

<https://theconversation.com/environment-bill-uk-government-offers-five-principles-for-protecting-nature-heres-why-they-wont-work-166366>

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

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www.greenchristian.org.uk

Picture on front cover: First slide from *Why faith matters at COP26*

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



November 2021

For the first 12 days of November we will be focussing on and praying for the COP26 meetings that are happening in the first half of the month. We will follow Green Christian's *Why faith matters at COP 26* presentation, and use a part of John O'Donohue's *For one who holds the power* blessing each day. You can also join us at 8am each morning to pray through these prayers and blessings, on zoom, link on the webpage <https://greenchristian.org.uk/why-faith-matters-at-cop26/>

If you want the schedule of what is being discussed each day, to pray accordingly, see this link ukcop26.org/the-conference/presidency-programme/

Monday 1st November

God's earth.

The complex natural systems that nurture, sustain, and feed us also bring joy, refreshment, and restoration of body and soul.

Christians recognise Creation as a gift from God. It is not ours to exploit, but to be nurtured and safeguarded, thus providing climate and ecological justice, and hope for the future.

Human beings cannot live apart from the natural world.

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Matthew 6: 29

May the gift of leadership awaken in you as a vocation, Keep you mindful of the providence that calls you to serve.

John O'Donohue

Tuesday 2nd November

Earth's leaders.

Green Christian urges increased ambition from all nations attending COP26.

The UK Government must take a lead in delivering fair and far-reaching policies for the common good.

The world cannot afford any delay by its leaders

As high over the mountains the eagle spreads its wings,

May your perspective be larger than the view from the foothills.

John O'Donohue

Wednesday 3rd November

Nature

“As we cease to look at the world through the fog of our own desire to possess, there forms a space of wonder and respect, allowing each creature to exist in itself and for its Creator.” Elizabeth

Theokritoff

long journey towards tackling its carbon emissions, which, currently, are the largest of any nation. However, China's attitude to addressing climate change has undergone a significant transformation over the course of this century. Little over a decade ago, China was strongly arguing against reducing the emissions being caused by its booming, coal-fuelled economic growth. Instead, it said rich, developed nations should be leading the way. Speaking to a diverse range of experts within China and beyond, Carbon Brief has learned that Xi has personally played “the most important role” in this shift in views.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-nine-key-moments-that-changed-chinas-mind-about-climate-change>

Tuesday 30th November

Abandoned and then resurrected in 2020, the Environment Bill is now entering the final stages of its passage through Parliament. This is the UK government's post-

Brexit policy framework for issues like air quality, pollution, climate change and biodiversity....

Campaigners have decried the government's decision to reject changes to the bill which would enshrine greater protection for forests and oblige water companies to reduce raw sewage discharges in rivers. But there's a more fundamental issue with the bill which could make it a failure even on its own terms. At its heart is a list of five environmental principles by which government ministers would be bound upon the bill's entry into law...The bill has been criticised for not requiring public authorities like local councils to follow its principles, and for giving ministers too much freedom to determine how to interpret them. Many critics are worried that while the principles point UK environmental policy in the right direction, they don't force the government to travel there. But [for the author], the bigger problem is that the principles don't actually point us in any direction at all.

the Government does not have a clear plan for delivering against its pledge for the UK to host two million green jobs by 2030. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) stated this March that around 200,000 people were employed in sectors assisting the low-carbon energy transition, such as energy efficiency, renewable electricity generation and electric vehicles (EVs).

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-Government-still-not-clear-on-green-skills-and-jobs-plan-despite-Net-Zero-Strategy--MPs-warn/>

Saturday 27th November

Today is the Green Christian Annual Members Meeting, held on zoom. Pray for decisions that have to be made, as well as for Green Christian as a whole. Pray for our Trustees and Board members, as well as all those who work for and volunteer for the organisation. Pray that we would have an impact greater than the sum of our parts!

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/about/green-christian-people/>

Sunday 28th November

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

Monday 29th November

Over the past year, China's president Xi Jinping has made three key commitments to tackle climate change. In September 2020, he told the United Nations general assembly: *"We aim to have CO₂ emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060."* Then, also in September, he offered a further commitment to the same gathering of world leaders. China *"will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad"*, he said via videolink. The pledges represent the latest staging posts on China's

All of creation is sacred and full of wonder.

"We are part of nature, not apart from it. There is no future for anyone if COP26 is bad for nature." Bishop James Jones

"For the creation waits with eager longing to be set free from its bondage to decay." Romans 8: 19- 21.

