart and will in our living and praying to restore all creation to the very good.

So we may show our love to you, the Lord of love. Amen

Revd. Linda Atkin

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 3rd May

A new initiative to mobilize at least \$1 billion to reward tropical countries for halting deforestation was announced April 22, Earth Day, at the Leaders' Summit on Climate hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden. The initiative, called the LEAF Coalition (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance), will offer significant economic incentives for protecting tropical forests by selling carbon credits for avoided deforestation. Part of the goal is to prevent developing nations from having to choose between ecological integrity and economic progress. Launched by Norway, the U.K. and the U.S., LEAF is a public-private alliance that also involves companies including Amazon, Airbnb, and Bayer.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/governments-companies-pledge-1-billion-for-tropical-forests/>

Thursday 27th May

Belgium will ban biofuels made from soy and palm oil from 2022 onward as part of its effort to combat deforestation, said the European nation's Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Zakia Khattabi on Tuesday. "*These fuels have little or no advantage over conventional fossil fuels from a climate point of view, but lead to deforestation, loss of biodiversity and even human rights violations,*" Khattabi said in a statement. In making the move, Belgium joins Denmark, France, and the Netherlands as other European nations that have barred palm oil-based biodiesel due the crop's association with large-scale conversion of native forests and peatlands for industrial plantations, especially in Malaysia and Indonesia. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/belgium-bans-biofuels-made-from-palm-oil-soy/>

Friday 28th May

The sale of several single-use plastic items including plates and cutlery could be banned in Northern Ireland – but not in the rest of the UK – from 1 January 2022 or sooner. This is

because under the Northern Ireland Protocol, Northern Ireland must transpose "certain articles" of the *Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Directive* relating to placing single-use plastic goods on the market. But because the SUP Directive was not transposed into UK law before the end of the Brexit transitional period last year the government in Westminster is not required to implement the directive's requirements.

<https://larac.org.uk/news/single-use-plastic-bans-could-differ-across-uk>

Saturday 29th May

Researchers from Natural England have developed a picture of the impact that different UK habitats can have in taking carbon out of the atmosphere and helping us hit net zero by 2050, whilst delivering for both biodiversity and conservation. In the most comprehensive report to date on the impact of the nation's landscape on carbon storage and sequestration, researchers found that peatlands and native woodlands are habitats which have the greatest capacity to store carbon, but that many others, including coastal and marine habitats such as saltmarsh

education. The year-long campaigns are set to challenge decision makers to do more to ensure young people's mental health is prioritised in the coming year, to create free, lifelong and inclusive higher education and lastly to stop non-essential single use plastics by 2025. Members of Youth Parliament believe the climate emergency remains one of the biggest threats to our planet. Among many other issues, members across the country have agreed plastic pollution will have a serious impact on our current and future generations.

<https://theecologist.org/2021/apr/20/climate-campaign-launched-youth-parliament>

Tuesday 25th May

Corporate clean energy initiative RE100 now boasts 300 members after Dutch brewer Heineken, Japanese electronics company Epson, global healthcare firm Novartis and battery manufacturer LG Energy Solution pledged to switch their operations to renewables. RE100 is a coalition of companies committed to purchasing 100% renewable power, launched in 2014 to drive corporate uptake of

renewable energy. The new cohort of members means nearly 320 trillion-watt hours of corporate electricity around the world is set to switch to renewable sources in the coming years – equivalent to the electricity consumption of Australia and Italy.

<https://ccbrieffing.corporate-citizenship.com/2021/04/16/daily-media-briefing-1762/#05>

Wednesday 26th May

In 2020, greenhouse gas emissions from Irish power generation and industrial companies – covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme - fell by 6.4 per cent. Emissions decreased by 8.4 per cent from the electricity generation sector, due to more renewable energy and less fossil fuels. The overall decrease in industrial emissions is 3.5 per cent, with the cement industry emissions decreasing and increases recorded for the dairy and pharmaceutical sectors. Greenhouse gas emissions from aviation decreased by 63 per cent compared to 2019, which reflects the significant impact of Covid-19.

<https://www.epa.ie/newsandevents/news/name,70764,en.html>

Tuesday 4th May

WWF, as well as many other organisations, political leaders and scientists, is calling for a global moratorium on deep seabed mining unless and until the environmental, social and economic risks are comprehensively understood; all alternatives to adding more minerals into the resource economy are exhausted; and it is clearly demonstrated that deep seabed mining can be managed in a way that ensures the effective protection of the marine environment and prevents loss of biodiversity. Several major companies have joined the ...moratorium...[including] the BMW Group, Samsung SDI, Google and Volvo Group, who pledge not to source any minerals from the deep sea, to keep mineral resources from the deep sea out of their supply chains and not to finance deep sea mining activities.

