

greenhouse gas emissions by 6% by 2030, as long as new policy measures are introduced. Recommendations in the declaration include incentivising the use of biomethane in transport, most notably for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), using closed-loop approaches through AD that turns local waste into local heat and power and establishing a material hierarchy for what is suitable for AD. Enabling policies could also support up to 60,000 new jobs.

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/Biogas-sector-spells-out-role-in-helping-UK-reach-net-zero-emissions/>

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

[prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk)

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Picture on front cover: Pembrokeshire barnacles, Emma King

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## Prayer guide for the care of creation



# July 2021

“Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise.” - George Washington Carver

“Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire. He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved”. Psalm 104

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month. Prayer points for July 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/re-sources/>

### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Arctic countries have pledged to fight global warming, which is happening three times faster in the northern reaches of the earth than elsewhere and to preserve peace in the region as its geopolitical importance increases. Accelerated global warming, untapped resources, new maritime routes opened up by retreating sea ice, and the future of local populations all topped the agenda ... The warming climate has opened up the Arctic for shipping, fishing, drilling and mining, and China, an observer to the Council, has made no secret of its interest in the vast territory rich in natural resources and

where retreating sea ice has opened up new maritime routes. Meanwhile, Russia has beefed up its military presence in the Arctic – reopening and modernising bases abandoned since the Soviet Union collapsed – and the United States has stepped up naval exercises.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/21/arctic-nations-agree-to-fight-global-warming-despite-tensions>

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

A new Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration launched [in June] to address the impact of the climate crisis on migration in cities. The Task Force [is] a partnership between C40 Cities and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC)... The C40-MMC Task Force will be co-led by the Mayor of Dhaka North, Mohammad Atiqul Islam, and the Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer. Mayors deal with the realities of climate change and migration on a daily basis. This includes protecting residents from extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, or landslides, and welcoming people displaced by climate impacts domestically or internationally. Mayors are also setting the global agenda in promoting climate justice and leaving no one behind in the green transition... The Task Force will drive forward an Action Agenda in partnership with migrant and refugee community leaders, business leaders, and experts to be presented at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in

aspects of our broken world. Deborah Tomkins is Co-Chair of Green Christian, and has been a member for over 25 years. To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vduiqgj8sGtKYF-9olrQbGU5mHGy\\_Pots](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vduiqgj8sGtKYF-9olrQbGU5mHGy_Pots)

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July

Researchers from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden have claimed a "big breakthrough" in the development of a battery that can function structurally as well as a power source. The load-bearing batteries are being developed with KTH Royal Institute of Technology for use in aircraft, vehicle and building design. Structural batteries, which are also known as massless energy storage, aim to significantly reduce the weight of battery-powered vehicles or other objects by incorporating batteries into the structure of the object. By so doing, the need for separate batteries is reduced or potentially even eliminated. This could result in significant efficiency gains. A lighter electric vehicle, for example, will require less energy to drive if all other things are equal.

<https://www.dezeen.com/2021/05/24/structural-battery-chalmers-university-of-technology/>

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) ratings, widely used by asset managers to make climate-friendly

investments, need tighter oversight to avoid risks to the smooth functioning of financial markets, Britain's Financial Conduct Authority said on Tuesday. Investors are increasingly demanding that asset managers put their cash into companies that meet "green" or ESG criteria, with references to ESG ratings embedded into their investment processes, the FCA said. But the ESG ratings business, a market that could be worth \$1 billion this year, has no firm definition of data provision that applies globally, the FCA said. ESG ratings providers, which rank companies' performance based on ESG factors, have different methodology and use different ways to plug gaps in data, leading to little correlation between them, the FCA said. <https://news.trust.org/item/20210622100240-pwy0b/>

### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July

Almost 50 organisations have supported a declaration sent to the Prime Minister outlining how the biogas sector can support the net-zero ambition, provided clear and enabling policies are introduced. The Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA) has issued the UK AD and Biogas Industry Climate Declaration that commits the sector to making a significant contribution towards the UK's net-zero target for 2050. The declaration claims that the UK anaerobic digestion (AD) and biogas industry could reduce the UK's

us. Dear Lord, teach us love, compassion and integrity, that we may heal the earth and heal each other.

### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

Ireland, North and South, has been identified as a hotspot in the new European mining boom. To date, 27% of the south and 25% of the North has been concessioned for mineral prospecting licences. The global gold industry has been a driver of this mining rush, one of the most ecologically and socially destructive industries in the world. From the Sperrins in Counties Tyrone and Derry to Donegal and Connemara, rural communities are being confronted with plans to mine for gold. Most of the interest is coming from Canadian mining corporations. Around the world women are on the frontlines of the fight against extractivism. In Ireland, women are a vital component of these struggles. Tactics have ranged from public meetings, judicial reviews, an occupation of Dalradian's proposed site near Greencastle, as well as in person events and webinars to share experiences and foster solidarity with other frontline communities from Peru, Cyprus, Romania, Colombia to the Lakota Nation. <https://theecologist.org/2021/jun/10/women-who-keep-gold-irelands-ground>

### **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Bristol Airport has unveiled plans to reach net-zero by 2030, but green groups are

accusing the business of greenwashing, as emissions from flights will not be covered. [The] briefing [in late June] saw executives confirming a new net-zero target for 2030, covering airfield operations, buildings and the ground transport fleet. In the meantime, local green groups have expressed anger at the net-zero and carbon neutrality targets, as they do not cover emissions from flights or from passengers driving to and from the airport. On the latter, the Green Party claims that more than 87% of passengers to have used the airport in 2019 arrived by car.

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/Green-campaigners-slam-Bristol-Airport-s-new-carbon-neutral-and-net-zero-targets/>

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

Tonight in Green Christian's series of fortnightly webinars is a Bible Discussion: How should we balance trusting in God's sovereignty versus personally taking action on the climate? With Deborah Tomkins. A common response of many Christians to the Climate Crisis is to say that they will trust in God. The Bible says: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8v28). In that case, they say, why should Christians worry? Surely having faith in God is enough? Deborah will discuss some aspects of this belief, and how Christians share the work of Christ in bringing renewal and life to all

November 2021 in dialogue with national and regional counterparts.

[https://www.c40.org/press\\_releases/climate-migration-task-force](https://www.c40.org/press_releases/climate-migration-task-force)

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Creator God

For our world of beauty and plenty, we praise you-

For the earth, the seas, the plants, the animals and all the wonders of the universe.

We stand before you in awe and wonder in all that you have created.

Thank you for your generosity, a world for all to share.

Create in us a desire to come together as One World for Now is the Time to Act.

Taken from Maureen Thompson's prayer on <https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Acts of environmental degradation could soon be classified as international criminal offenses if a newly drafted definition of 'ecocide' is adopted. The drafted definition has been put together by legal minds from around the world under the Stop Ecocide Foundation and with hopes that it will be adopted by the International Criminal Court. The draft proposal ... defines ecocide as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and widespread or long-term

damage to the environment." It comes at a time when there are concerns that not enough has been done to tackle the climate crisis. The aim is to get the law adopted by ICC member states, consequently forcing leaders of ICC signatory countries to take actions that prevent gross environmental destruction. If adopted, ecocide would become the fifth offence prosecuted by the ICC alongside crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and the crime of aggression.

<https://inhabitat.com/legal-experts-draft-a-definition-of-ecocide-to-help-protect-the-planet/>

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

A ground-breaking new international collaboration between academics, business, civil society and citizens has been unveiled [in June] by the UK COP26 Presidency ... aimed at helping all nations of the world envision what a climate-resilient, net zero future would look like for them. The 'Visions for a Net Zero Future' will ... look at the innovations and approaches that could deliver a greener, carbon-neutral society. The project will develop six visions, each focusing on a different region around the world – the UK, Jamaica, Brazil, Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and India. The project will look at issues like electricity generation, agriculture, waste and water management, building design, reforestation and ocean conservation.

