

# Diocesan Ecology Link

From the Bath & Wells Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)

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..TO THINK THIS USED  
TO BE A LOVELY  
MOTORWAY A FEW  
YEARS AGO.

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**DEG to produce Diocesan study pack for Lent 2010.**

Funding has been obtained to enable the Diocesan Environment Group to produce a Lent study pack for use across the diocese in 2010. The pack dealing with the environment and climate change will include a DVD that looks at issues often

raised by people who are either unwilling to see the need for change or afraid that there is little they can do. It will be creative, hard hitting and entertaining and be supported by a group-work and study pack.

The initiative for producing the pack came from Bishop Peter Price in a meeting with the Diocesan Environment Group. Funding has been promised as generous grants from the Diocesan Fund for Church Growth and Wessex Water.

More information will follow in due course, but for those who like to plan in advance - have it in mind for Lent 2010. The pack will be ideal for single church and ecumenical groups, individual study, or simply a group of interested people who want to get together. Tasters and short pieces will be available online in the months running up to Lent 2010.

## **Climate change day of action in Coventry – March 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Coventry Cathedral is the venue on March 19<sup>th</sup> for a service jointly organised by Christian Aid and CAFOD as part of a Stop Climate Chaos Coalition Climate Change day of action. Christian Aid is organising a coach from Taunton for the event. Pick-up points are detailed below.

Taking part in the service will be NASA scientist Dr James Hansen – the man who recently told Barak Obama he had four years to save the planet – and the bishop of Liverpool James Jones. After the service which starts at 12 noon there will be a march around Coventry city centre with other members of the Coalition.

There will also be a chance either to join with the World Development Movement at E.on's UK headquarters to say 'No to coal' or to meet CAFOD partners who are being affected by extreme changes in climate in Cambodia and Kenya. You can register for the day by e-mailing [campaigns@christian-aid.org](mailto:campaigns@christian-aid.org) or by contacting Elizabeth Perry on 01454 415923 .

*Join other campaigners from the West on a coach from:*

M5 Junction 25 Hankridge Way, Taunton TA1 2LR. Depart: 7.30am.

M5 Junction 17 Brentry Methodist Church, Epworth Road, Knole Lane, Bristol BS10 6SA. Depart: 8.30am.

M5 Junction 12 Blooms Garden Centre, Bath Road, Haresfield, Gloucester GL10 3DP. Depart: 9.30am.

Seats £10, concessions £5. To book contact the West office: 01454 415923 or [west@christian-aid.org](mailto:west@christian-aid.org)

## **Operation Noah Ark Campaign launched.**

On January 24<sup>th</sup> in Cardiff, Operation Noah launched its 2009 'Ark Campaign'. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen at the end of this year, using the symbol of the ark as a mobilising vehicle. ON has produced a campaign petition for the summit.

In Cardiff more than 300 locals gathered on a Lightship in Cardiff Bay to sing hymns and recite Psalms, accompanied by a Salvation Army brass band and a local soprano soloist. The children processed on board in costumes and animal masks. Christian and Muslim students joined forces to sing Pwy wnaeth y sêr uwchben? : (Who made the stars on high?).

### *The Ark Campaign Petition:*

*“We the undersigned, recognise that power stations emit more carbon dioxide than any other sector - a third of all global emissions. As a first step towards making our climate safe for all, we call for the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009 to agree urgent cuts in power station emissions.*

*We call on the British government to lead negotiations for a cut in global power sector emissions of at least one third by 2020, as a move towards zero emissions from this sector by 2030. Furthermore, we call for an international inspectorate, along the lines of the International Nuclear Inspectorate to ensure these emissions are permanently monitored and capped.”*

### **Tenons – two meetings**

#### **Green Talk.**

On Saturday 21st March Green Talk@The Blakehay, Weston super Mare will be a day of talks, short films, stands with environmental information and the opportunity to get involved and help create a greener, safer planet.

“In the morning Cara Nathan of Transition Langport will inspire us to lessen reliance on gas, coal and oil and look to sustainable sources. And Tobias Parker of Sustain will help us discover how to reduce fuel bill costs and go through the alternatives we will be forced to consider as the world’s oil reserves run out.

