



**DIOCESE OF  
BATH & WELLS**

Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

## **Diocesan Environment Link**

*From the Bath & Wells Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)*

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## **Taster for the 2010 lent course now viewable on bathandwells website.**

An introductory video providing a taster for the Diocesan Lent Course for 2010 currently being produced by the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG) is now available on the diocesan web site ([www.bathandwell.org.uk](http://www.bathandwell.org.uk)) via the mission page. The DVD and study material that it introduces will tackle many of the issues that we face as a society and as a planet, with particular emphasis on responding to the ecological crisis.

However this will not be yet another film about climate change. The course explores the way that different kinds of spirituality can help generate the approaches we need in order to face and influence the future. It recognises that to develop family and community life, respond to environmental problems, and work towards the Millennium Development Goals, we need respect, compassion, active justice, simplicity, repentance and hope.

Bishop Peter Price believes: "This is important because we as the church have to take our place in the reality of how we find it today and how we expect to be over the next 30 years. Either we can take a back seat in all of this or we can be part of that which is a transforming activity. An activity that is in obedience to the God who came into the world because he loved it."

Drawing on the experience and insights of church members from across the diocese, of diocesan advisors and the bishops, the course suggests ways that we can allow God to develop these in us.

There are six 12-minute films usable for small groups or in services. The course can be used at any time, but is particularly suitable as a Lent Course. There will be group discussion materials with bible study, liturgy, and activities as well as pointers to other resources.

Preliminary material for course planning will be available in Autumn 2009. Full materials will be available January 2010. Lent begins on 17th February. David Osborne, Chair of the DEG, said "This an important resource to help parishes consider the many issues that our world faces, and offers tools to support them in living out their Christian faith".

**For more information or to place an order please email**  
[loveforthefuture@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:loveforthefuture@bathwells.anglican.org)

## **CofE launches climate justice fund – a valuable tool.**

Count the cost of your carbon footprint for the sake of the developing world. That is the message from the CofE's Climate Justice Fund, launched, as the College of Bishops met in Oxford on 17<sup>th</sup> September, with support from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

The web-based resource [www.climatejusticefund.org](http://www.climatejusticefund.org) managed by aid agency Tearfund helps churches and individuals to calculate their carbon footprint and compare it with what is considered to be their 'fair share' of emissions. Any additional carbon usage is calculated into a financial equivalent. Churches and individuals can

then opt to pay this amount into a unique fund supporting Anglican churches in developing countries, to help their communities adapt to the effects of climate change.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Ed Miliband, said: "Communities around the world know that climate change isn't an issue for future generations, it's an issue for now. At the heart of the Climate Justice Fund is the knowledge that every one of us can make a difference, whether from helping individuals or demanding an ambitious agreement when the world gathers in Copenhagen this December."

The Fund will support Anglican dioceses in Africa to respond to disasters caused by climate change, such as flooding. It will also support work to develop sustainable agricultural methods in areas where changes to the climate have affected crops, as well as funding reforestation and development of environmentally sustainable cooking methods.

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, chair of Shrinking the Footprint, said: "Today's launch of the Climate Justice Fund as part of Shrinking the Footprint, the Church of England's national environmental campaign shows the capacity of the Church to behave and communicate symbolically in a way that will hopefully enlarge the room for political manoeuvre and heighten public consciousness as to the challenges that we face by an ever changing climate."

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd John Pritchard, welcomed the launch of the Fund: "Climate change is something we have been discussing a great deal in Oxford Diocese. The launch of the Fund is a significant statement in the run-up to the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December. It's easy to take part and the effects on the ground will be real and long-lasting; it is another brick in the wall that says we must stop climate chaos."

The Climate Justice Fund was set up after General Synod (July 08) endorsed the recommendations set out in [Climate Change and Human Security: Challenging an Environment of Injustice](#) .

## Christian Ecology Link National Conference.

*Transition Towns – getting involved* is the title and subject of the CEL's national conference to be held at Saint Mary's church, Ottery Saint Mary on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. Among the speakers are Professor Tim Gorrige of the Department of Theology at Exeter University and Martin Goss the Exeter diocese director of church and society. There will also be workshops at other church venues in the town, led by Sustainable Ottery, Martin Goss, and Brother Sam SSF of the Hilfield Friary in Dorset. Full details and booking form can be found on the CEL website [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk).