<https://ukcop26.org/uk-cop26-presidency-to-unveil-visions-of-a-global-net-zero-future/>

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

A total investment in nature of USD 8.1 trillion is required between now and 2050 ... in order to successfully tackle the interlinked climate, biodiversity, and land degradation crises, according to the *State of Finance for Nature* report released [in late May]. The report finds that annual investments in nature-based solutions will have to triple by 2030 and increase four-fold by 2050 from the current investments into nature-based solutions of USD 133 billion (using 2020 as base year). The authors of the report – produced by the *UN Environment Programme (UNEP)*, the *World Economic Forum (WEF)* and [and others] urge Governments, financial institutions and businesses to overcome this investment gap by placing nature at the heart of economic decision-making in the future. They stress the need to rapidly accelerate capital flows to nature-based solutions by making nature central to public and private sector decision-making related to societal challenges, including tackling the climate and biodiversity crises.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/world-needs-usd-81-trillion-investment-nature-2050-tackle-triple>

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July

An extremely rare colony of orchids previously believed to be extinct in Britain has been discovered growing on a City of London rooftop. The small-flowered tongue orchid, or *serapias parviflora* is normally found in the Mediterranean, and hasn't been seen in the UK for over a decade. But 15 plants have been found on the 11th floor garden of the Japanese Investment Bank Nomura in the City. It is only the second time the rarity has been recorded in Britain, with a previous colony being found more than 200 miles away Rame Head in Cornwall in 1989.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/rare-orchids-discovered-city-of-london-rooftop-uk-england/>

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

The false narrative that population growth is a key driver of ecological crisis “accus[es] and put[s] the onus on” people in the global south who bear the brunt of that crisis, Jevgeniy Bluwstein and others write in *Frontiers in Conservation Science*... They argue that, instead of drawing a straight line from rising population and affluence to ecological disaster, scientists “should help expose the structural causes and drivers of inequality, overproduction and overconsumption”. Bluwstein and his colleagues are responding to an article that re-presents a populationist narrative, in a new version for the 2020s, *Underestimating the Challenges of*

were dumped across the world on a daily basis. So now he runs a company which installs bins in cities to collect butts, which are then recycled and made into anything from cushions to key rings. Naman was in his third year at Delhi University studying commerce ... The then 21-year-old found cigarettes are the most littered object in the world, and the plastic in the filter takes up to 12 years to degrade. His factory workers split the butts into three parts—the filter, paper, and leftover tobacco. The filter—made of a plastic called cellulose acetate—is shredded, chemically treated for 24 hours, and then made into stuffing for cushions, soft toys, and squishy keyrings. The paper and tobacco are turned into compost which is sold to farmers and growers, or domestic mosquito repellents.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/eco-warrior-makes-toys-mosquito-repellents-naman-gupta/>

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

The overwhelming majority of nuclear power stations active today entered service long before the science of climate change was well-established. Two in five nuclear plants operate on the coast and at least 100 have been built just a few metres above sea level. Recent scientific data indicates sea levels globally will rise further and faster than earlier predictions suggested. Even over the next couple of decades, as extreme weather events become more frequent and destructive,

strong winds and low atmospheric pressure will drive bigger storm surges that could threaten coastal installations.

<https://theconversation.com/nuclear-energy-isnt-a-safe-bet-in-a-warming-world-heres-why-163371>

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July

Natural England ... [has announced] proposals for new protected areas across England, alongside an ambitious, landmark programme to examine how more areas could benefit from landscape improvements, and deliver more for people and nature... [A]reas being considered for designation include

- Yorkshire Wolds AONB
- Cheshire Sandstone Ridge AONB
- An extension to the Surrey Hills AONB
- An extension to the Chilterns AONB

Natural England has also set out its ambition to develop new approaches that will drive nature recovery and improve people's connection with nature, particularly focusing in and around towns and cities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-announces-landmark-new-programme-for-protected-landscapes>

