

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/interlinked-threats-facing-lakes-and-why-we-need-protect-them>

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

All praise be yours, My Lord  
through all that you have made.

And first my lord Brother Sun, who  
brings the day...  
How beautiful is he, how radiant in  
all his splendor!  
Of you, Most High, he bears the  
likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through Sister Moon and Stars;  
In the heavens you have made  
them, bright and precious and fair.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give  
him thanks,  
And serve him with great humility.  
*Part of a prayer attributed to St.  
Francis of Assisi*  
<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/sustainability-prayers>

Picture on front cover: An embrothrium, pic from Emma King

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)  
Green Christian contact: Information Officer  
Email [info@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:info@greenchristian.org.uk)  
Tel: 0345 459 8460  
[www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)  
Green Christian: 48 Morrab Road, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4EX.

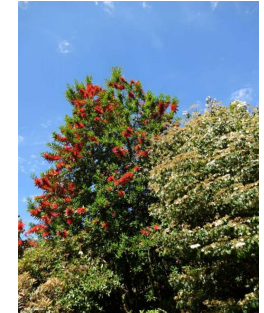


Green Christian is a registered trading name of Christian Ecology Link.  
Charity No. 328744. Company No. 2445198 © 2022 Green Christian



## Prayer guide for the care of creation

# July 2022



“Is it not enough for you to feed on the good  
pasture, that you must tread down with your  
feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of  
clear water, that you must muddy the rest of  
the water with your feet?”

Ezekiel 34 v 18

“Like music and art, love of nature is a  
common language that can transcend  
political or social boundaries.”

Jimmy Carter

 **Green Christian**  
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

### Friday 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/resources/>

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

BP paid tax on its UK North Sea business in 2021 for the first time in at least six years, according to the company's latest payments to governments report. The news

comes amid tension between the UK oil industry and the government over a new 25% windfall tax that will fund programs to ease the pain of high energy costs on households. ... The London-based major paid a total of \$127.3 million to the UK's HM Revenue and Customs, Crown Estate and Oil and Gas Authority. In 2020 the company received a tax refund of \$42 million. BP, like other oil and gas producers in the UK, often don't pay tax on their North Sea businesses because of losses tied to investments in fields. Many producers also receive rebates for dismantling oil platforms in the aging basin, which has meant in recent years that they've received more money from the government than they've paid out.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/north-sea/421836/bp-paid-tax-to-uk-on-north-sea-business-for-first-time-in-years/>

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

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;  
For the wide sky and the blessed

<https://happyeconews.com/2022/06/25/japan-is-dropping-a-gargantuan-turbine-into-the-ocean-to-harness-limitless-energy/>

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

In 2030, the sale of new diesel and petrol passenger cars will be outlawed in the UK, writes Alexander James in The Conversation. To make best use of existing petrol and diesel burning vehicles ... drivers and manufacturers can reduce the emissions of a family of compounds called nitrogen oxides, which are linked to respiratory diseases, through better treatment of exhaust fumes. ... [His] research team is developing a new generation of catalytic converters ... Inspired by chemistry observed on the surface of extremely hot planets such as Venus, [they] have produced a synthetic material that could improve air quality.

<https://theconversation.com/cosmic-dust-from-venus-is-inspiring-new-air-pollution-busting-technology-185270>

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

Across the world, lakes fed by rivers, glacial melt, groundwater and rain have played an important role in human civilization and development. They contain 90 per cent of the fresh water on the planet's surface, house an array of wildlife, and make possible farming, fishing and industry. Yet, due to climate change, pollution, mining, population pressure, and unsustainable land use, they are declining at an unprecedented rate. Freshwater ecosystems have lost more extent and biodiversity than almost any ecosystem in the world. The threats facing lakes are interlinked. Lake pollution is worsened by global heating – leading, for instance, to more frequent and intense floods that cause nutrients, surface-bound contaminants and solid waste to be flushed into rivers and lakes. “*Water pollution has continued to worsen over the last two decades, increasing the threats to freshwater ecosystems and human health,*” says UNEP's 2021 flagship report *Making Peace With Nature*.

