



# DIOCESE OF BATH & WELLS

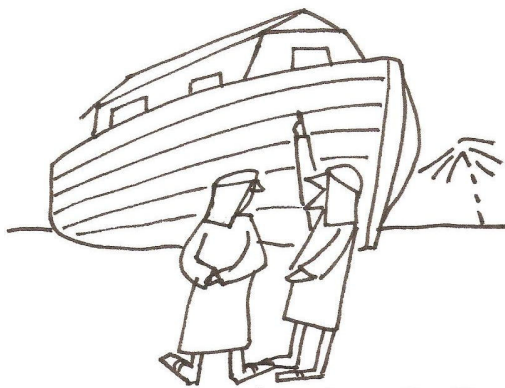
Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

## Diocesan Environment Link

From the Bath & Wells Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)

Newsletter number 21

June 2009



OH YES, IT WAS IN THE  
SPEC, IT HAD TO BE  
BIO-DEGRADABLE

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## Archbishop urges us to pray now, act now

*Fri 5th June is World Environment Day, and  
7 June is Environment Sunday and  
June 8th is World Oceans Day.*

The Archbishop of Canterbury is urging churches to use Environment Sunday (June 7) to pray for the planet and campaign for climate change in the run up to the important UN talks later this year in Copenhagen.

Dr Williams said it was vital for Christians and people of all faiths to take a lead in praying and campaigning for action. A new deal at the UN summit could directly improve the lives of the world's poor whose living conditions are affected by climate change. (*full text attached*)

### ***And a new Footprint toolkit to be launched.***

World Environment Day is the third anniversary of the Church of England's environmental campaign *Shrinking the Footprint*. It is being marked by a national event at Lambeth Palace on June 11 where new toolkits and other resources will be unveiled to help churches, cathedrals and other buildings reduce their energy footprint. The next phase of the campaign focusing on water and biodiversity will also be unveiled.

### ***Prayer for creation***

(Taken from Common Worship: *Seasons and Festivals of the Agricultural Year* )

*God said, 'Let the waters be gathered together,  
and let dry land appear.'  
We thank you for the beauty of the earth,  
for the diversity of land and sea,  
for the resources of the earth.  
Give us the will to cherish this planet  
and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.  
God of life: hear our prayer.*

(The full text of the Archbishop's statement is attached)

## Are you involved in a local secular green group?

If you are the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG) would like to hear from you. It is putting together a resource to show where church people are involved in groups such as Transition communities (See <http://transitiontowns.org/Somerset/groups> ) or other local green groups. The resource will also provide a picture of which churches have church environmental or "green" groups (either within an individual church or ecumenically).

Our Diocesan Social Justice and Environment Adviser David Maggs would be interested to hear your stories and something about what your group(s) have done. He adds `especially things that you have got excited about'. Send your information to him at [david.maggs@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:david.maggs@bathwells.anglican.org) or telephone him on 01749 685119

## Green Award for St George' Wilton

Two years of hard work by a Church determined to care for the environment has been rewarded. St George', Wilton in Taunton has won an Eco Congregation Award proving they are making every effort to care for creation and the environment. The Church and the hall buildings have green policies, a Holiday Club Day for children was held using recyclable materials and music and drama focusing on our care for the world and Eco friendly tips are included in parish literature.

For the past two years the church has been working closely with the community and particularly the local allotment holders. Special events have been held including an open weekend hosted by the allotment members. The churchyard has become an environmentally friendly area with bird boxes, an organised compost area, water butts and a wildflower garden.

Now worshippers are working closely with staff and pupils of the nearby Bishop Henderson Church of England Primary School to help them become an Eco School. The Church's award was presented to the congregation by local Liberal Democrat MP Jeremy Browne.

Revd Jenny Jeffery, Associate Priest in the Wilton Team Ministry, said: "The award is given to churches that can prove they are making every effort to care for creation and the environment. "But the award is only given for two years – so there is no sitting back and becoming complacent."

Further details from Rev Jenny Jeffery, St George's Church Wilton 01823 -286589.  
jenny@jajeffery.freeserve.co.uk

## DEG member's new book on environmental ethics

1<sup>st</sup> July is the publication date for a new book on environmental ethics by DEG member Adrian C Armstrong. The book *Here for Our Children's Children?* is published by Imprint Academic priced £8.95 (ISBN 9781845401596) [www.imprint.co.uk](http://www.imprint.co.uk).

The book highlights two main themes; whether environmental problems can be solved with current approaches or require life style changes for western civilisation; and why the environment should be valued. These insights are then used to explore potential ways of resolving environmental conflicts.

