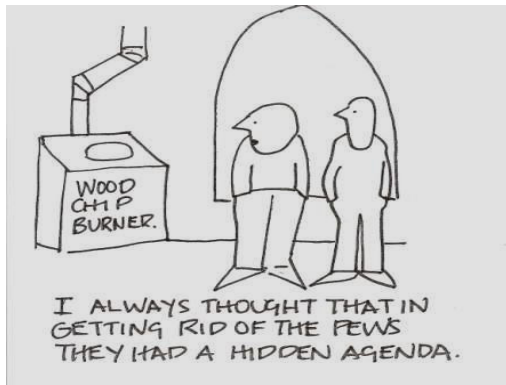


# Diocesan Ecology Link

From the Bath & Wells Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)

Newsletter number 13

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**Comment:** *One of the challenges that came out of talks with deanery synods when drafting the diocesan environment policy was that those at the heart of the diocese should set an example. Well they are. The Old Deanery is certainly*

*at the heart of the diocese and, as our first story shows, changes have already been made. And the prospect of the diocese having its own full time justice and environment advisor is very exciting. So too are the encouraging steps being taken by Bath Abbey. First steps are always the most important. BK*

## ***Around the diocese:***

### **Old Deanery praised in energy audit.**

The environmental challenges presented by The Old Deanery in Wells 'have been tackled with distinction', according to an energy audit carried out by the energy consultant Keith Moss. This latest audit follows an energy review carried out in May 2006 during which it was concluded that 'The Old Deanery is a challenging building to service economically and in an environmental way'.

The Old Deanery houses administration offices as well as meeting rooms and the education resource centre. A major factor in the dealing with the environmental challenge it presents was the decision made by the Diocesan Board of Finances last year to get its electricity from 100 per cent renewable sources. (See October 2007 Grapevine). This change-over has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the carbon foot print of the building for 2007.

The report on this latest energy audit also states that since the original 2006 audit some considerable preparatory research work has started to improve the level and control of space heating in one of the ground floor offices. The hope is to 'reduce the cost of electricity consumption there before extending the concept to other areas in the building where appropriate.'

Keith Moss, a retired energy consultant, is willing carry out detailed energy audits on churches within the diocese and to offer advice. He can be e-mailed at [keithelen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:keithelen@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Bath Abbey begins eco-audit journey**

The Bath Abbey News reports: 'Acting on an initiative from the diocese, the Abbey has instigated an "eco-audit" of its own life, and asked Roger Nunn to take the Abbey through Stage 1 of a process set out by the national organisation Eco-congregation. So far conversations have been held with Abbey staff and the buildings committee asking the question 'How can we take further the Abbey's commitment expressed in the vision statement "to discern prayerfully the Abbey's prophetic voice... on climate change..."'

The newsletter also explains how faced with the need to renew its heating system its commissioned research from Bath University to see whether in any way the hot water from the Roman Baths could be re-channelled to heat the Abbey. This proved to be more difficult than at first seemed. But says the newsletter 'the committee is continuing to search for a system that will be both economically and environmentally sensitive.'

## ***Farther Afield***

### **Environment Sunday - 8th June (two resources).**

1) Material for you and your church to use on environment Sunday is now available from A Rocha. For details of its Environment Resource packs log onto <http://en.arocha.org/ukconsunday/index11.html>

Formerly know as Environment Sunday Pack, these can be used all year but includes materials suitable for Environment Sunday. It is an opportunity for your church to focus on:

- Christian perspectives on the topical, vital issue of the environment
- Biblical teaching on God's world and our place in it
- Making a practical difference in your local community

*Each pack includes:*

Service Orders suitable for a range of settings - informal, all-age, communion and word-based services. There are also sermon outlines, small group materials, song and hymn suggestions and visual materials for copying.

Environment Sunday is the Sunday closest to World Environment Day which is June 5th. Many churches worldwide are choosing this time of year to focus on God's earth and our responsibility for it.

In past years, churches have undertaken events in partnership with local Wildlife Trust groups - a great way of building bridges into the community as well as learning more about practical conservation. Materials are also suitable for use at other times of year, such as Harvest or 'Creation Time'.