that there are now just an estimated 2,100 pairs left, down from an estimated 125,000 pairs in 1970. Turtle doves are unique as the only long-distance migratory dove species in Europe... Research shows that the decline of turtle doves is being driven by two main factors: the loss of suitable habitat on the breeding grounds and unsustainable levels of hunting when they migrate through south-west Europe on spend the winter in Africa.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/uk-turtle-dove-survey-warns-of-low-numbers-but-hope-is-on-the-horizon/>

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

Ensuring women have equal rights to inheritance and property ownership is key to tackling climate breakdown, writes Roya Rahmani in The Ecologist. We urgently need to eliminate discriminatory laws and cultural practices that curtail women's inheritance and property rights to mitigate against the worst impacts of climate change.

Preventing women from owning land and other assets leaves them more vulnerable to climate shocks, and this has a damaging ripple effect with ramifications for us all. UN figures indicate that 80 percent of those displaced by climate change are women, and this is underpinned by the ways in which women are denied equal ownership, use, and control over land.

<https://theecologist.org/2022/jun/27/womens-rights-can-mitigate-climate-impacts>

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

Japanese engineers have constructed a turbine that can withstand the ocean's currents to transform its flow into a limitless electricity supply. The 330-ton prototype consists of a 20-meter-long fuselage which is attached to an 11-meter-long turbine blade. The device can orient itself to find the most efficient position to generate power from the deep water current.

sun,  
For the salt sea and the running water,  
For the everlasting hills  
And the never-resting winds,  
For trees and the common grass underfoot.  
We thank you for our senses  
By which we hear the songs of birds,  
And see the splendor of the summer fields,  
And taste of the autumn fruits,  
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,  
And smell the breath of the spring.  
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;  
And save our souls from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing  
When even the common thorn bush  
Is aflame with your glory,  
O God our creator,  
Who lives and reigns forever and ever.  
- *Walter Rauschenbusch*

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

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

Gustavo Petro, Colombia's first elected leftist president, will take office in August with ambitious proposals to halt the record-high rates of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, writes Fabiano Maisonnave for Associated Press. Petro has promised to limit agribusiness expansion into the forest, and create reserves where Indigenous communities and others are allowed to harvest rubber, acai and other non-timber forest products. He has also pledged income from carbon credits to finance replanting. *"From Colombia, we will give humanity a reward, a remedy, a solution: not to burn the Amazon rainforest anymore, to recover it to its natural frontier, to give humanity the possibility of life on this planet,"* Petro, wearing an Indigenous headdress, said to a crowd in the Amazon city of Leticia during his campaign.

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-wildfires-politics-presidential-elections-deforestation-d9a4a884d8b1de68a93fb36f2a4bef8b>

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

The UN has confirmed that the final part of the COP15 on biodiversity will now take place in Montreal this December, in a bid to end the string of delays to the summit caused by the Covid-19 situation in China, writes Sarah George for Edie. The summit was originally planned for Kunming, China, in 2020. It was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently split into two parts, with the first part successfully completed in Kunming in October 2021 and the second meeting in Kunming taking place this spring. The second meeting was unsuccessful, with no final deal agreed. Interim talks in Nairobi were, therefore, added to the UN's calendar for this summer, and a final meeting for Kunming in autumn. However, China saw a spike in Covid-19 cases in the first quarter of the year and places including Beijing and Shanghai were put into lockdown. With all of this in mind, concern had been growing that the summit would not conclude this year if its conclusion depended on a face-to-face event in China. This would mean that the

post-2020 set of international biodiversity goals would be more than two years delayed in terms of their creation and implementation.

<https://www.edie.net/final-part-of-uns-summit-to-create-international-biodiversity-goals-moved-to-canada-in-bid-to-end-delays/>

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July

With a current recycling rate of just 44%, the UK is lagging far behind on where we need to be to achieve our recycling goals, writes John Melia of DS Smith for LARAC. In fact, modelling carried out on behalf of DS Smith identified that we are in danger of missing our 2035 65% recycling rate target by thirteen years. As recycling rates stagnate, and even begin to decline, that gap continues to grow. Declining recycling rates mean we have to question whether the UK's recycling systems are fit for purpose... The continued prevalence of co-mingled recycling streams – where different types of material such as paper, glass and plastic are collected together with paper and card –

levels of global flood protections in place.