*When the way is flat and dull in times of grey endurance,
May your imagination continue to evoke horizons.*

John O'Donohue

Thursday 4th November

Climate Justice

As the Earth warms, it is the most vulnerable communities, those least responsible for climate chaos, who are most likely to suffer devastating loss and damage.

"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me". Matthew 25:40

"Let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream." Amos 5:24

"To trash the planet is to throw God's gift back in God's face."
Prof Tim Gorringer

*When thirst burns in times of drought,
May you be blessed to find the wells.*
John O'Donohue

Friday 5th November

Joy in enough

We long for fairer, supportive, peaceful and flourishing communities living within the Earth's limits...

"As we abandon fear in favour of gratitude and praise, we will be made a joyful people, unburdened by self-defence and self-gain."
Hannah Malcolm

“Our Christian story is not about 'the acquisitive society' but rather about a cooperative society and the common good ... based not on the assumption of individual self-interest, but on living with in God – given limits, on shared human values and the welfare of all God's creation.” Bishop David Atkinson

*May you have the wisdom to read time clearly
And know when the seed of change will flourish.*
John O'Donohue

Saturday 6th November

Hope...we dare to imagine

Prayer is the sense that hope is a resource we can truly access.
Hope is the sense that prayer is a resource we can truly access.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

In your heart may there be a sanctuary

For the stillness where clarity is born.

John O'Donohue

Sunday 7th November

Food and farming

The UK must...
...prioritise management of trees, hedgerows, soil and water to sequester carbon, restore wild life habitats and bring the benefits of nature to everyone
...ensure production of healthy food and promote less meat consumption.

Why?
Globally, the food system is the biggest single source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

*May your work be infused with passion and creativity
And have the wisdom to balance compassion and challenge.*
John O'Donohue

Monday 8th November

Climate change

This is an all-hands-on-deck moment, after all.

<https://theecologist.org/2021/oct/22/vegans-common-ground-cattle-ranchers>

Thursday 25th November

Scientists in Australia have determined that solar grids—installed on top of the country's government-owned airports—could annually supply 136,000 homes with power. Because commercial roofs are flat, they're more efficient for solar arrays than angled residential roofs. Australia is a sunny country with great solar potential, but it's possible that the same concept could take off in the U.S., too... Australia is in a special position, as an enormous nation with a relatively small population and a *lot* of sunshine. Because of that, the country has become a global leader in renewable energy infrastructure, even using it to help stabilize rural grids that previously struggled. Elon Musk has had runaway success there, with storage batteries in South

Australia. And the country has so much sun that it's even shipping some off to Singapore.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/green-tech/a36385191/solar-powered-airport-australia/>

Friday 26th November

Despite the publication of the Net-Zero Strategy last [month], which claims to support up to 440,000 jobs by 2030, the Government is yet to finalise a "green jobs" definition or to produce comprehensive skills plans. That is according to MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC). The Committee has [in October] published a landmark report as part of its ongoing inquiry into green jobs. The inquiry has heard from Government bodies including the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Environment Agency, as well as trade bodies, education providers and major employers including Centrica, BP, Orsted and SUEZ. The overarching conclusion is that

[releases/another-hen-harrier-disappears/](#)

Tuesday 23rd November

Sierra Leone names Africa's first chief heat officer. From floods to droughts to landslides, the West African nation has been battling the realities of climate change for more than a decade. Miami has one - so does Athens. Now Freetown has appointed Africa's first chief heat officer, a mother on a mission to shield her city and her kids from the chaos of climate change. "Freetown is my home, I have my family here, so it will be an honour to see it develop into a safer, cooler place for my community," Eugenia Kargbo told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview from the capital of Sierra Leone. The 34-year-old was appointed this week to combat rising temperatures and come up with everyday ways to cool the sweltering streets of the city she has always called home... Kargbo is already steering a range of anti-heat initiatives, from tree

planting to waste collection and awareness campaigns.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20211021174231-t0m08/>

Wednesday 24th November

Soil health is the key to food security, water resiliency, and biodiversity. So it should come as no surprise that human civilisations have consistently collapsed at the same time that they degraded their soils... It's therefore heartening that soil regeneration is taking its rightful place on the stage of climate solutions... Instead of concentrating animals in lots and feeding them grain, regenerative farmers integrate livestock into natural landscapes in a way that genuinely heals the land and replenishes the water table... The truth is, both vegans and regenerative farmers have a meaningful place in the restoration of soils and healing the earth. So instead of hurling abuse at one another, it can be a lot more helpful to find common ground.