Adrian, who is honorary professor of environmental ethics at Birmingham University and an Anglican priest, is a hydrologist with 30 years experience of water management.

## CofE Environment Adviser on new Government task force

David Shreeve the Church of England's Environment Adviser has been selected as one of the 16 members of the new Third Sector Task Force on climate change, the environment and sustainable development. The appointment was made by Environment Secretary Hilary Benn and the group met for the first time in May. The group members have all been chosen for their individual expertise and the networks which they link to.

David Shreeve is the CofE's Environment Adviser taking a lead on the Church's national Shrinking the Footprint campaign and has co-written two books for churches on the environment with Claire Foster: *How many lightbulbs does it take to change a*

*Christian?* and *Don't Stop at the Lights*. He is also the Director of The Conservation Foundation which he co-founded with David Bellamy in 1982.

The aim for the new task force is to develop a vision and action plan for wider third sector involvement and to identify how Government and the third sector can best work together and contribute their expertise, experience and the ability to reach people. The action plan will help identify and recommend long lasting and relevant actions on environmental issues for organisations that work across the third sector all levels of communities.

## Green Christianity? A biblical view of environmental issues

This is the theme of a meeting to be held by the Bath and Wells Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 7.30pm, at Saint John's Church, Yeovil. Taking part will be Professor Bob White FRS (Prof of Geophysics, University of Cambridge; Associate Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge; joint author of 'Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living'). It will take place at St. John's Church, Yeovil on Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

More details can be had from Revd James Dudley-Smith at [jamesds@tesco.net](mailto:jamesds@tesco.net). (or on 01935 475352)

## Transition Winscombe event looks at local projects

Several large-scale projects have been mooted for the Somerset area, all aimed at reducing dependence on fossil-fuels. How well will they work? What impacts will they have on the people who live here? An opportunity to find out is being provided by The Transition Winscombe - Life Beyond Oil Team. A meeting to be held at Winscombe Community Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 10am-5pm will cover; tidal power from the Severn, wind farms and waste-to-energy plants. There will also be information and ideas on improving transportation in the area. Along with displays and opportunities for discussion, the programme will include:

### **10am & 11:30am Showing of "Decentralised Energy"**

This short film very straightforwardly summarises the problems of centralised power-generation, and contrasts them with the more local and varied approaches pursued by the European countries which did not receive the bonanza of North Sea oil & gas.

### **2:30 - 4:00pm "ANY QUESTIONS?" PANEL with:**

**John Penrose, MP**, our man in Westminster

**Roger Wade** of the Environment Agency, consultant on Tidal Energy

**Andy Tubb** of UWE, expert on Waste Management

**Nick Pyatt**, International Forestry Consultant.

## TENONS next meeting

### **Otters & Water Voles in North Somerset**

James Field: North Somerset Levels Biodiversity Officer

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

The Blakehay Centre, Wadham Street

Weston-super-Mare. (opposite the Heritage Centre by Grove Park car park)

Entrance free to members : £2 non-members  
Contact The Environment Network of North Somerset on 01934 623000 or access  
its website [www.tenons.org.uk](http://www.tenons.org.uk)

## South Somerset Together event Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. 10am to 4pm

### ZeroSom Low carbon... More living

This is a sustainability event for all. Taking part will be local sustainability expert Julia Hailes. Other topics covered by the event will include low carbon businesses and the transition movement. To be held at Yeovil Innovation Centre, Barracks Close, Copse Road, Yeovil, BA22 8RN.

### New Transition Bristol event.

*Bristol in Transition: Our City Re-imagined* is an exciting opportunity to take part in shaping the future of Bristol city. The question being asked is: 'We live at a time in which we face enormous challenges, but also great possibilities. What should our city look like in a credit-crunched, oil-crunched, climate-changed world?'

Beginning in June, Transition Bristol is hosting a series of events and workshops around the themes of Money & Economics, Food, Art and Soul, Health & Medicine, Energy, Education & Re-skilling and Transport. Each theme will connect the many projects, people and organisations in the city with expertise and interest in that field.

A major public event on **15 November 2009 at the Council House**, involving information, practical sessions and workshops, will showcase each of the themes. The inspiration and outcomes of this event will be taken forward as the process continues, culminating in the creation of an 'Energy Descent Action Plan' (a planned community response to breaking fossil fuel dependence) for Bristol.

