

Sunday 27th June

God the Holy Spirit

Come as the wind and cleanse us;

Come as the fire and burn;

Come as the dew and refresh; Convict, convert and concentrate many hearts and lives to your greater glory and our greater good.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Monday 28th June

After a record-tying warm year in 2020, the world is on track for a cooler year in 2021, driven by moderately strong La Niña conditions in the late part of 2020 and early 2021. However, 2021 will almost certainly be one of the Top 10 warmest years since records began in the mid-1800s. Despite cooler temperatures than over the past few years, 2021 will still be well in-line with the long-term warming trend that the world has experienced since 1970. The first four months of 2021 were the seventh warmest start to a year on record so far, cooler than every year since 2015. Temperatures may be a bit warmer during the remaining months of the year, however, as La Niña conditions have already faded.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/state-of-the-climate-2021-off-to-cooler-start-due-to-fading-la-nina>

Tuesday 29th June

The COP Presidency, Mark Carney's Private Finance Hub and the High Level Climate Action Champions are calling for private finance institutions to make ambitious commitments around key events in the remaining six months to COP. They have called for 5 commitments:

1. Join a net zero alliance as part of the Glasgow financial alliance for net zero
2. New finance in developing countries and emerging markets for net zero and adaptation.
3. Coal phase out
4. Climate disclosure within portfolios
5. Nature-positive finance

<https://ukcop26.org/call-for-climate-action-announcements-from-private-finance-institutions-ahead-of-cop26/>

Wednesday 30th June

Tonight's Green Christian webinar is Exploring the Way of Life: Living Gently on the Earth, 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. Tonight is based on the second discipline. The discipline of Living Gently on the Earth may involve adopting the suggestions contained in Green Christian's 'Nine Ways' and '7 R's' leaflets and includes sharing and accounting for the use of our resources, following the 'LOAF' principles for meals, and engaging in the Joy in Enough challenge to current economic thinking. This session will focus on how Living Gently works in the experiences of Way of Life Companions. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZlkdeur_rjkrGN3lc89PNhXB9hiWL8Tdj4Na

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: Essex coastline, Emma King

Websites accessed 25th May 2021

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

June 2021

Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty.

- John Ruskin

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it.

Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures.

Help us to become instruments of a new creation, Founded on the covenant of your love.

- *The Cry of the Earth*



Tuesday 1st June

Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement. Prayer points for June 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/>

Wednesday 2nd June

Tonight's Green Christian webinar is Living with Climate-grief and Eco-anxiety – an overview of the Deep Waters Journey with Deborah Tomkins. Eco-anxiety and climate grief are major issues for anyone who cares about our planet, and if you are feeling anxious, be assured that you are not alone. Green Christian is developing resources to help Christians and churches to deal with these deep emotional responses to the climate and ecological emergencies. Deborah will be introducing us to some of the key aspects of climate grief and eco-anxiety, as well as explaining how Deep Waters can help with exploring this in a safe and structured way, enabling people to discover renewed courage, clarity and purpose. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcOiOrT4tHNx22oHfL5D5rfvXshDt_bOz

Thursday 3rd June

In Australia, scientists are just beginning to tap [the] potential [of seaweed]. The Aboriginal peoples of Australia were some of the first seaweed innovators in the world. And 45,000 years later on mainland Australia, people are again turning to algae to solve pressing problems. Winberg, a marine ecologist at the University of

Wollongong, has spent decades studying seaweed. She believes seaweed's fast growth rate and ability to absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide can help fight climate change, deacidify the oceans, and change the way we farm, not just in the oceans but also on land. On her farm in New South Wales, Winberg produces seaweed extracts that are used in food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. If seaweed farming is scaled up, algae could replace plastic packaging and common animal feeds such as corn, according to her.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210406-how-kelp-can-help-solve-climate-change>

Friday 4th June

Today Christian Climate Action will be at Canada House, London, to demand that Canada and other G7 countries take active steps to stop oil exploration and fund real alternatives in vulnerable countries. The action is focused on the Canadian High Commission because ReconAfrica, a Canadian listed company is exploring for oil in the Kavango watershed. Development of new oil fields is not compatible with reducing climate change.

"Even preliminary drilling will create vibrations and noise and position infrastructure that will disrupt the migratory paths of animals, frighten them or bring them into fatal conflict with humans", the San people say. *"Oil and gas operations are notorious for gas flaring and accidental oil spills. Such inevitable pollution will be disastrous for the Okavango River, and the water catchments feeding the Okavango Delta."* There will be parallel actions in Namibia, Germany and Canada. <https://christianclimateaction.org/2021/05/16/stop-exploitation-of-the-okavango-delta/>

Saturday 5th June

As Pakistan prepares to host World Environment Day on June 5th, ecosystem restoration, which includes critical ecosystems like mangrove forests, will be the focus. Mr Qureshi, Pakistan's so called Father of the Mangroves, who sadly passed away in December 2020, played a key role in the

chemical companies, as a tool to bully and pressure governments to make the decisions that the corporations want."