The UK must...
...share expertise in renewable technologies and behaviour change to facilitate a net zero future for all, with a restored international aid budget that promotes sustainable development.

Why?

The world is no where near being on track for decarbonising in time to prevent climate breakdown. We are an affluent nation and owe a debt to those communities from whose wealth we have historically benefited.

May your soul find the graciousness

To rise above the fester of small mediocrities.

John O'Donohue

Tuesday 9th November

Trade and consumption

The UK must...

...accelerate behavioural strategies, champion sustainable

business models that cut our over-consumption, and develop a circular economy

Why?

We are using resources at a rate that the planet cannot sustain.

Green Christian's Joy in Enough programme challenges our current economic systems of trade and consumption.

May your power never become a shell

Wherein your heart would silently atrophy.

John O'Donohue

Wednesday 10th November

Green jobs

The UK must...

...invest in green jobs that prevent carbon emissions. Decarbonise the energy sector.

...make buildings energy efficient.

Reuse, repair and recycle to support the circular economy.

Expand public transport and organic agriculture.

Why?
We need to create a sustainable, net-zero economy in which people have jobs that reduce our environmental impacts and restore our damaged natural world.

"I have plans for your welfare...to give you a future and a hope".
Jeremiah 29:11

*May you welcome your own vulnerability
As the ground where healing and truth join.*
John O'Donohue

Thursday 11th November Transport

The UK must...
...develop a net-zero transport sector, providing the benefits of improved air quality, quiet streets and better integrated public transport. HGVs and buses must be zero-emission, rail networks electrified and car driving reduced.

Why?
Transport is the UK's biggest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 34% of our emissions.

The UK government has budgeted over £27bn on roads, funds that need to be spent on improving rail infrastructure and accelerating the transition to electric cars.

*May integrity of soul be your first ideal,
The source that will guide and bless your work.*
John O'Donohue

Friday 12th November Our Government

"Humanity needs to listen out for the wild patience of God, who creates and sustains the universe, despite the human sin that desecrates the natural world."
Frankie Ward.

Despite its environmental targets, the UK Government is not on

Senior Campaign Strategist, Greenpeace International, said: *"The Kunming Declaration could have provided a major boost to the slow moving UN biodiversity negotiations. It offers a preview of what's to come in 2022 and makes modest attempts in some areas, but doesn't show enough progress on most of the contentious issues..."*

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/49923/kunming-declaration-announced-at-un-convention-on-biological-diversity-greenpeace-response/>

Sunday 21st November
Lord, we thank you for your great gifts of wisdom and ingenuity. Help us to place them wholly at your service in the quest for technologies to protect the world that you created, and all the creatures that live in it.

Monday 22nd November
Another hen harrier disappears in suspicious circumstances. The young bird, named Reiver, was

satellite tagged as a chick earlier this year, allowing scientists to follow her movements after leaving the nest. Reiver's tag had been functioning as normal until 17 September – it has not transmitted since. The tag showed the bird's last known location was an area dominated by driven grouse moors in Northumberland. Reiver is the third Scottish satellite-tagged harrier to disappear in England in suspicious circumstances in 2021. Howard Jones, RSPB Investigations Officer, said: *"Hen harriers disappearing on English grouse moors is having a devastating effect on both the English and Scottish hen harrier populations, and needs to be urgently addressed by UK governments. The need for licensing of grouse moors has been accepted in Scotland and this needs to be recognised in England too. This then must be implemented without delay in both countries."*

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

Friday 19th November

Only two years ago, Africa seemed set to become the world's next major producer of oil and gas. International companies were scrambling to win exploration rights in frontier markets in West Africa; countries in North Africa were excited about new discoveries in the Mediterranean Sea; and natural gas was identified as a long-term transitional energy source, creating new opportunities for low-income nations such as Tanzania and Mozambique. These developments, many thought, would bring significant revenues for governments and in turn new hope to millions of people across the continent who have lived their whole lives in poverty, providing essential investment into education and infrastructure, and having a transformative effect on the continent's economies. However, increasing global concerns over climate change, Covid-19, technological advances and global policy changes have now changed the demand

landscape for oil and gas fundamentally and irreversibly, closing off opportunities for frontier African nations to profit from their own natural resources. <https://www.energyvoice.com/renewables-energy-transition/340969/the-energy-transition-is-coming-and-africa-is-losing-out-again/>

Saturday 20th November

The COP15 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [was held in October] in Kunming, China, with a week of virtual meetings among governments and organisations. Ending the first round of negotiations that aim to establish multilateral commitments to end catastrophic biodiversity loss, governments attending the CBD meetings have put forward the 'Kunming Declaration', which sets forward general ambitions for biodiversity protection, but does not address lingering questions about implementation or further commitments from governments in attendance. An Lambrechts,

track to reach its goal of net-zero by 2050.

