

efforts to cushion the densely populated Nile Delta against the increasingly intense flooding that plagues low-lying areas around the world, writes Menna A. Farouk for Reuters. As part of a broader \$105-million coastal management project led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the government is building a system of sand dikes along the shores of the Nile Delta to hold back the sea during stormy weather.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220322093107-w5z2j/>

Picture on front cover: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



April 2022

“Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.”
Revd Michaela Youngson

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live, even though they
die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.
Do you believe this?” John 11 vv25-26

 **Green Christian**
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Friday 1st April

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 February 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/>

Saturday 2nd April

Less than a month after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the conflict which has so far caused thousands of military and civilian deaths and forced millions to flee, has already been dubbed a "climate change war", writes Andrew Norton for Climate Change News. Much analysis has focused on Russian fossil fuels...[and] is stimulating a rush away from fossil fuels, from the mothballing of the Nordstream 2 pipeline to the multiple places where governments are channeling greatly increased funding to

renewable energy. This latter reading of the situation gives some cause for hope... But moves to isolate Russia by targeting its oil and gas revenues lay bare the fragility of the multilateral system we have been relying on to provide agreement and solutions to the global climate crisis... The idea of Putin as international pariah is very much a US and European one, and may not be shared by G20 hosts Indonesia, who have signalled a reluctance to exclude Russia from this year's summit. The meeting in Bali this November could become a very interesting piece of political theatre if Putin is invited and others are forced to decide whether to also take part.

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/03/25/responses-to-putins-war-risk-impeding-international-cooperation-on-climate/>

Sunday 3rd April

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

generation and infrastructure company Fortum to plan and deliver the project, as Fortum already operates a district heating network consisting of 900km of pipes that serve some 250,000 homes across Espoo, Kauniainen and Kirkkonummi. Heat generated at the data centre hub, which Microsoft announced plans for late last week, will be used to serve this district heating network. As Microsoft will procure only renewable electricity for powering the data centres' operations, sourced through power purchase agreements (PPAs), Fortum is badging the heat as "clean".

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/Microsoft-waste-heat-data-centre-data-center-district-heating-Helsinki-Finland--/>

Thursday 28th April

Booming electric vehicle sales have spurred a growing demand for lithium. But the light metal, which is essential for making power-packed rechargeable batteries, isn't abundant. Now, researchers report a major step toward tapping a virtually limitless lithium supply: pulling it straight out of seawater, writes Robert F Service in Science.org... The world's oceans contain an estimated 180 billion tons of lithium. But it's dilute, present at roughly 0.2 parts per million.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/seawater-could-provide-nearly-unlimited-amounts-critical-battery-material>

Friday 29th April

It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky, writes Isabel Debre. Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed. Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth... By the end of the century, scientists say being outside in Kuwait City could be life-threatening — not only to birds. A recent study also linked 67% of heat-related deaths in the capital to climate change. And yet, Kuwait remains among the world's top oil producers and exporters, and per capita is a significant polluter. Mired in political paralysis, it stayed silent as the region's petrostates joined a chorus of nations setting goals to eliminate emissions at home — though not curb oil exports — ahead of last fall's U.N. climate summit in Glasgow.

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-science-business-environment-europe-ff45e6b98e6af459b21d47a6df403475>

Saturday 30th April

Egypt, the host of November's COP27 U.N. climate conference, is scaling up

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/unep-joins-alliance-implement-one-health-approach>

Sunday 24th April

A postscript reflection:

Silence at the computer engages our minds. We find silence in this time of waiting, seeing snow settle, birds fly distantly through the unsullied air. God gives us the grace to just about manage!