<https://theecologist.org/2021/may/17/corporate-courts-threat-insects>

Wednesday 23rd June

Years of satellite imagery and analysis reveals that United Cacao, a company once publicly traded on the London Stock Exchange, deforested nearly 2,000 hectares (about 5,000 acres) of primary forest in the Peruvian Amazon. The evidence refutes the company's narrative that farmers had degraded the land before it arrived. The deforestation, as well as other legal violations, have led to sanctions against a successor to United Cacao's Peruvian subsidiary, now called Tamshi SAC. But Tamshi is now claiming that Mongabay Latam improperly used the term "deforestation" and has sued for defamation.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/05/science-refutes-united-cacaos-claim-it-didnt-deforest-peruvian-amazon/>

Thursday 24th June

A network of streams, lakes and marshes in Florida is suing a developer and the state to try to stop a housing development from destroying them. The novel lawsuit was filed on Monday in Orange county on behalf of the waterways under a 'rights of nature' law passed in November. It is the largest US municipality to adopt such a law to date. Laws protecting the rights of nature are growing throughout the world, from Ecuador to Uganda, and have been upheld in courts in India, Colombia and Bangladesh. But this is the first time anyone has tried to enforce them in the US. The Orange county law secures the rights of its waterways to exist, to flow, to be protected against pollution and to maintain a healthy ecosystem. It also recognizes the authority of citizens to file enforcement actions on their behalf.

<https://happyeconews.com/2021/05/22/streams-and-lakes-have-rights-a-us-county-decided-now-theyre-suing-florida/>

Friday 25th June

The United Arab Emirates has asked to host the COP 28 international conference on climate change in 2023, Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said [in May]. The annual Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making body responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UAE exports oil and hosts the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) headquarters. *"The UAE has demonstrated a proven track record in progressive climate action and multilateral cooperation that makes it an ideal convener for COP 28,"* Sheikh Abdullah was quoted as saying by state news agency WAM. *"The UAE has invested around \$17 billion in commercial renewable energy projects on six continents and provided over \$1 billion of grants and soft loans for renewable energy power plants."* <https://news.trust.org/item/20210523070518-dbcv3/>

Saturday 26th June

The Arctic is now warming three times as fast as the global average, and faces an ongoing barrage of dangerous climate and environmental pollutants, Arctic Council experts warned at the start of their meetings in Reykjavik, Iceland [back in May]. Black carbon, or soot, remains high on the list of concerns because of its negative effect on human health and because it accelerates the Arctic meltdown by darkening snow. Carbon dioxide drives the long-term warming in the region, but other types of poorly regulated pollution also threatens people who live in the Arctic and the ecosystems they rely on, council science and policy experts said during the biennial meeting of representatives from the nations and tribes on the council.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/20052021/new-arctic-council-reports-underline-the-growing-concerns-about-the-health-and-climate-impacts-of-polar-air-pollution/>

Saturday 19th June

A new report from the RSPB, using data compiled by the Natural History Museum, has been published ahead of the UK-hosted G7 Summit in Cornwall next month and shows the perilous state of nature in the UK. The UK is listed as the worst in the G7 for the amount of wildlife and wild spaces lost due to human activity, resulting in the UK being ranked twelfth worst of 240 countries and territories. The RSPB is calling on the Prime Minister to use his commitments to the international community as a catalyst for delivering urgent action at home, by working with the governments of the UK to halt and reverse wildlife declines and restore and expand spaces for nature.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/new-report-shows-the-uk-is-the-least-effective-g7-member-at-protecting-nature/>

Sunday 20th June

So beautiful is the world You created – from soil to sea, plants and trees of every sort.

How wonderful the waters teeming with living creatures, birds flying across the skies, all creatures and beasts on the land

Oh, how we have taken for granted and so greedily from the earth – destroyed habitats, hunted to extinction, desecrated environments and species.

We are sorry for our ignorance, our selfishness, our behaviour

Turn us into agents of action –

Help us to change our ways –

Encourage us to bring others with us; families, friends, politicians and world leaders to....

Learn new fairer, greener ways to live with each other

On this beautiful blue planet, till every...

Valley and mountain top, field and forest, river and sea is restored, and we find a new balance to live as You intended, for....