Meeting the Committee on Climate Change's carbon budgets requires more than pledges and promises.

We need Parliament to pass far more ambitious policies on food and farming, climate change, trade and consumption, green jobs and transport.

...Today

John O'Donohue

Saturday 13th November

Agriculture, which today is responsible for about one-third of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 80 percent of tropical deforestation, can also be the solution for fighting and adapting to climate change. Farmers and primary producers — stewards of that land — have a critical role to play in helping the world transition towards a net-zero, nature-positive and equitable future... Recognizing this, the World

Economic Forum has recently launched its 100 Million Farmers platform to facilitate government leaders and private stakeholders around the world to take action to transform the food systems in several ways.

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/empowering-100-million-farmers-transform-our-food-systems>

Sunday 14th November

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

Monday 15th November

"Britain will become the Qatar of hydrogen," Boris Johnson

declared as the government laid out its 368-page strategy for reaching net zero emissions by 2050. It sounds magnificent, but what does it mean in practice?... Hydrogen is needed to replace fossil fuels for powering industrial sectors such as steel, as well as fuelling heavy transport. Importantly, it is also necessary to replace the huge volumes of “grey” hydrogen manufactured from natural gas that are currently used in fuel and fertiliser manufacture. In addition, hydrogen has a role to play in heating... The UK could still become a leader in converting industrial processes like steel-making and also home heating to hydrogen power. But the reality is that much of the power for producing green hydrogen will come from abroad. Not only that, most of the green hydrogen will probably come from abroad too. When it comes to generating cheap power and cheap green hydrogen, neither the UK nor other European nations will be able to compete with Saudi Arabia

and north African countries like Morocco.
<https://theconversation.com/sorry-boris-johnson-the-uk-will-not-become-the-qatar-of-hydrogen-170307>

Tuesday 16th November

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 6,480,861 acres have burned across the United States this year alone as a result of 47,201 wildfires. In response, a Seattle-based company is tackling the issue of replanting and restoring forestry health in a rather science-fiction way. DroneSeed has spent the past few years developing a drone system that specifically targets the most efficient way to replant forests following a burn. Rather than simply dispersing seeds across the forest, which is imprecise and results in a high failure rate, the drones carry pods that are intentionally packed with everything the tree needs to grow including seeds, nutrients and natural pest deterrents. These seed vessels are placed using

advanced laser mapping that identifies the healthiest soil areas to plant in.
<https://inhabitat.com/droneseed-makes-reforestation-easier-after-a-large-wildfire/>

Wednesday 17th November

Joy in Enough (JiE) is a Green Christian project which is a challenge to Christians in Britain, and an invitation to all people of good will, to join in building a just economy within the ecological limits of the Earth. The team is planning a series of Wednesday evening webinars – the first of which is led by Rev Dr John Daniels. It will be on the subject of ‘Jesus and the Magic Money Tree – Money: what is it, and what does it do?’ We all use money every day and we kind-of understand how it works. But if we look at the history of money, and what it has become today, we discover that this takes us to the root of what it means to live in time and in society with others. All of which can cast a whole new light on basic Christian ideas like

faith, hope and love. Free, but you need to register:
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/joy-in-enough/>

Thursday 18th November

Coast Funds is a globally recognized model of Indigenous-led, permanent conservation finance that invests to strengthen the well-being of First Nations and the ecological integrity of the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii regions of British Columbia, Canada. [Along with two First Nations and the Province of British Columbia, it has] announced over \$25 million in new First Nations’ investments to transition coastal communities from dependence on fossil fuel-powered electricity to sustainable, locally powered renewable energy systems, eliminating over 175,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.
<https://coastfunds.ca/news/first-nations-announce-over-25-million-in-new-renewable-energy-investments-to-decarbonize-their-coastal-communities/>