Prayer written by Faith Kerick

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

Monday 25th April

Today the 2020 COP15 UN Biodiversity Summit will start phase 2, in China. This is when world leaders will meet in person to conclude negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – a new accord to halt and reverse the loss of the planet's plants, animals and ecosystems. The summit hopes to set both long-term goals for mid-century and shorter-term targets for 2030 and, crucially, push for those to be enshrined in national policies. That mostly did not happen with previous global targets to slash biodiversity loss, set in 2002 and 2010, which were largely missed. *"Nobody actually owned those targets. No wonder in 10 years' time we discover none of those targets*

are fully fulfilled," said Li Shuo, a senior climate and energy policy officer for Greenpeace China.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210616131101-kf2j0/>

Tuesday 26th April

Recently a Spanish company announced its intention to open a new industrial octopus farm, with a goal of producing 3,000 tonnes of octopus a year. This raises huge concerns for animal welfare – because there can be no doubt that octopuses are complex and intelligent animals... For many scientists, [the researchers'] findings merely reaffirmed what they already believed: that octopuses are conscious animals with feelings and inner lives, just like vertebrates... So, if we really want to protect wild octopus populations we need to move beyond a false choice between devastating overfishing and industrialised farming.

<https://theconversation.com/octopus-farms-raise-huge-animal-welfare-concerns-and-theyre-unsustainable-too-179134>

Wednesday 27th April

Microsoft has announced plans to 'recycle' excess heat generated by a new data centre hub it is planning in Helsinki, Finland, by using it to serve a major district heating network. The business has partnered with energy

Monday 4th April

Banking giants Barclays and NatWest have confirmed that shareholders will get the chance to vote on their climate targets at their forthcoming AGMs, for the first time. At NatWest, shareholders will be asked whether they support the bank's "strategic direction" on climate at its AGM in Edinburgh [in April]. The company set a 2050 net-zero target back in 2020, along with an interim commitment to at least halve the climate impact of financial activities and decisions by 2030... Similarly, Barclays has this week confirmed that shareholders will get a "say on climate" at its 2022 AGM, which will take place in Manchester in May.

<https://www.edie.net/news/14/Barclays-and-NatWest-to-give-shareholders--say-on-climate/>

Tuesday 5th April

New, long-term environmental targets [were] announced by the government [in mid-March]. The proposed targets are a cornerstone of the government's Environment Act which passed into law in November last year. The proposed targets cover water, air quality and the diversity of our wildlife, including:

- Improving the health of our rivers by reducing nutrient pollution and contamination from abandoned metal mines in water courses and improving water use efficiency; and

- Cleaning up our air through a target to reduce exposure to the most harmful air pollutant to human health – PM2.5 – by over a third compared to 2018 levels; and
- Halting the decline in our wildlife populations through a legally binding target for species abundance by 2030 with a requirement to increase species populations by 10% by 2042.
- Other targets include halving the waste that ends up at landfill or incineration by 2042, increasing total tree cover by 3% by 2050, and significant improvements in the condition of Marine Protected Areas by 2042.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/delivering-on-the-environment-act-new-targets-announced-and-ambitious-plans-for-nature-recovery>

Wednesday 6th April

According to a whistleblower, the Australian government has wasted over \$1 billion of taxpayer money on the carbon credits system, writes Bonface Landi on the Inhabitat website. Professor Andrew Macintosh, former head of the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee, spent years working on the integrity of Australia's carbon credit system. Macintosh now says the system is a fraud that wastes taxpayer money without any significant

environmental impact... *“What is occurring is a fraud on the environment, a fraud on taxpayers and a fraud on unwitting consumers,”* Macintosh said. *“People are getting credits for not clearing forests that were never going to be cleared, they are getting credits for growing trees that are already there, they are getting credits for growing forests in places that will never sustain permanent forests and they are getting credits for operating electricity generators at large landfills that would have operated anyway.”*

<https://inhabitat.com/whistleblower-calls-australia-carbon-credits-a-fraud/>

Thursday 7th April

Farmers in southern Zimbabwe are shifting back to growing traditional small grains and maize after experiencing food shortages from the failure of their hybrid maize crops, which haven't adapted well to the region's dry soils and climate, writes Tatenda Chitagu. In Bikita district, a group of 220 farmers have brought back several small grains like the traditional svoboda and a tuber called tsenza that grows in wetlands. Farmers find themselves at a crossroad between seeds as hybrid maize seeds are costly and further degrade dry soils with their accompanying fertilizers, while cultivating small grains is labor-intensive and doesn't produce much foliage for animal feed and crop manure.