2) Ideas for environment Sunday are also available on the Chester diocese website [www.chester.anglican.org/CSR/Environment/page2.html](http://www.chester.anglican.org/CSR/Environment/page2.html). The list includes:

Let the earth be glad - Background information  
 The Earth is the Lord's - A service for Environment Sunday  
 The Glory of Creation hymn  
 Prayers  
 The story of the wonderful carved ball  
 Planet Doctor sketch  
 Bible Pairs game  
 Worship in Wellies idea

**From Christian Ecology Link (CEL) newsletter**

**STORM OF HOPE BROCHURES.**

The CEL has produced a four page A4 colour brochure called "Storm of Hope" aimed at encouraging people to take more care of the environment and containing features about CEL and its aims, and resources. It is sub-headed 'From denial to activism with Christian Ecology Link.'

If you are a CEL member you will have received a copy. If not it is worth getting hold of one. Either way extra copies can be obtained. If you would like to receive (free) extra copies for use on stalls, events, your church, email Laura Deacon at [info@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:info@christian-ecology.org.uk) stating how many copies you would like, including your address, and detailing what you are likely to use them for.

**From A Rocha newsletter.**

A Rocha was invited to attend a day's conference on climate change and biodiversity in the City of London in March. All the lead UK agencies were represented, and there were presentations from the UK cabinet, Chief government scientist, Natural England, Environment Agency and others. The conference provided substantial new scientific evidence for the rate of change in the UK, but gave no new leads on the way forward at a time of considerable uncertainty. Andy Lester our Conservation Director managed to spend some time with the Chair of the JNCC, the Chief Government Scientist Professor

Robert Watson, and with the event organiser Dr Clive Walmsley. All three were keen that faith groups took a lead on driving home a message of hope and optimism against a background of despondency. The challenge will be to determine how this can be out worked.

## ***New sources of information***

### **Eco-congregation has new website.**

Jo Rathbone tells us: 'The new Eco-congregation website is now up and running. This has been made possible by a grant from Christian Aid, and is much more easily updatable than the old site. I am regularly updating the content, particularly on the pages for each module. Information which comes my way and which is relevant to one of the module areas (eg buildings, or community involvement) is posted on the page for that module (eg Module 7 Greening the Cornerstone, Module 11 Community Matters). Do keep checking back for additional information which may be of help. Also, there is a blog page, and here I'm again posting all sorts of information, so this is a quick way to find out the most recent information.

'There is a page for local groups. I'd like to put up here any local group of Christians meeting regularly to address environmental issues, so that there's a national picture of what is going on. Please contact me if you are involved in a local group, and you'd like your group to be on the map! It would be a good way to reach out to more web-savvy younger people who might want to be involved. In addition, there is a new events page, so if you hear about any event that you think others would like to find out about, then do send me details.'

### **New Conservation newsletter from A Rocha.**

A new Conservation Newsletter is now up and running, generated by A Rocha Conservation Director, Andy Lester. He will from time to time summarise some of the key stories in brief in the E-news. However if you would like to receive the full newsletter with the leading conservation stories from around the UK (from an A Rocha perspective), e-mail [andy.lester@arocha.org](mailto:andy.lester@arocha.org) or call (02380) 730784. The newsletter is **only** available in electronic format, and will arrive towards the end of each calendar month.

### **Christian Stewardship Sustainable Development publication**

Also available in electronic form, Christian Stewardship Sustainable Development is a new quarterly publication which aims to raise the profile of church involvement in promoting sustainable development. The first issue is now available on-line. It is planned that each edition will include news of current issues relating to waste, energy, water and carbon; informed analysis and insight agendas; informed analysis and insight; opportunities for churches to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development; and links to useful websites. For a .pdf copy go to <http://www.earthresources.org.uk/cssdpubs.php>

## ***For the diary:***

### **5th June. - Sound of Many Waters, Clifton Cathedral event.**

A lively evening exploring tales of Catholic saints who protected the

environment. Radio and TV presenter Martin Palmer guides us through 2000 fascinating years of Christian engagement with our natural world, bringing to life amazing stories, legends and myths. Martin's presentation leads up to Bishop Declan Lang launching the theological reflection produced by Gavin D'Costa, the University of Bristol's Professor in Christian Theology. From World Environment Day 2008 (8<sup>th</sup> June) onward this summary of current theological thinking on the environment can be accessed from the sound of living waters website. Starting time for this evening event at Clifton Cathedral is still to be announced. Check the website:

<http://www.soundofmanywaters.org/events-june08.html>

### **21<sup>st</sup> June - Hilfield Friary mid-summer fair**

Hilfield Friary, home of the environmental Hilfield Project, is planning a mid summer fair to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June at The Friary, near Cerne Abbas, between 11 am and 4pm. They tell us:

`We have many exciting entertainments laid on for the day; the Yetminster Irish Dancers will perform and also the perambulating theatre show provided by the Hand to Mouth Theatre. You may hear the well modulated tones of the Brothers of the First Order of the Franciscans to day singing 'Barber Shop'! There will be workshops based on St Francis' Cantic of the Creatures, Butterfly walks, and a special tour of Brother Vincent's Secret Garden.