## Somerset Churches Together – Annual Forum (last call)

Becoming an eco-congregation will be the topic of one of the afternoon workshops that form part of the Somerset Churches Together Autumn Forum to be held at Locking Castle Church on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. In the morning there will also be brief presentations on the subject by three diocesan churches, two of which have already gained the Eco-congregation award (Holy Trinity Cleeve and Holy Trinity Nailsea). Holy Trinity with Trendlewood is the latest church to gain the Eco-congregation bringing the total number in England to 145.

## Can cows help stop climate change?

Meat and dairy and farm livestock in general has in recent years joined the ranks of the 4x4 and the short-haul flight. But, ask's an article in The Ecologist, could a change in the way we graze animals not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but even remove them from the atmosphere?

*'The next time you look over a hedgerow and see a herd of cows contentedly grazing a field, you may be forgiven for thinking you are witnessing one of the world's number one climate criminals in action. With a reputation for producing an estimated 33 million tonnes of greenhouse-gases (GHG'S) each year 13 per cent of the world's total emissions according the the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN] it is not surprising that our bovine friends have exhausted their way to the top of such an unenviable hit-list.'*

## TENONS meetings

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October is the date for Tenon's next big event, a free seminar on Severn Tidal Power, at the Blakehay. This is a chance to find out more about some of the schemes proposed, ask questions or make comments. More Tenon information available at [www.tenons.org.uk](http://www.tenons.org.uk).

And on the previous Wednesday (21<sup>st</sup> October) Tenons will be showing the film 'Power and the community', at the Blakehay. This is the inspirational film that shows how Cuba survived its oil crisis.

## National Trust in the west.

### *Tyntesfield to install woodchip boiler.*

Tyntesfield , the National Trust property at Wraxall, will soon be installing a wood-chip burner to power the estate's heating system. It has been made possible by grants from the Bio-energy grants scheme and N-power's green energy fund. According to the Autumn issue of the NT's Wessex newsletter the new heating system will provide 'perfect temperature and humidity to keep the house and collection in tip-top conditions.'

### *DEFRA grant for flash flooding research*

Also in the NT newsletter are details of a £473 000 grant that has been given to the Holnicote Estate near Minehead to further trial natural flooding alleviation techniques. The money comes from DEFRA as part of its programme to ease the risk of flash flooding in the UK. It will be used to help the NT continue its work with the Environment Agency. By allowing the low-lying countryside at Porlock Bay to flood the risk of flash flooding to nearby homes caused by inland rainfall draining down to the sea will be alleviated, says the NT.

## Copenhagen: Ban Ki-moon's cautious optimist:

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urges the world's leaders to seize the opportunities that history is giving them, "so that tomorrow's generations can look back and say: Our leaders rose to the challenge. They did what was right." He set a cautiously optimistic tone concerning the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

Speaking at the beginning of October in a lecture at the University of Copenhagen he referred to the Climate Change Summit at the United Nations in October when world leaders signaled their determination to seal a comprehensive, fair and effective deal at Copenhagen.

The UN Secretary-General listed four benchmarks for a successful climate deal at Copenhagen and beyond:

- First, a successful deal must involve all countries.
- Second, a successful deal must provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable.
- Third, a deal needs to be backed by money and the means to deliver it,
- Fourth, a deal must include an equitable global governance structure that addresses the needs of developing countries.

He urged governments to table concrete proposals. "We are not there yet. There is still a lot of work to be done, and not much time to do it." he said, "we must seize the opportunities that history is giving us so that tomorrow's generations can look back and say: Our leaders rose to the challenge. They did what was right. As people, as nations, as a species: we sink or swim together,"

## The Wave before Copenhagen.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Copenhagen on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December. In anticipation of this event, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December thousands of people are expected to flow through the streets of London and Glasgow as part of The Wave, making it the UK's biggest ever demonstration on climate change. The Wave is being organised by the Stop Climate Chaos coalition of over 100 organisations concerned with taking action on climate change, including CEL and A Rocha.