<https://updates.panda.org/brands-back-call-to-stop-seabed-mining>

Wednesday 5th May

Tonight's Green Christian workshop should appeal to readers of this prayer guide: it is called Exploring the Way of Life: Prayer and

Devotions, with George Dow. The Green Christian Way of Life offers a framework for living more lightly on the earth and for deeper engagement and shared encouragement. It comprises a set of four disciplines: Prayer and Devotions; Living Gently on the Earth; Public Witness; and Encouragement. The focus of this evening is the first discipline, Prayer and Devotions. George Dow is Green Christian Co-Chair and the Way of Life Co-ordinator. 7pm, free, register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>

Thursday 6th May

Today is an important day for local, regional and devolved national governments across the UK. People in England will be voting for local councillors, and some for regional mayors and the London Assembly. And people in Wales and Scotland are voting today for the Welsh and Scottish Parliaments. Pray for fair and safe elections, and for the candidates who will best protect our environment to be successful.

Friday 7th May

More than 125 mayors from 31 countries have [recently] committed to take the urgent action necessary to tackle the climate crisis. The cities ... pledged to implement immediate actions that will deliver their fair share of the GHG [greenhouse gas] reduction needed to cut emissions in half within the next decade and reach net zero carbon emissions globally by 2050. The total number of cities committed to net-zero through the Cities Race to Zero campaign now stands at 704.

https://www.c40.org/press_releases/cities-committed-race-to-zero

Saturday 8th May

Global energy demand is rebounding rapidly from the Covid-19-related slump, with fossil fuels set to play a major role in meeting this demand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) is warning. In its *2021 Global Energy Review*, the Agency reveals that global energy demand will grow by 4.6% this calendar year, more than offsetting the 4% contraction felt during 2020. Globally, more energy will be consumed this year than in 2019, the report states. While last year's fall in demand affected fossil

fuels more adversely than renewables, the IEA believes that certain fossil fuels, including coal, are already primed for a strong recovery. The year-on-year jump in coal demand is likely to be 60% higher than for renewables, by the IEA's forecasts. Demand growth will largely be led by Asian nations.

<https://www.edie.net/news/10/Global-energy-emissions-set-to-rebound-as-Covid-19-lockdowns-lift--IEA-warns/>

Sunday 9th May

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." (Karl Barth)

Dear Lord, how desperately we need to learn to pray. Yet we are distracted, stubborn and self-centred. In your mercy, dear Lord, help us to love what you desire for us, to desire what you have promised, and to work tirelessly for the growth of your Kingdom on earth. Amen.

Monday 10th May

A \$1 billion cheque for a massive liquified natural gas (LNG) development in Mozambique signed off by the UK government will now be challenged in court by the environmental charity Friends of the

America as way to reduce poverty and migration, Mexico's foreign minister said. ... Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has suggested the U.S. government offer temporary work visas and eventually citizenship to those who take part in the tree-planting program, called "Sembrando Vida," or "Sowing Life." The program aims to create 1.2 million jobs and plant 3 billion additional trees through expansion into southeastern Mexico and Central America.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210424152824-ljwbt/>

Saturday 22nd May

Ingka Group, the world's biggest furniture retailer and owner of most IKEA stores, has earmarked 4 billion euros to invest in wind and solar projects, electric vehicle charging points and other green energy projects by 2030. The investments will focus on adding wind and solar projects in countries including China, India and Australia. The company will also install more electric vehicle charging points in IKEA store carparks, and consider new types of investments in areas such as energy

storage, hydrogen fuel development and charging infrastructure.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/ikea-owner-sets-aside-4-bln-euros-green-power-projects-2021-04-20/>

Sunday 23rd May

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of and care for your Creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your creatures as signs of your wondrous love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable.

Lord, hear our prayer.

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresources/online-resources/prayer-index/sustainability-prayers>

Monday 24th May

The UK Youth Parliament has launched national campaigns calling on the government to address the climate emergency, mental health concerns and access to higher

from hydropower dams, to bycatch, to mercury poisoning. Researchers warn that if these threats intensify, the Amazon's dolphins could go the way of the baiji (*Lipotes vexillifer*) in China, which is now considered extinct following a dam-building spree along the Yangtze.

Researchers across South America are collaborating through the River Dolphins Dashboard to share 20 years of data and help inform conservation and development policies.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/dams-drove-an-asian-dolphin-extinct-they-could-do-the-same-in-the-amazon/>

Wednesday 19th May

Tonight's Green Christian workshop is all about the *Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill* (CEE Bill). Alex Bradbury, the Grassroots Coordinator at the CEE Bill Alliance, will be giving an update on the progress of the bill and outlining some of the ways you can campaign for it at local level. This includes how to get a meeting and talk to your MP, getting your local council(s) to pass a motion in favour of the bill, building a local alliance of organisations,

businesses and community groups to lobby your MP(s) together, and putting on campaign activities such as panel events, open letters, petitions etc. Register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>

Thursday 20th May

An international group of scientists from India and Russia has created edible food films for packaging fruits, vegetables, poultry, meat, and seafood. Films consist of natural ingredients; they are safe for health and the environment. Also, films are water-soluble and dissolve by almost 90% in 24 hours. The research and results of experiments are published in the *Journal of Food Engineering*... According to the authors, no special equipment for the production of films is required. On an industrial scale, it can be created by food products and film manufacturers.