Craftsmen and women are coming from around the county to display and involved you in many country crafts including wood carving, wood turning, pottery, calligraphy and much more. There will be stalls from local businesses and displays from organisations involved with the locality or the environment, Brother Larry will be selling his famously scrumptious bread. We have booked a gloriously sunny day, so not an event to be missed!

For more information contact [hilfieldproject@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:hilfieldproject@franciscans.org.uk) or at [www.hilfieldproject.co.uk](http://www.hilfieldproject.co.uk). 01300 341741.

### **30<sup>th</sup> August - Environment Festival in Weston super Mare.**

Tenons (The environment network of North Somerset) is organising, with Weston Civic Society, an environmental Festival to celebrate local foods and crafts. The event will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August at Weston's Old Town Quarry in South Road, Weston super Mare, beginning at 12 noon.

It will give groups and organisations around the county the opportunity to meet and network with each other and talk to the public about green issues. The day will be one of fun and competitions for the whole family, including a scarecrow challenge. The local RSPB group plans to set up its telescopes to enable views of the quarry's resident peregrine falcons.

TENONS secretary Rose Hughes tells us: `We had about 600 through the gate last year when we organised a Festival for the Arts and hope, given a good day, this will be exceeded.' [www.tenons.org.uk](http://www.tenons.org.uk).

### **4<sup>th</sup> October - Minehead eco-day**

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008 Christians Together in Minehead are organising an 'Eco Day' in the town. The morning will centre on 'Christian concern for the environment' and the afternoon on 'Perspectives on the local situation'. There will be talks, presentations, drama by young people, interactive activities etc. The morning will be led by our own chairman Revd David Osborne and the afternoon by Lorna Scott of Forum 21. It is hoped to feature environmental initiatives in displays around the venue, Minehead Methodist Church.

***The following two items from the April newsletter of the Bath-based sustainability charity Envolve, may be of interest.***

### **1) Local Businesses Could Be Missing Out on Public Sector Contracts**

Many local businesses tendering for public sector contracts are falling at the first hurdle because they are unable to complete the environmental section of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (the first stage in any bid to a public sector body such as the council). At a recent event, organised by Partners in Procurement, Envolve addressed the simple question, what is an environmental policy and how do businesses get one? With an increase in environmental legislation and more environmentally aware customers and employees, businesses are increasingly forced to address Corporate Social Responsibility and their impact on the environment. To find out how your business can benefit from such advice, please contact our Environmental Consultants. **More info:** [veronica.parsons@envolve.org.uk](mailto:veronica.parsons@envolve.org.uk)

### **2) Local to Global: Eco-Schools, Sustainability and Climate Change**

Over 40 teachers met together at an Envolve-organised event recently to get the latest information on new ways of teaching about climate change and sustainability. Presentations and workshops covered Eco-schools and the global context of Climate Change. New educational resources, including a new Key Stage 2 pack, were distributed and explored. The afternoon session was taken up with the second Sustainable Learning Forum, where teachers share good practice, ideas and resources to take Eco-schools and other initiatives forward in their schools. Feedback was very positive. As one teacher put it: "It was a very enjoyable day and it's great to participate in something so well run and enthusiastic."

**More info:** <http://www.envolve.org.uk/education/index.html>

***Envolve Partnerships for Sustainability** (Envolve) aims to support wiser ways of living that lead to more healthy and sustainable businesses, schools and communities. It is a charity based in Bath's Green Park Station, which it also has responsibility for running. It delivers its work through three teams: **Business; Education; and Community**, providing the support to enable individuals and communities to make a significant and lasting difference to where they live.*

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*The editor of DEL is always interested in hearing about environmental events and projects from around the diocese, in particular work being done in individual churches and deaneries. And we always welcome new subscribers (free). Send information and requests by e-mail to [brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com](mailto:brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com).*

**Next newsletter: mid July.**