There will also be a church service at 11am in Westminster Central Hall, at which Archbishops Rowan Williams and Vincent Nichols will be speaking. It is intended that the service will be followed by a peaceful, family friendly march around the Thames. Full details of the London service and march on 5 December can be obtained from CEL [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk) or A Rocha [www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk). For more details of the Copenhagen conference including who can attend, go to <http://en.cop15.dk>

## B&NES objects to Airport expansion

According to the Bath Chronicle, politicians in Bath have objected to the £150 million expansion of Bristol International Airport amid fears over climate change. It has voted to ask neighbouring authorities to reject the airport's planning application.

The motion to urge refusal of the plans came from Cllr Nicholas Coombes (Lib Dem, Bathwick), who said: "The expansion of airports is incompatible with attempts to cut carbon emissions. Indeed, it goes against common sense to imagine that Bristol International Airport can double its emissions over the next 10 years but that carbon emissions overall can be reduced in line with Government targets.

Hilary Burn of the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group said: "B&NES councillors are to be applauded for seeing sense over the airport's expansion plans. Climate change is the greatest threat facing the modern world, and dealing with its consequences will have a huge cost for the economy. With two of the airport's neighbouring authorities now objecting to the expansion plans, it is time the airport withdrew its application and cut back its plans so that it can fit in with economic and environmental realities."

Bristol City Council has also urged the rejection of the application. The final decision rests with the North Somerset Council .

## **CEL urges us to send rainforest SOS**

'The Prince's Rainforest Project is aiming to get as many people as possible to sign their SOS between 30 Sept and 31 October. Why not make a sign-up poster at your church or work place to help collect more signatures (and raise awareness in the process) An example will be put at [www.christian-ecology.org.uk/rainforest-declaration.htm](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/rainforest-declaration.htm).

The more people that sign up to the [www.rainforestsos.org](http://www.rainforestsos.org) the more world leaders will be galvanised to act. The Emergency Package proposal that The Prince's Rainforest Project (PRP) is pressing for will require developed-world governments to commit funding for the rainforest nations in collaboration with international business.

The Prince's Rainforest Project writes:

*The future of the rainforest is our future too. Send your Rainforest SOS to the world and help create a climate for change. We recognise the link between tropical deforestation and climate change. Even though tropical forests seem a long way away, they play a vital role in all of our lives, every day. They are the world's natural air-conditioning and thermostat systems and act as the cooling belt around the centre of the world. They also produce much of the rainfall essential to the demands of the world's growing population.*

*Rainforests absorb nearly a fifth of all man-made CO2 emissions yet they are currently being destroyed at the rate of one football pitch every four seconds. To make matters worse, when these forests are burnt (for large-scale agriculture or mining, for example) they release any stored CO2 back into the atmosphere. Tropical deforestation is responsible for releasing more CO2 emissions than the entire global transport network annually.*

## **Recommended read. 'Sustainable energy – without the hot air.'**

This free-to-download book takes a comprehensive look at the facts surrounding the sustainable energy debates. The author, David J C MacKay David MacKay FRS is a Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Cambridge. He describes his book as being a straight-talking book about the numbers. It aims to take the reader 'around the claptrap to actions that really make a difference and to policies that add up'.

For those not wanting to download the complete book, a 10-page synopsis is also available on line (go to [www.withouthotair.com](http://www.withouthotair.com) ). Below are the comments of some of the experts who recommend it. Nine months after the publication of 'Sustainable Energy - without the hot air', David MacKay was appointed Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

*This remarkable book sets out, with enormous clarity and objectivity, the various alternative low-carbon pathways that are open to us.*

Sir David King FRS, Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government, 2000–08

*For anyone with influence on energy policy, whether in government, business or a campaign group, this book should be compulsory reading.*

Tony Juniper, Former Executive Director, Friends of the Earth

*At last a book that comprehensively reveals the true facts about sustainable energy in a form that is both highly readable and entertaining.*

Robert Sansom, Director of Strategy and Sustainable Development, EDF Energy

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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).

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