EVERMORE.

Amen

Sue Charlton

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

Monday 21st June

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the impacts of human activity on nature tragically close to our homes and families, and as a result people are increasingly concerned and urging action on behalf of the planet. A new WWF survey looking into public attitudes and behaviours about addressing future pandemics shows there is a strong understanding that risky human-animal interaction - often connected to deforestation and high-risk wildlife trade - can lead to serious disease outbreaks, and finds overwhelming public support for preventing pandemics at their source. A majority of those surveyed across five countries - China, Myanmar, Thailand, US and Vietnam - believe that preventing the next pandemic begins with addressing root causes such as high-risk wildlife trade and deforestation...

<https://updates.panda.org/links-to-covid-19-pandemic-means-consumption-of-wildlife-drops>

Tuesday 22nd June

The shadowy parallel court system of major trade agreements makes it difficult for countries to ban broad-spectrum insecticides. Countries around the world have been slow to ban insecticides such as neonicotinoids despite the ongoing loss of insects, including key pollinators, globally. One reason may be the threat of litigation in a system of secret corporate courts that exists to adjudicate Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses in international trade agreements. The ISDS system allows companies to sue national governments for damages and lost profits if they pass laws banning hazardous chemicals. Jean Blaylock, of Global Justice Now, an NGO campaigning on trade agreements, told *The Ecologist*: "ISDS has often been used by big business, including pesticide and

development of mangrove restoration in Pakistan and will be fondly remembered at the event.

Mangroves are also a central part of the Pakistan government's ambitious 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami' drive. Led by Prime Minister Imran Khan and supported by UNEP, Pakistan has committed to planting 10 billion trees by 2023.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/pakistan-restores-mangroves-economy-and-ecosystem-benefits>

Sunday 6th June

Dear Love so Divine

whose love casts out fear;

there is fear that surrounds us

yet hope that shines through

in the makers of vaccines

in the doctors and nurses

whose love exceeds fear.

May we too show love that exceeds every fear

and remember a world which awaits human care

and whose illness is as real as those of its people.

May we show it love which exceeds every fear,

in the strength of a Saviour whose victory brings

hope

in the presence of Spirit who inspires and creates.

Amen.

Chich Hewitt

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

Monday 7th June

World Environment Day (last Saturday) also saw the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This decade ... is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them to achieve global goals. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity. The UN Decade runs from 2021 through 2030, which is also the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and the timeline

scientists have identified as the last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change.

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

Tuesday 8th June

In the seven years since governments and corporations promised to stop deforestation, the clear cutting of critically important tropical forests has instead increased by more than 50 percent, a new report shows, with commercial agriculture driving most of the increase. The report, released [in May] by the conservation group Forest Trends, tracks deforestation, legal and illegal, in 23 countries with large areas of tropical forests, including Brazil, home to most of the Amazon rainforest... The researchers found that, since [2014], an area nearly twice the size of California has been cleared of trees, mostly for commercial agriculture, which is the largest driver of deforestation and the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions from land use.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/19052021/deforestation-climate-change-forest-trends-companies-governments/>

Wednesday 9th June

While investors increasingly want companies to disclose more information on their environmental, social and governance (ESG) targets and progress, most find it difficult to trust business's claims at face value, and to compare different firms. That is according to the results of a survey of more than 4,600 individual investors across the US, UK, France and Germany, Published [in May], the survey results found that the majority of investors ... (70%) believe that corporates have a responsibility to prove they are meeting ESG pledges to their current and prospective investors. Most respondents from the Gen Z and Millennial age set said they would be more likely to invest in a company purely based off of strong ESG disclosures and performance... But, due to issues such as greenwashing and to a lack of unified disclosure, 90% of respondents said they find it

hard to trust business's ESG claims at face value...

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/Survey--9-in-10-investors-do-not-trust-corporate-ESG-claims/>

Thursday 10th June

Nearly 59 million hectares of forests – an area larger than France – has regrown since 2000, according to new analysis published today by Trillion Trees - a joint venture between WWF, BirdLife International and WCS. This area of forest has the potential to store the equivalent of 5.9 gigatonnes of CO₂ – more than the annual emissions of the US. The study points to the Atlantic Forest in Brazil as one of the success stories for regeneration, where an estimated 4.2 million hectares – an area roughly the size of the Netherlands – has regrown since 2000, through a combination of planned projects to restore the forest, more responsible industry practices and other factors including rising migration towards cities. Yet much more needs to be done to protect and recover this important biome.

https://www.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/2414416/Forests-the-size-of-France-have-regrown-in-the-last-20-years-new-research-shows

Friday 11th June

Today marks the start of the G7 summit in Cornwall. The UK has taken on the Presidency of the G7 group of nations for 2021. The government's own website states "We will use the UK's G7 Presidency to unite leading democracies to help the world fight and then build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future." The G7 countries are UK, USA, Canada, Japan, Germany, France and Italy, plus the EU. The UK has invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa as guest countries to this year's G7.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/g7-uk-2021>

Saturday 12th June

The government's G7 website has many positive sounding press releases such as this one, below. Pray that they mean what they say, and are held accountable to their promises.