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Lord, we know that in all creation only the human family has strayed from the sacred way. We know that we are the ones who, working together, must come back to walk in the path you have set for

argue that, by allowing new oil drilling in the midst of a climate crisis, Norway is in breach of fundamental human rights...In their application called “the People vs. Arctic Oil” to the European Court, filed today, the activists argue that the law is clear: “The allowance of new oil drilling in vulnerable areas in the Barents Sea is a violation of Articles 2 and 8 in the European Convention on Human Rights, granting me the right to be protected against decisions endangering my life and well-being. As a young person from the Sea Sámi culture, I fear the impact that climate change will have on my people’s way of life.” said Lasse Eriksen Bjørn, one of the activists.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/48385/youth-take-arctic-oil-to-european-court/>

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

From the Arctic to the Amazon, the traditional food gathering techniques of indigenous communities are under threat from accelerating climate change and economic pressures, the United Nations said ... Food systems used by different indigenous peoples were found to be among the world's most sustainable in terms of efficiency, avoiding waste and adapting to the seasons, said an analysis by the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Because their diets rely mainly on renewable resources found close to home, indigenous communities adjust land use according to seasonality.

Until recently, “waste” was an unknown concept in their food systems, the report said.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210625103957-8jpk8/>

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

The Hamburg-based Cluster of Excellence “Climate, Climatic Change, and Society” (CLICCS) is publishing a new, essential study on climate futures. The study represents the first systematic attempt to investigate whether a climate future with net-zero carbon emissions is not only possible but also plausible. The authors examine plausibility from a technical-economic perspective, but also with regard to the societal changes necessary for such a future. They conclude that deep decarbonization by 2050 is currently not plausible—the current efforts to bring about societal transformation need to be far more ambitious... The key [societal] factors being explored, ... include: United Nations’ climate policy, national climate legislation, protests and social movements, divesting from fossil fuel industries, and media coverage.

<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/newsroom/presse/2021/pm28.html>

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

26-year-old Naman Gupta was inspired when he saw a huge pile of cigarettes left after a party, and wondered how many

*Avoiding a Ghastly Future*. Its authors include Corey Bradshaw, an Australian ecologist, and Paul Ehrlich, a leading advocate of “too many people” arguments since the 1970s.

<https://theecologist.org/2021/may/28/populationists-ghastly-future>

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

On Monday 21 June, Caroline Lucas MP (Green) presented and gave the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill its first reading in the House of Commons in this new 2021-22 parliamentary session. Tabled with its formal title—the Climate and Ecology Bill—this was the earliest possible opportunity for the CEE Bill to return to Westminster... Friday 10 September was set as the Bill's second reading, and that important milestone will be a chance for [campaigners] to demonstrate the breadth of cross-party support for the campaign.

[https://www.ceebill.uk/cee\\_bill\\_is\\_back](https://www.ceebill.uk/cee_bill_is_back)

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Redeemer God  
Have mercy on us for our over consumption of the world’s resources, For our lack of responsibility in devastating the habitats of your creatures, For our thoughtlessness in filling the world with our rubbish, For the pursuit of economic growth which leaves our brothers and sisters in poverty. Forgive us our selfishness, that has led to

this climate crisis, and bring us together as One World for Now is the Time to Act.

Taken from Maureen Thompson’s prayer on <https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

The East African Court of Justice has backed mediation as a first step in a legal fight between South Sudan and oil-producing communities. The First Instance Division will allow South Sudan and Hope for Humanity Africa (HHA) to attempt to find a resolution through talks. Mediation is due to begin early in July. HHA took South Sudan to court for alleged oil spills, caused by leaking oil pipelines. A lawyer representing South Sudan’s Minister of Justice asked the court to attempt settlement through mediation. A judge will preside over the mediation attempt. Should this process fail, the full court process will resume.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/africa/332716/south-sudan-mediation-spills/>