<https://www.c40.org/news/climate-related-flooding-drought-cities-billions/>

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

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

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

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

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish  
consumption of

Resources meant for all and to see  
the impacts of our  
choices on the poor and vulnerable.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

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

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

Last [month], heavy rains in  
Yellowstone National Park wiped  
out miles of roads, closing the park  
and swamping nearby Billings,

Montana. [Also in June], heavy  
monsoons and flooding impacted  
millions of people in Bangladesh  
and India, causing fatalities. Record  
rainfall in southeastern China also  
caused a deluge, resulting in  
landslides and evacuations.  
Flooding claims lives, ruins  
infrastructure and threatens  
agriculture—and jeopardizes food  
security... New research has  
determined how ethylene, a plant  
compound, increases flood  
resistance. But ready access to  
crops able to withstand flooding still  
depends on demand from farmers  
who historically have been more  
focused on increasing yields.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/26062022/flood-resistant-crops/>

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

The turtle dove is the fastest-  
declining UK species, with numbers  
falling by 98% since the 1970s.  
Last year, almost 1,000 volunteers,  
farmers, study groups, county bird  
clubs and other organisations  
mobilised to record turtle dove  
across their UK range. Provisional  
results published [in June] show

has been patchy and therefore scarce.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/photo-of-panther-is-part-of-huge-project-to-protect-amazon-diversity/>

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Water levels were slowly receding Thursday in major rivers in Bangladesh's flood-hit northeast, bringing hopes of relief to millions of Bangladeshis, but woes continued in India's northeast, where 5.5 million people remained affected, officials said. Up to 78 people have died in floods and 17 others in landslides in India's Assam state, while at least 42 monsoon-related deaths have been recorded in Bangladesh since last month, when floods began ravaging parts of the two South Asian countries, forcing millions to take shelter away from their homes... Sajedul Hasan, [aid agency] BRAC's director of disaster risk management, said many families had lost their cattle. *"I just visited one family which had three cows before the flood hit. They left them behind and now when they*

*returned home there is no trace of them,"* he said. Other families still have their cattle, but are struggling to provide them with feed.

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-floods-science-bangladesh-south-asia-91e90384fec709c392f98c803ace646a>

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

C40 Cities has revealed new research quantifying the dire impacts of climate-driven drought and flooding on the world's largest cities and its residents. Supported by the Grundfos Foundation, C40's analysis, entitled *Water Safe Cities*, leverages data from the network's nearly 100 member cities to forecast the potential impacts of global temperature rise on urban economies and infrastructure. The findings show that if global warming continues unabated, 7.4 million people in the world's largest cities will be exposed to severe river flooding within the next three decades, with damages to urban areas expected to cost \$64 billion per year by 2050, even with current

severely compromises the quality of recycled materials.

<https://larac.org.uk/blog/quality-recycled-products-must-start-quality-inputs>

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

Botanists with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department confirmed that they've discovered a population of small orchids believed to be extinct in Vermont since 1902. *"Discovering a viable population of a federally threatened species unknown in our state for over a century is astounding,"* said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Botanist Bob Popp. ... The small whorled pogonia is a globally-rare orchid that, in the past, had bloomed across the eastern US states and Ontario.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/orchid-thought-extinct-for-120-yrs-in-vermont-is-rediscovered/>

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

Tata Chemicals Europe (TCE) has opened an industrial-scale carbon capture and usage (CCU) plant at

one of its manufacturing plants in Cheshire, claiming it is the UK's largest in terms of its capacity, writes Sarah George for Edie. The CCU plant has been added to the firm's manufacturing plant in Northwich and has a stated capacity of up to 40,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> capture each year. It will be used to capture emissions resulting from the processes of manufacturing salt, sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate. 40,000 tonnes is equivalent to 10% of the emissions generated by TCE in the UK every year. For the past ten months, TCE has been testing the CCU plant at a limited capacity and has been measuring the purity of the captured CO<sub>2</sub>. It is hoped that the captured CO<sub>2</sub> can be supplied to the food industry, which has faced shortages in recent months, and to manufacture lower-carbon sodium bicarbonate at the plant itself.