<https://urfu.ru/en/news/35739/>

Friday 21st May

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris will speak with Mexico's president on May 7 about his proposal to expand a tree-planting program to Central

Earth. A judicial review will examine the decision of UK Export Finance (UKEF), the UK government export credit agency, approved by both the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Treasury, over its compliance with the Paris Agreement on climate change. The construction phase alone will increase the greenhouse gas emissions of Mozambique by up to 10 percent by 2022. ... To make matters worse, communities along Mozambique's gas rich coast are already losing their homes, farmland and fisheries to make way for this damaging development.

<https://theecologist.org/2021/apr/26/britains-1-billion-bet-against-climate>

Tuesday 11th May

Despite a raft of announcements, the Leaders Summit on Climate has left us stranded in a world of rising tides, melting glaciers, and deforestation. Even with new national climate commitments from the United States, United Kingdom, China, Canada, and Japan, world governments are yet to outline a clear and solid pathway to the 1.5°C commitment under the legally binding Paris Agreement. Jennifer Morgan,

Executive Director, Greenpeace International: "Governments are shuffling about with the climate crisis, when they are capable but unwilling to run towards the real solutions to prevent climate breakdown and align with 1.5°C. Leaders appear to be adamant about failing us, themselves and the planet, by not upholding the legally binding Paris Agreement."

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/47343/greenpeace-leaders-meagre-steps-on-climate-are-walking-us-to-catastrophe/>

Wednesday 12th May

Saudi Arabia will join the United States, Canada, Norway, and Qatar in forming a new platform for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, the state news agency SPA reported on Saturday. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, will be part of the new "Net Zero Producers Forum", which will discuss ways to achieve net zero carbon emission targets to limit global warming. ... Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said in the past the kingdom aims to

reduce its carbon emissions by generating 50% of the country's energy from renewables by 2030. <https://news.trust.org/item/20210424173829-utqd4/>

Thursday 13th May

The French government is planning to give citizens who want to trade in their old cars a €2,500 grant towards the purchase of an electric bike. The notion has been approved by lawmakers at the National Assembly in a preliminary vote and is part of a more ambitious round of emissions cuts planned for 2040, at which point the French government hopes to have reduced them 40% compared with 1990 levels. The French Federation of Bicycle Users (FUB) told Reuters that, if adopted, France will become the first country to offer such a trade—all in an effort to reduce the number of cars on the road, especially the ones that produce more emissions. <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/france-offers-2500-euro-for-ebike-trade-car/>

Friday 14th May

Pakistan has one of the largest tree-planting programmes in the world – a

ready scheme for boosting employment in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Like many developing countries, though, its capacity to build back better from Covid-19 is limited by a mounting debt burden. The government is developing a novel debt-for-nature scheme to ease its debt woes and accelerate the “10 billion tree tsunami”. Designed by the Finance for Biodiversity initiative, the first-of-its-kind nature performance bond would link debt retirement with nature restoration targets. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/04/16/pakistan-explores-debt-nature-scheme-accelerate-10-billion-tree-tsunami/>

Saturday 15th May

New York City sued three major oil companies for allegedly running deceptive advertising campaigns claiming their products are “cleaner” and “emissions-reducing” while failing to disclose their harmful effects on the climate. The city sued ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, BP and industry trade association the American Petroleum Institute, in state court for “systematically and intentionally deceiving” New Yorkers

about the leading role fossil fuels play in driving climate change. The goal is “attracting new consumers to their fossil fuel products and preventing the mass defection of existing consumers to cleaner alternatives that contribute substantially less to climate change,” the city said in its complaint. <https://ccbriefing.corporate-citizenship.com/2021/04/23/daily-media-briefing-1767/#02>

Sunday 16th May

Dear Father, you know that listening is hard for us. We are so action-orientated, so product-driven, that doing is easier for us than being. Help us to be still and to listen. We want to learn how to rest in the light of your presence until we can be comfortable in that light. Help us, dear Father, to try now. (Richard Foster)

Monday 17th May

A string of big-name fashion brands including Primark, JD Sports and ASOS have joined a new WRAP [Waste and Resources Action Programme] initiative mandating them to halve emissions by 2030, with a longer-term view to reaching

net-zero. Called *Textiles 2030*, the initiative is a spin-off from WRAP's existing *UK Sustainable Textiles Action Plan* and provides brands with updated environmental targets in light of new climate science. Targets are namely halving emissions, against a baseline consistent with the *Paris Agreement's* 1.5°C trajectory, by 2030, with a view to reaching net-zero by 2050 at the latest; and reducing the aggregate water footprint of new products sold by 30%. Signatories will also have to become more circular, with circular economy initiatives going beyond one-off products or collections. More than 60 organisations have already joined the initiative. <https://www.edie.net/news/7/Textiles-2030--Fashion-giants-pledge-to-halve-climate-impact/>

Tuesday 18th May

The tucuxi (*Sotalia fluviatilis*), a river dolphin endemic to the Amazon, has been declared endangered on the IUCN Red List, meaning all the world's freshwater dolphins are now at threat of extinction. The species faces the same threats as another Amazonian cetacean, the pink river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), ranging