To find out more or to contribute to the themed groups please contact the relevant person below:

**Event Coordinator:** Fiona Smith [fionaintransition@gmail.com](mailto:fionaintransition@gmail.com)

### THEMES

**Education and Re-skilling:** Paul Baker [paul@paulbakerandcompany.co.uk](mailto:paul@paulbakerandcompany.co.uk)

**Energy:** Simone Osborn [simjosborn@gmail.com](mailto:simjosborn@gmail.com)

**Art and Soul:** Inez Aponte [inez\\_aponte@hotmail.com](mailto:inez_aponte@hotmail.com)

**Money and Economics:** Ciaran Mundy [ciaran@lowflyzone.org](mailto:ciaran@lowflyzone.org)

**Transport:** Peter Lipman [peterl@phoncoop.coop](mailto:peterl@phoncoop.coop)

**Health and Medicine:** Angela Raffle [angelaraffle@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaraffle@hotmail.com)

**Food:** Kristin Sponsler [kristinsponsler@gmail.com](mailto:kristinsponsler@gmail.com)

## Wales promises sustainable future within 20 years

On the 26 May 2009 the Welsh Assembly government announced plans for Wales to become one of the most energy and resource-efficient countries in the world by 2020. First minister Rhodri Morgan revealed the legally binding policy, which will see Wales reduce its dependency on carbon-based energy sources by between 80 percent and 90 percent over the next 2 decades.

What's more, the proposals also set out a path towards becoming a zero waste

nation and recycling 70 percent of all municipal waste by 2025. Mr Morgan explained that the assembly will use the full extent of its devolved powers in order to deliver on its sustainability promises. Speaking at the Hay Festival, he said:

"Sustainable development is about living within our resources while improving people's wellbeing. It is about making sure that development now does not compromise the quality of life of future generations in Wales."

Environment minister Jane Davidson added that the government intends to reduce Wales' ecological footprint from 5.16 global hectares per person to 1.88 global hectares, which would allow it to become completely sustainable.

## Great British Refurb campaign

We are being encouraged by our diocesan social justice and environment adviser to support a new campaign with Kevin McCloud and Grand Designs called the 'Great British Refurb'. It's all about green refurbishment in the existing housing stock to save energy and resources. The campaign is a joint initiative between industry group, the UK Green Building Council, Grand Designs, the Energy Saving Trust and WWF.

The aim is to lobby government to introduce effective new measures to make the refurbishment of the entire existing housing stock easier, more affordable and attractive to householders and landlords. This is a huge challenge because of the very low energy performance standards of most of the existing stock and the high carbon footprint it has, as well as running costs.

For more information and to sign the petition which will be delivered to the prime minister Brown by Kevin McCloud in summer., visit the campaign website [www.greatbritishrefurb.co.uk](http://www.greatbritishrefurb.co.uk).

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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 in individual churches and deaneries. And we always welcome new subscribers (free). Send an e-mail to [brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com](mailto:brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com).*

*Or you can add your name to the subscriber list through our website [www.bathandwellsenvironmental.org.uk](http://www.bathandwellsenvironmental.org.uk) Back issues and other useful information can also be accessed through the site.*

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



**Full text of Archbishop's statement**

“This year the theme of the United Nation’s World Environment Day is *'Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change'*. Whilst it will be for governments meeting in Copenhagen in December to agree a successor to the Kyoto regime for global reductions in carbon emissions - and we all want those to be both ambitious and deliverable - we have a part to play. Governments need to know that people want them to be ambitious. They need a mandate. So what can we do? I think there are two things we can do. We can, and we should, pray. Climate change is not only an environmental issue - probably the most important we face; it is also an issue of justice. As usual the poorest are likely to suffer the most though the richest have contributed most to pollute the atmosphere and accelerate global warming. So we can pray that a proper sense of responsibility (not least to the generations who will follow us) and of justice guides the hearts and the minds of the politicians who will meet in Copenhagen.

This Sunday - Environment Sunday - is an obvious opportunity for us to focus our own hearts and minds on this issue.

The second thing we can do is get involved in the preparations for Copenhagen. Between now and December there will be activity, lobbying and hard thinking going on in civil society as well as government in preparation for the Climate Summit. Many faith groups and civil society organizations, (and that includes the Church of England), will be organising events to heighten awareness of the issues and the opportunities which the summit brings. I shall be going to

Copenhagen to support those and to emphasise the strength of the concern that people of faith have for the future well-being of our planet. Please include in your prayers this Environment Sunday all whose efforts in the months to come could make a real difference for the sustainability of our planet and we who live in it - it is God's creation that we are striving to care for and as God's children that we pray and act.”