<https://www.edie.net/uks-biggest-carbon-capture-facility-opens-at-chemical-manufacturing-site-in-cheshire/>

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

Despite legally binding controls in 87 countries, lead is still commonly used in paint, and experts warn that it's time to stop brushing aside the hazardous chemical's human and environmental health impacts. Every year, an estimated 900,000 people die from lead exposure. Lead exposure can also result in increased risk of antisocial behavior, cardiovascular disease and reduced fertility. Studies have found that childhood exposure to lead results in economic losses of US\$977 billion annually. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is taking the lead in addressing this critical issue through pushing for stricter legislation and providing technical support. Alongside the Global Environment Facility, it recently published *Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines* to help manufacturers phase out lead. This builds upon UNEP's long-running advocacy work, including a successful 20-year campaign to end leaded fuel.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/inside-push-eliminate-lead-paint>

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

We thank you, creator God, for the goodly heritage you offer us, from green downland to the deep salt seas, and for the abundant world we share with your creation. Keep us so mindful of its needs and those of all with whom we share, that open to your Spirit we may discern and practice all that makes for its wellbeing, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
- Rev. Peter Lippiett

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

## Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July

A recently announced partnership between ITV reality show *Love Island* and secondhand e-commerce giant eBay sends a strong positive signal about prioritising sustainability over fast fashion, writes Katy Wheeler for

Thomas said approximately half a trillion cubic feet of lower specification gas has been identified in the Southern North Sea. This “not insignificant” volume could be enough to heat 12.2 million UK homes for one year, she said.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/north-sea/422175/uk-government-gas-quality-north-sea/>

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

The global cement industry's carbon dioxide emissions were twice as high in 2021 as in 2002, new data has shown, as nations face calls to scale up low-carbon cement and concrete production by increasing demand from the public sector. The new data was published by Robbie Andrew, an emissions scientist working for the Global Carbon Project and for the CICERO Centre for International Climate Research in Norway ... But separate data, from the International Energy Agency (IEA) last year revealed that the carbon intensity of cement production – the average emission generated per

tonne of product manufactured – is also rising... The IEA attributes this trend to the fact that much production occurs in China, which still relies heavily on coal.

<https://www.edie.net/cement-and-concrete-industrys-emissions-have-doubled-in-20-years/>

## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Staring into the camera, [a] shot of a panther in the Amazon rainforest is part of a huge project to better protect the massive diversity of wildlife found there. Conservationists have collated more than 120,000 pictures from camera traps from the forest to improve research on the abundance, diversity, and habitat conditions of endangered rainforest species. The wildlife cameras in the Amazon Basin, which are equipped with sensors that trigger when animals approach, have captured photos of jaguars, toucans, harpy eagles, ocelots, tapirs, peccaries, and many more... Until now, knowledge about the number, diversity, distribution patterns and behavior of species in this territory

creation with wisdom, and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all; That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

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

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July

The Baltic Proper harbour porpoise, the only whale resident in the Baltic Sea which many don't even know exists, is close to extinction. The most endangered whale in Europe needs concrete conservation measures to be implemented for its protection. On paper, the Baltic harbour porpoise and its habitat are "highly protected" under European Union law, both within and outside Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), but in practice, this has failed to generate effective conservation. Underwater noise and bycatch, along with pollutants and ecosystem changes caused by overfishing and climate change, are the main threats against this

cetacean species. Important steps have been taken recently by the European Commission, especially in relation to bycatch, but the work is still far from being completed to protect the population throughout its range and save it from extinction.

<https://www.ccb.se/new-petition-launched-to-save-the-baltic-harbour-porpoise>

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Kwasi Kwarteng is looking at relaxing gas quality rules for UK pipelines so North Sea supply can help beat the energy crisis. According to the Telegraph, the Business Secretary is discussing plans to allow less efficient, lower calorie gas to be piped into the network to make the most out of UK reserves. At a conference in London [in late June], Mr Kwarteng said "*we are exploring domestic gas storage options carefully*", including "*potential regulatory options to extract more gas from existing fields*"... Writing for Energy Voice last year, [Neptune Energy's] UK managing director Alexandra

The Conversation. After receiving a strong backlash against Love Island's promotion of fast fashion brands such as I Saw It First and Misguided, the show's executive producer, Mike Spencer, has announced it'll be working with eBay in 2022 to clothe participants in its current series with "preloved" garments ... The show has the power to influence young people's shopping habits, largely through the official Love Island app where viewers can "shop the show" to find beauty and fashion items promoted by contestants.