Agronomists say the government should further support farmers in growing small grains to improve soil and dietary health.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/03/farmers-rediscover-benefits-of-traditional-small-grains-in-zimbabwe/>

Friday 8th April

Researchers on board a Greenpeace International expedition to identify vulnerable ecosystems on the Antarctic seafloor have conducted what is believed to be the southernmost scientific submarine dive in history, at 65 degrees south. Scientists witnessed an “incredible abundance of life, including corals and other vulnerable species” and will use it as evidence to call for the area to receive special protection at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). The expedition managed to enter the remote Weddell Sea as Antarctic sea ice reached the lowest extent on satellite record.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/52621/antarctic-expedition-submarine-dive-abundance-marine-life/>

Saturday 9th April

Groundwater is our planet's invaluable natural store of freshwater but it is woefully neglected... The world is expected to become more dependent

vulnerable status thanks to the work of the community.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/indigenous-comcaac-turtle-group-saves-sea-turtles-in-mexicos-gulf-of-california/>

Friday 22nd April

People see nature restoration as the number one priority for England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) according to new polling commissioned by the RSPB... The survey also found that:

- Two thirds of people (66%) thought that wildlife should be faring better inside National Parks and AONBs than it is outside them and 85% were concerned to find that this wasn't the case.
- Almost all respondents (90%) said it was important to them that the abundance of wildlife in National Parks and AONBs is increased. This rose to 96% amongst those who live inside these landscapes.
- 81% were supportive of doing things to achieve this that would change the way these landscapes look such as nature friendly farming practices that would restore wildflower meadows, reduce the number of grazing animals and increasing the number of broadleaf trees.

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

Saturday 23rd April

Work to tackle the challenges of human, animal and ecosystem health using a more integrated approach has seen significant progress in the past year, leaders of three international organizations cooperating across these sectors said, as they expanded their group to include a fourth body, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). At its annual executive meeting this week, the Tripartite partnership for One Health, bringing together the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), formally became the Quadripartite as it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP. The One Health approach aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, ecosystems and the wider environment. It mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems. And it addresses the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

Monday 18th April

Medical schools across the [US] are increasingly reckoning with the need to teach the intersection of climate change and health. Schools of public health have been on the forefront of that progress...But more recently, medical schools have joined in the shift, updating curriculum and launching special programs to teach future doctors about the climate change-health connection.... climate change doesn't just bring hotter weather and more extreme storms. It also makes many health issues worse – issues doctors need to recognize and treat.

<https://grist.org/health/the-next-frontier-in-medicine-doctors-with-climate-training/>

Tuesday 19th April

Shifts in El Niño may be driving climates extremes in both hemispheres, writes Bob Berwyn for Inside Climate News. Global warming is shifting cyclical temperature swings in the Pacific Ocean, and that affects floods in Australia, fires in South America and even temperature in the polar regions... Scientists exploring possible connections between the remarkable series of extremes in both hemispheres say they are increasingly certain that the powerful El Niño-La Niña cycle in the Pacific Ocean is one of the key links. New research shows the cycle

has shifted in a way that is likely to fuel extremes, including wild swings between heat and drought and flooding rains.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/23032022/el-nino-hemispheres/>

Wednesday 20th April

Tonight is the next talk in the Joy in Enough series. Robert Alexander will be talking about The Circular Revolution. Link to sign up on this page

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/green-christian-workshops/>

Thursday 21st April

The Grupo Tortuguero Comcáac, the Sea Turtle Group of the Comcáac people, in El Desemboque de los Seris is fighting to increase the population of sea turtles, a sacred animal, in [Mexico's] Gulf of California, writes Astrid Arellano. In the past five years they have managed to release more than 8,000 olive ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) hatchlings along 14 kilometers (9 miles) of the Mancha Blanca and El Faro beach. State funding for the project is limited, however the turtle rescue group does not see this as a stumbling block, at times working 12 hour shifts to guard turtles, monitor the area and manage logistics. This turtle is no longer considered endangered and now hold a

upon fresh water stored as groundwater as societies adapt to a world in which rain falls less frequently but in heavier bursts brought about by climate change... Despite groundwater's invaluable attributes, it is not immune to overexploitation or contamination... some of the world's fastest growing cities such as Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Nairobi (Kenya) are struggling to reliably provide safe water as the groundwater below is running out [and] ... groundwater in coastal areas is also becoming more salty.