Barny and Phil Haughton will take the afternoon session. Well known in Bristol as Bordeaux Quay and The Better Food Company, they will be joined by Trevor Bell of WRAP. Trevor is involved with the ‘Love Food, Hate Waste’ project. Come along and be surprised at just what is discarded every day and be inspired to join the ‘Slow Food’ folk to eat food kind to your body as well as your purse.”

#### **Film –Message in the Waves**

*Message in the Waves* - the film that motivated the Devonshire town of Modbury to go plastic free – is to be shown on 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Green Room of Nailsea Town Council, Silver Street, Nailsea (starting 7.30pm). The showing of this powerful illustration of the problems facing us in our misuse of the natural environment is being promoted by North Somerset Wildlife Wardens and TENONS (The environment network of North Somerset). Entry is free with small charge for refreshments. Further information on both these events at [www.tenons.org.uk](http://www.tenons.org.uk).

#### **EarthAbbey**

Bristol based EarthAbbey set up late last year by Chris Sunderland aims to be a movement of people helping one another to live more in tune with the earth. It will work to promote:

- A rich relational life between human beings.
- Compassion toward the earth and its creatures.
- A sense of interconnectedness of all life.
- Wisdom and justice in relationships.

- Human fulfilment and the nurture of the inner life.
- A way of living that leaves the earth better than we found it.

Chris says “Our inspiration derives from Jesus of Nazareth whose life and mission was to bring about a peace which embraces all creation. We pursue a life-affirming, creative spirituality that is open to all. EarthAbbey is more than a website It is a movement of people and you are invited to join.” ([www.earthabbey.com](http://www.earthabbey.com))

### ***Three items taken from Eco-congregation’s Spring newsletter.***

#### **1 New coordinator for Eco-congregation England and Wales.**

David Hughes has been appointed to take over from Jo Rathbone as the new project co-ordinator for Eco-congregation in England & Wales. David is based in Sheffield so that will mean new contact details for Eco-congregation—they will appear soon on the website: [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org). He comes from A Rocha where he was responsible for setting up Climate Stewards Rocha.

#### **2 The Big Lunch—Sunday 19th July**

David Shreeve, director of the Conservation Foundation and Church of England adviser on the environment has circulated details of a new initiative that will aim to encourage and help people live lower impact lives. He writes:

“This is advance notice of an initiative to be launched soon supported by Defra and organised by a consortium of NGOs and businesses headed by the National Trust and Kingfisher Group. *We Will If You Will* aims to deliver mass mobilisation of sustainable behaviour, encouraging and helping people to live lower impact lives.”

The initiative will begin with a seasonal eating and growing campaign which will include *The Big Lunch* on Sunday 19 July. This is being organized by the Eden Project and aims to encourage as many people in the UK as possible to sit down to lunch together with their neighbours.

As many streets will not be suitable for closure to transport this may be a chance for churches to act as hosts, either by extending existing parishes lunches or making facilities available to the community. Since the plan is to encourage local food production some churches may be able to provide space for food to be grown for the lunch, but plans need to be made well in advance.

#### **3 Thinking of a wood-fuel boiler for your church?**

Then you need to know about the Fifth Round of the Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. The purpose of the Scheme is to promote the efficient use of biomass for energy, by stimulating the early deployment of biomass fuelled heat and biomass combined heat and power projects. It will do this by awarding capital grants towards the cost of equipment in complete installations.

**This round is for England only.**

It is aimed at businesses, organizations and charities in the commercial, industrial and community sectors that are considering investing in biomass-fuelled heat and/or combined heat and power projects, including anaerobic digestion. There is no minimum grant aid in any one application and the maximum is £500,000 per installation. The deadline for the receipt of applications is **16.00 on the 30th April 2009**. All enquiries should be addressed to [biocapitalgrants@aeat.co.uk](mailto:biocapitalgrants@aeat.co.uk)

## Severn Tidal Power short-list

*Below is a memo from the Severn Tidal Power Team sent at the end of January following the short-listing of the Severn tidal power schemes considered by the Government.*

Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, has today:

- Launched a three month consultation on a short list of five possible Severn tidal power schemes (see list below) and the scope of the Severn tidal Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- Announced an additional £0.5m Government financial support to speed the development of proposals (like the tidal reef and tidal fence) which are highly innovative.
- Committed to considering progress of the new technologies alongside those shortlisted before taking decisions (after a second public consultation, probably in 2010) on whether or not to support the building of a Severn tidal power scheme.