<https://theconversation.com/love-island-and-ebay-how-the-reality-show-could-model-a-radically-sustainable-future-for-its-young-viewers-185242>

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

The UK has a target to incorporate renewable fuels, such as biofuels, into road transport. This was inherited from the EU before Brexit and set at a time before electric vehicles became cost effective. In 2021, before the invasion of Ukraine, the government decided to

increase the target to 9.6 per cent in 2022, rising to 14.6 per cent of fuel by 2032. Where biofuels are made from crops, they compete with food production. This analysis shows that sharply reducing the use of crop-based biofuels (while retaining waste-based biofuels) could partly or completely offset the impact of the war on global hunger, reduce UK consumer costs, and if accompanied by policy to very modestly increase the uptake of electric vehicles, could keep the UK on track to net zero.

<https://green-alliance.org.uk/briefing/food-security-and-uk-crop-based-biofuel-use/>

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Addressing climate change and improving the well-being of millions of people experiencing extreme poverty...can be done together and create critical co-benefits for socially disadvantaged groups in rural areas of low- and middle-income countries, according to a new landmark report released ... by Drawdown Lift, a program of the

global nonprofit Project Drawdown. The report...focuses specifically on climate solutions and poverty alleviation in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia—two areas of the world most at risk from the threats of climate change. This first-of-its-kind analysis reveals many ways in which specific technologies and practices that offer proven, substantial benefits for addressing climate change also improve multiple aspects of human well-being—particularly people’s livelihoods, health, food security, education, gender equality, and more.

<https://www.drawdown.org/news/insights/new-drawdown-lift-report-advancing-climate-solutions-can-help-alleviate-extreme>

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

Millions of tonnes of plastic wind up in the ocean every year, killing plants and animals, writes Shivan Sarna for euronews.green. That’s why companies around the world have developed novel devices to help reduce the ocean plastic problem. Dutch company

RanMarine has deployed several 157-centimetre wide aquatic drones called WasteSharks that capture rubbish and bring it back to land. The drones can hold 160 litres of trash, floating plants and algae, according to RanMarine Technology. The aquatic tech is inspired by the whale shark, which swims with its mouth wide open to capture prey.

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/06/17/these-drones-are-swallowing-tonnes-of-plastic-waste-before-it-reaches-the-ocean>

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

Energybuild Mining Limited applied to the Coal Authority, the UK Government agency responsible for mines, for a full underground license for Aberpergwm Colliery, near Glynneath, Neath Port Talbot, back in September 2020, and the application [was] approved [in January]....The Welsh Government said it “*does not support*” the extraction of fossil fuels - but because Energybuild applied for a license before control over coal licenses in Wales was devolved to

the Welsh Government, it is not able to step in and alter or reject the company’s application. Coal Action Network is now seeking to challenge that decision in court.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/aberpergwm-colliery-given-go-ahead-22900709>

<https://www.coalaction.org.uk/aberpergwm-south-wales/>

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

The government’s *Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan* indicates how the government will progressively stop pollution from untreated sewage releases via ‘storm’ overflows. [The Rivers Trust] are incredibly disappointed by the plan, because:

- The plan is too narrow in its scope, only giving targets for water companies;
- The timeline for action lacks ambition and is out of step with other proposed government environment targets on pollution reduction and nature’s recovery;

- Under the plan half of storm overflows would still be spilling untreated sewage in 2040;
- It lacks targets for the government to implement enabling legislation and regulations as recommended by MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) and by the Defra Taskforce on Storm Overflows.

<https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-reduction-plan>

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

Let us pray for an end to the Waste and desecration of God’s creation  
For access to the fruits of creation  
To be shared equally among all people  
And for communities and nations to find sustenance  
In the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.  
Almighty God, you created the world and gave it  
Into our care so that, in obedience to you,  
We might serve all people:  
Inspire us to use the riches of