<https://theconversation.com/groundwater-depleting-reserves-must-be-protected-around-the-world-179620>

Sunday 10th April

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/len-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Monday 11th April

The Campaign for Nature is ... calling on policymakers to commit to a science-driven, ambitious new deal for nature at

the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China [in two weeks time]. Specifically, the Campaign for Nature is calling on world leaders to:

- commit to protecting at least 30% of the planet by 2030;
- help mobilize financial resources to ensure protected areas are properly managed; and,
- approach biodiversity conservation in a way that fully integrates and respects indigenous leadership and indigenous rights.

The Campaign for Nature is a partnership of the Wyss Campaign for Nature, National Geographic Society, and a growing coalition of more than 100 conservation organizations around the world.

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

Tuesday 12th April

Tropical forests cool the world by more than 1 degree Celsius, increase rainfall, and shield people and crops from deadly heat, researchers said, showing the climate benefits of trees go beyond sucking planet-warming carbon dioxide out of the air, writes Michael Taylor for Reuters. In a new study released [late March], they outlined different ways the Earth, its climate and its inhabitants rely on forests. As every tenth of a degree of warming fuels threats from extreme

weather and rising seas, lead author Deborah Lawrence said it is key to “acknowledge that tropical forests have a very important role in maintaining temperatures at a safe level”.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220324045718-alvy5/>

Wednesday 13th April

Two mine tailings dam failures following cyclones and heavy rains have been reported in recent months at Rio Tinto's QMM mine in Madagascar, raising serious concerns about the impacts on local communities and the natural environment. The QMM operations released a million cubic metres of mine process water from 8 March 2022 to prevent a complete collapse of its dam, having secured “exceptional” permission from the Malagasy water regulator, ANDEA, to carry out the release over seven weeks. Dead fish were found floating in the lake just days after the release of mine process water - triggering significant concerns among experts and local communities.

<https://theecologist.org/2022/mar/25/dead-fish-found-mine-dumps-water>

Thursday 14th April

Developed by Lufthansa and BASF, AeroShark is an adhesive film that immediately reduces fuel consumption — and, as a consequence, carbon emissions — from just about any

vehicle that has large, smooth surfaces, writes Jo Borrás on Cleantechnica. It's a thin film that replicates the teeth-like, aerodynamic scales on a shark's skin (properly called “denticles”) to reduce the wind resistance on a large surface — like an airliner's wing. The idea is that millions of years of evolution led to sharks moving away from a perfectly smooth skin towards the denticle design that reduces hydrodynamic drag enough to give the sharks that have them an evolutionary advantage. It's a successful adaptation that's been around since the time of the dinosaurs, and if it works in under water, the AeroShark team figured it would work in the air, too.

<https://cleantechnica.com/2022/02/24/shark-inspired-film-cuts-tons-of-carbon-emissions/>

Friday 15th April

In Panama, nature now has rights just like people and corporations. Scientists, lawyers and politicians are working together to dismantle current legal systems and popular mindsets about Nature. And, they're collaborating to build it back better for the future of their country and the planet... “*In short, this law recognizes that just as humans have inherent rights for existing (and similarly corporations) that Nature does as well,*” explained Michelle Bender, the

ocean campaigns director at the Earth Law Center.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/panama-nature-rights.html>

Saturday 16th April

The chief of the United Nations announced a project Wednesday to put every person on Earth in range of early weather-warning systems within five years as natural disasters have grown more powerful and frequent due to climate change, writes Jamey Keaten . U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the project with the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organization aims to make the alert systems already used by many rich countries available to the developing world. “*Today, one-third of the world's people, mainly in least-developed countries and small island developing states, are still not covered by early warning systems,*” Guterres said. “*In Africa, it is even worse: 60% of people lack coverage. This is unacceptable, particularly with climate impacts sure to get even worse,*” he said. “*We must boost the power of prediction for everyone and build their capacity to act.*”

<https://apnews.com/article/wildfires-climate-science-weather-antonio-guterres-d47f7cff87b6ea081f5af1035f74d2eb>

Sunday 17th April Easter Prayer

This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never
shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of
resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts
today.

We pray that the Easter light of life,
hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>