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

Three weeks after being named in a second probe into alleged illegal exports of Amazon timber and facing growing opposition, Brazil’s controversial environment minister, Ricardo Salles, was ousted on June 23 “upon request,” .... Despite his controversial remarks and heavily criticized policies that fueled

deforestation rates in the Amazon, Salles enjoyed relative stability in the government, until a month ago when the legal troubles flared up. In a press conference in Brasilia, Salles said he was resigning to allow the facilitation of the country's environmental negotiations on the international stage and in the national agenda, which will require Brazil to "have a strong union of interests." Salles has been replaced by Joaquim Alves Pereira Leite, who has been in the environment ministry since 2019 and held a board seat for more than 20 years at an agribusiness lobbying institute. While some politicians have welcomed his appointment, others have called for a shift in Brazil's environmental policies.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/timber-troubles-fell-ricardo-salles-brazils-environment-minister/>

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Tonight is our next Wednesday evening webinar, 7pm, this time on Green Christian Local Groups – how to start one in your area, where they are now, and sharing best practice, with Isobel Murdoch. This workshop is designed to enable Green Christian members to share ideas about local groups' role and scope, enabling them to learn from another about how to start one, improve one, or join one. We will firstly be hearing from one or two established group leaders, and take the discussion from there. Isobel Murdoch is the Local Groups coordinator for Green

Christian. Free but you must register for access to the event.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcumqpzsrGdaYVSQTAmu-S1uBfbqMnlLm>

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

A pair of white-tailed eagles, or sea eagles as they're commonly known, were first spotted at Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve in early March this year. They have since been observed 'nest prospecting' – searching for suitable nest sites – suggesting they intend to stay. It is believed that this is the first time sea eagles have settled at Loch Lomond since persecution and habitat changes led to their extinction in Britain in the early 20th century, with the last known bird reported in Shetland in 1918. Their reintroduction to Scotland, first in the 1970s and again in the 90s and early 2000s, has been a conservation success. There is now estimated to be over 150 breeding pairs. Nature bodies are working together to protect the native birds and minimise disturbance in the hope that they might stay and breed in future years.

<https://www.nature.scot/first-time-over-century-sea-eagles-return-loch-lomond>

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

To meet its carbon goals, one major step that China needs to undertake is to upgrade its grid, the world's largest. Beijing's surprise announcement last year that it would hit peak emissions by 2030

and become carbon neutral by 2060 could presage the biggest reduction in projected global warming of any climate commitment to date, researchers say. But building new solar plants and wind farms is the easy part, analysts say. Upgrading the system that transmits that green power to faraway consumers could be five times more costly, and depends on rapid technological progress. China, the world's biggest electricity generator, power consumer and carbon emitter, has said it is aiming for renewable power to account for more than 50 percent of its total electricity generation capacity by 2025, up from 42 percent now.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/5/19/chinas-climate-goal-overhauling-its-electricity-grid>

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

The first global gathering of negotiators since COP25 saw engagement on outstanding issues, but also raised disagreements that should be ironed out before COP26. Three weeks of global climate meetings concluded [in mid June], edging forward discussions on crucial outstanding issues ahead of COP26 in Glasgow. The sessions supplied much-needed momentum, but also shone a light on the substantial amount of work still to be completed before the November conference. "Between now and COP26, we need more countries to come forward with ambitious short and long term climate plans. The unlocking conditions

for that must be advanced. The G7 reaffirmed the US\$100 billion goal to support developing countries, but we need words to be put into practice with stronger pledges," said Fernanda de Carvalho, Global Policy Manager for Climate & Energy at WWF.

[https://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/press\\_releases/?2983466/virtual-climate-sessions](https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/?2983466/virtual-climate-sessions)

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

Sustainer God

Be generous in your gifts of wisdom, understanding and courage to help us see:

the interconnectedness of climate, nature and our lifestyles, our responsibility to secure a future for our children, and the urgency to act now. Inspire us to change personally, in our local communities, as nations and at a global level for we are One World, climate changes everything, and Now is the Time to Act.

Taken from Maureen Thompson's prayer on <https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

Six young climate activists, along with two major environmental organisations from Norway (Greenpeace Nordic and Young Friends of the Earth Norway), are filing a historic application to bring the issue of Arctic oil drilling to the European Court of Human Rights. The environmentalists