The recommended short list of schemes, for consultation, is:

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**Shoots Barrage** – located near the Severn road crossings, estimated to cost £3.2bn to construct and generate 2.7TWh/year or just under 1% of UK electricity (roughly equivalent to a large fossil fuel power station)

**Beachley Barrage** – slightly smaller and further upstream than the Shoots Barrage (and upstream of the Wye), estimated to cost £2.3bn and generate 1.6TWh/year

**Fleming Lagoon** – an impoundment on the Welsh shore of the Estuary between Newport and the Severn road crossings, estimated to cost £4bn and generate 2.3TWh/year

**Bridgwater Bay Lagoon** – an impoundment on the English shore of the Estuary between Hinkley Point and Weston Super Mare, estimated to cost £3.8bn and generate 2.6TWh/year

**Cardiff-Weston Barrage** - located between Brean Down and Lavernock Point, estimated to cost £20.9bn and generate 16.8Twh/year or some 5% of UK electricity.

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To view the consultation document and to have your say, please visit

[www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpowerconsultation](http://www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpowerconsultation)

Further information about the feasibility study, the different Severn tidal power options and the information gathered so far can also be found on

[www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpowerconsultation](http://www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpowerconsultation).

## **Earth Hour 2009 aims to switch off the globe. – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

In 2007, 2.2 million people took part in the world's first **Earth Hour** in Sydney, Australia. Just one year later, 50 million people in 370 cities and towns, in more than 35 countries worldwide switched off their lights for Earth Hour.

**Earth Hour 2009** aims to reach more than **one billion people in 1,000 cities** around the world, inviting communities, business and governments to switch off lights for one hour at 8:30pm on Saturday March 28 and sending a powerful global message that we care enough about climate change to take action.

What began as a campaign to get Sydney-siders to turn their lights off, has grown to become one of the world's biggest climate change initiatives. In 2009, at 8.30pm on March 28, people around the world will turn their lights off for one hour – Earth Hour. The aim is to reach one billion people, more than 1000 cities, all joining together in a global effort to show that its possible to take action on global warming.

Already 538 cities in 75 countries which is double the number of countries that participated in 2008, are committed. With hundreds more cities expected to sign up to switch off in the coming months, Earth Hour 2009 is setting the platform for an unprecedented global mandate for action on climate change.

### **Future events – (details taken mainly from *Christian Ecology Link What's On*)**

More events listed at [www.christian-ecology.org.uk/whatson.htm](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/whatson.htm)

#### **6-8 March – Hilfield Friary Dorset**

**Eco-penance - Too late to change?** The weekend at Hilfield takes the Lenten theme of repentance and applies it to ecology - the way we house-keep our planet. Brother Sam will look at how our own lives and attitudes can be changed in relation to the environment, and at how we can work for change in our world with joyful and generous hearts.

` We'll be looking at the scriptures and at the various areas of our lives where we might be being called to change. There will be some practice too - walking, gardening, creating, listening, praying - and there will be plenty to eat!'

Suggested residential donation £85.00.

#### **7 March - Cheltenham**

**OUR CIVILISATION IN CRISIS: - ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS - OUR CHURCHES' RESPONSE** - Day of reflection, led by Frank Regan - Venue: St Edward's Junior School , Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL52 6NR (by kind permission of the Headmaster) - Organized by Cheltenham CEL in association with Gloucestershire Churches Environmental Justice Network and Clifton Diocese Justice and Peace Commission. All are welcome. To book a place, please contact Martin Davis - 01242 575779 or [martinmdavis@gmail.com](mailto:martinmdavis@gmail.com) .

Programme: 10:30 registration -11:00 first session: Our planet in peril: our prophetic response - 12:15 lunch - bring food to share - 1:15 time for private reflection/walk in the school grounds - 2:00 second session: From prophets to mystics - 3:00 Christian Ecology Link networking, and tea - 3:30 informal prayers - 4:00 close. No admission charge but a collection will be made to cover expenses.

## **28 March – London**

G20 Mobilisation, London 28th March CEL in support of **Put People First** G20 March. The financial system is broken, at great cost to the earth and its poorest communities. As global leaders meet in London to fix the mess, the demonstration will demand that they put jobs, global justice and climate change first. There will be a joint church action service beforehand. The march assembles from 11am from the Embankment. After the march, drop in for a cup of tea with Tearfund .