- UK secures historic G7 commitments to tackle climate change and halt biodiversity loss by 2030.
- G7 Environment and Climate ministers commit to protect land and ocean to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030.
- They also commit to phase out new direct government support for international fossil fuels
- Securing meaningful action from leading economies to tackle climate change is a priority for the UK's G7 presidency, ahead of COP26 in November

<https://www.g7uk.org/uk-secures-historic-g7-commitments-to-tackle-climate-change-and-halt-biodiversity-loss-by-2030/>

Sunday 13th June

Father, we sometimes feel overwhelmed by the scale and complication of the environmental problems we face. Help us to see how we may respond in our daily lives to the challenges we face, and help us to understand that where we lead others will surely follow.

Monday 14th June

This afternoon there is an interfaith parliamentary briefing on what are UK faith groups' priorities as we host COP26 in November this year. UK faith groups are asking for:

1. An end to all use of public money to subsidise fossil fuels.
2. New and additional sources of finance for climate-related loss and damage.

Pray that lots of MPs and peers attend, and that Parliament will help to keep the Government to account in the preparations to the Glasgow Summit in November.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-are-uk-faith-groups-priorities-as-we-host-cop26-tickets-152891856659>

Tuesday 15th June

[The Woodland Trust's] first *State of the UK's Native Woods and Trees* report presents important facts and trends focusing predominantly on our native woods and trees. It reports on their extent, condition and wildlife value, the benefits people gain from them, the threats and pressures they face, what is being done to help them and what more we need to do. The four significant findings are:

1. Although woodland cover is gradually increasing, woodland wildlife is decreasing
2. Woods and trees are vital for a healthy, happy society
3. Woods and trees are subject to a barrage of coinciding threats
4. Not nearly enough is being done

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/state-of-uk-woods-and-trees>

Wednesday 16th June

How will the Earth get to Net Zero Carbon? A review of some of the best 'road maps' with Andrew Craig and Staffan Engstrom. There are a bewildering array of ideas and options for overcoming the world's climate crisis. These can seem exhaustingly complex and convoluted, making it hard to understand *what really matters* in this most important of subjects. This workshop reviews some of the best respected models for getting to Net Zero, including work by Zero Carbon Britain, Project Drawdown, and Bill Gates. It will review these models at a macro-scale to describe the essence of how they propose for net zero carbon to be achieved, and comparing them for similarities and differences. A discussion will follow. Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom/register/tZctcuig-pjMqGtChXEjIG_v8lZta31qXWc7U

Thursday 17th June

From Sims Eco Lifestyle to Minecraft Climate City, environmental issues are becoming a popular theme in video games... Dressed in a futuristic wetsuit that enables her to stay submerged for hours, diver and scientist Mirai is trying to discover secrets of the deep in the Western Pacific. Mirai is the animated protagonist in *Beyond Blue*, an ocean adventure video game set in the near future. Inspired by the BBC Blue Planet II nature documentary, ...the game is designed to make players care about the marine world. In *Bee Simulator*, ... players become bees, buzzing through the microworld of their declining population... According to a UN report, environmental video games like this one might be the next step in raising environmental awareness. Around 2.6 billion people, or one in three across the globe, play video games. And the industry generates annual revenue of over \$140 billion (€116 billion) — more than Bollywood, Hollywood and recorded music sales combined.

<https://www.dw.com/en/can-video-games-inspire-climate-action/a-57357630?maca=en-rss-en-all-1573-rdf>

Friday 18th June

Five more UK councils have joined a 'net-zero pledge', meaning that one-third of the UK population is now represented by councils aiming to reach net-zero emissions at least five years ahead of Central Government's 2050 commitment. ...These councils join 52 other local authorities in pledging to set net-zero targets ahead of the Government's deadline. UK100's 'net zero pledge' explicitly commits them to neutralise council emissions by 2030 and those of their residents and businesses by 2045. Collectively, the 57 local authorities represent more than 35% of the UK population and 28% of England's land area. <https://www.edie.net/news/6/One-third-of-UK-population-represented-by-local-authority-net-zero-commitments/>