## **29 March – Plymouth**

CAFOD's new Climate Justice Campaign - Plymouth Launch - Buckfast Abbey, Devon , TQ11 0EE ; all day. Contact: [plymouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:plymouth@cafod.org.uk) or tel: 01752 551 679  
9th May - Campaigner's Event, London (venue tbc). Contact: [ckelling@cafod.org.uk](mailto:ckelling@cafod.org.uk) or tel: 020 7095 5414

## **17 – 19 April – Hilfield Friary Dorset**

A week-end with the London Islamic Network for the Environment working and learning together Muslim and Christian sharing in caring for the Environment An Exploration into Islamic and Christian perspectives on ecology; sharing personal story food and physical work. A chance to nurture understanding and respect amongst us, seeking common ground, and honouring differences in our concern for the care of creation. Residential donation suggestion £85.00.

## **6-8 May – Hilfield Friary Dorset**

Dust and Clay: Seeing our oneness with creation. Led by Brother Kevin  
All weekends are at Hilfield Friary full board from Friday evening to Sunday lunch.

*For more about Hilfield Friary visit [www.hilfieldproject.co.uk](http://www.hilfieldproject.co.uk)*

## **Celebrate the Seasons at Carymoor!**

“Come and join us at the Carymoor Environmental Centre for our new programme of seasonally themed open mornings. Each event will have a mixture of walks, talks and family friendly all-weather activities.” Dates and themes of the first two are:

*Spring Birds – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March*

*Summer Butterflies – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June*

The centre will be open from 10am to 1pm. There is no admission charge but pre-booking is advisable. Refreshments will be available. For further details or to reserve your place please email [frances.stuart@carymoor.org.uk](mailto:frances.stuart@carymoor.org.uk) or call her on 01963 350143. ([www.carymoor.org.uk](http://www.carymoor.org.uk))

## **And at Lee Abbey**

**Birdsong before dawn, Lee Abbey conference, 27 - 29 March.** With Dave and Anne Bookless. [www.leeabbey.org.uk](http://www.leeabbey.org.uk).

## **New Wind Turbines to be demonstrated near Glastonbury.**

Transition Glastonbury's winter newsletter contains news that a local company Horizon Renewables is promoting a new type of windmill called a Skyrota. An unusual feature of this windmill is its vertical axis of rotation so that it is not necessary for the blades to face into the wind. It is stated that this makes it more efficient where there is variable and blustery wind at low levels.

This is not the first vertical axis wind-turbine on the market but its manufacturers, Limavady Gear Company of Northern Ireland say it has made advances with the wings, for a more efficient and quieter product. It is hoped to have a windmill running near Glastonbury within the next couple of months. Viewings can be arranged. Contact Gordon White on 01458 831492 or email [plottsmoor@gmail.com](mailto:plottsmoor@gmail.com) for more information.

### **TG's newsletter also states that :**

“Transition Glastonbury is a pro-active community led association. What brings us together is a desire to explore how we - and our wider community – can best respond to the twin challenges of climate change and the ongoing depletion of our planet's resources. We are ordinary people concerned about these realities. We know we don't have all the answers but we know it's important to have the conversation. Transition Glastonbury seeks to engage our whole community in finding and implementing practical alternatives to our fossil-fuelled and energy intense lifestyles. It is seeking to work in partnership with individuals, local groups, businesses and our Town, District and County Councils.

### **from Green Bath News.**

#### ***Percy Centre, a model of green-ness***

The Percy Community Centre on New King Street in Bath has applied for funding to have photovoltaic solar panels and an air source heat pump system installed. The system, which will meet all Percy's heating and hot water needs, will use a state-of-the-art condensing gas boiler controlled remotely by the council's Property Services department. If successful it will be used as part of B&NES' rollout of renewable energy systems across its public buildings.

Ace Energy, sponsors of Green Bath News, is carrying out the work. Adam Pitt, the Percy Centre Manager says: “This is great opportunity for us. We undertake a huge amount of community work in central Bath, but with our building in its current form there is little we can do to mitigate the impact of our energy consumption. The installation of this technology will enable us to continue our work while minimising our environmental impact.”

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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 by e-mail to [brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com](mailto:brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com). You can also subscribe through our website [www.bathandwellsevenvironmental.org.uk](http://www.bathandwellsevenvironmental.org.uk).*

**Again with my thanks to Gordon Waddington for the cartoon**

