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BATH & WELLS**

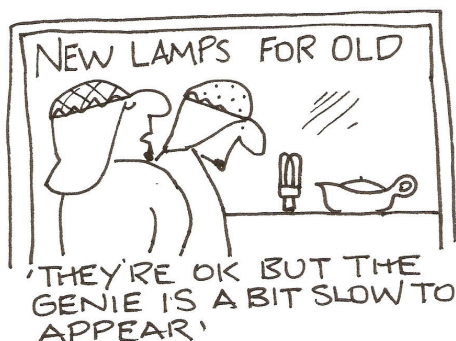
Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

Diocesan Environment Link

From the Bath & Wells Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)

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Church of England launches seven-year climate change plan

At a meeting of global faith leaders at the beginning of November The Church of England launch an environmental strategy for the next seven years. The event, held at Windsor Castle attended by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and The Duke of Edinburgh, was set up by the Bath-based Alliance for Religion and Conservation as part of its programme for Seven-Year Plans for Generational Change. The event was intended to be a platform for discussion on the commitment of faith organisations, in the run-up to the UN Summit on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December.

The new CofE strategy, *Church and Earth*, outlines policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation. These will be overseen by the Church of England's *Shrinking the Footprint* campaign, set up in 2007, and implemented by the Church's 43 dioceses, 16200 churches and 4700 schools across the UK in an effort to cut the combined annual carbon footprint of around 330,000 tonnes CO₂.

Church and Earth includes emissions reduction targets for the Church as a whole, in line with the national target of 80% by 2050, and with an interim aim of reducing the Church's carbon footprint by 42% by 2020. The plan puts education and young people at the heart of the Church's climate change strategy, with all 4700 church schools nationwide aiming to achieve 'eco-school' status and implementing Government policy on education for sustainable development.

The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, who leads for the Church of England on climate change and the environment, said:

"The Church of England has gone beyond rhetoric in producing *Church and Earth*, a challenging plan for action which makes serious demands on our community, our schools and churches. This has been conceived as part of the preparation for the Copenhagen Conference. At today's gathering in Windsor in the presence of the UN Secretary General, we shall set out our commitments which include [as follows]:"

- Carbon reduction target of 80% by 2050, with an interim target of 42% by 2020
- Annual carbon and energy reports for all parishes and dioceses by 2016
- All church buildings to have carbon footprints calculated and recommendations made by 2012
- Advice for all parishes on choosing green energy tariffs by 2010
- Tree-planting to be encouraged on church land
- 'Eco-twinning' between UK and developing world parishes, faced with early effects of climate change
- New Climate Justice Fund offering aid to churches in the developing world
- All dioceses to target Fair Trade status before 2016

Church and Earth was commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Church Commissioners and was developed by the *Shrinking the Footprint* Task Group, chaired by the Bishop of London. It is one of nine long-term plans that the world's major faiths have drawn up and which were discussed at the Windsor Conference

To download a copy of *Church and Earth*, visit www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

What Ban Ki-moon said at Windsor.

Speaking at the Windsor Castle event UN secretary General Bai Ki-moon told the delegates:

'You bring with you today the strengths of diverse cultures and beliefs. You speak to the heart of humanity's deepest needs, our concerns and hopes for the world. You remind us of what unites us as a human family. Together, we must unite to face a momentous global challenge – minimizing dangerous climate change and making peace with the planet.

I have long believed that when governments and civil society work toward a common goal, transformational change is possible. Faiths and religions are a central part of that equation. Indeed, the world's faith communities occupy a unique position in discussions on the fate of our planet and the accelerating impacts of climate change.'

The full speech is attached to this newsletter.

Pray for The Wave

Bath and Wells parishioners are being encouraged to pray for The Wave, an event in which thousands of people are expected to flow through the streets of London and Glasgow as part of a peaceful climate change demonstration. The event will take place on Saturday 5th December, just two days before the United Nations Climate Change Conference begins in Copenhagen.

The Diocesan Environment Group is urging people and churches to include the event in their prayers, that it will make a positive and valuable contribution to the decisions which world leaders will be having to make in Copenhagen. Also that it will prove to be a good natured and safe event in which the media attention will be focused on the important issues.

Those who are able are also being encouraged by the Group to consider being present at the London event. Special transport arrangements are already being made by a number of national charities having an interest in the effects of climate change. Diocesan Environment Group chairman Revd David Osborne says:

'There are times when as Christians we should and can make our presence felt. This is one such a time.'

The Wave is being organised by Stop Climate Change coalition of more than 100 organisations. Among them are the Christian Ecology Link and the Christian environmental group A Rocha, Preceding what the organisers are billing as a family-friendly march there will be a church service, at 11am in Westminster Central Hall. The speakers will be The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols.

Details of transport being arranged, including coaches from Bristol, can be obtained from Stop Climate Change Chaos (www.stopclimatechange.org)

Ruth Jarman of the Christian Ecology Link writes

'No hope for Copenhagen? It's hardly news to us that a legally binding deal that saves creation at Copenhagen is unlikely! The falling confidence of our leaders is not a reason to give up! The Christian faith is not about success, it is, in the words of Tim Gorringer speaking at CEL's annual conference in Ottery Saint Mary last week-end, about "living out of the imagination of God". We must keep imagining and keep demanding what is right for God's creation. And we must keep being prophetic, which, again in the words of Tim Gorringer, is about "taking part in shaping the world". So let's get on with it.'

New Eco-congregation modules

A new Eco congregation module (No 13 – climate change; managing your carbon footprint) is now available on the Eco congregation Scotland web page. It deals with how churches can measure and reduce their carbon footprint and seeks to meet the needs of churches looking for a specific way of responding to climate change.

This is the first of a set of new look modules being prepared for introduction in the coming year. Module 2 of the eco congregation programme (celebrating creation) has been also rewritten and is due to be published on the eco-congregation website soon. Ideas for the new modules and thoughts for their use will be welcome by Eco congregation. www.ecocongregation.org.

A 37-mile 400 kVolt transmission line proposed.

In connection with the plans by EDF to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point which have now been given the go-ahead, National Grid Transmission (NTS) has put forward proposals for a new 400 kilovolt overhead electricity transmission line between the Bridgwater substation to the Seabank substation north of Avonmouth. Also included in the proposals is substation work to be carried out at Aust, Seabank and possibly Churchill which would also require an additional 4km overhead line connection from the proposed new line.

Extensive studies have identified two potential 'route corridors' - stretches of land in which the overhead line could be sited. The company is now asking the public for its views on these corridors. In October NTS published a statement of Community Consultation setting out how it plans to consult people living in the vicinity of the proposed infrastructure work.

This will be in two main stages extending to March 2011 with use being made of public exhibitions, parish and town briefings, community forums, also letters to people living within 1 km of the two proposed route options. Depending on the final route, the new line would be approximately 37 miles long and is planned to be constructed in 2016 at a cost of around £2 million per mile.

National Grid major projects manager David Mercer said:

'We have no preference as to which route corridor should be chosen, so the views of local people will help us in making the decision. Between now and December we will be holding fourteen events between Avonmouth and Bridgwater so that anyone who wishes to attend has the opportunity.'

More at: www.nationalgrid.com (link to Hinkley connections)

Radical new waste collection plans outlined for North Somerset

North Somerset Council has announced details of a new domestic waste recycling programme to come into effect from March 2010. The service will be provided by My Gurney and will include weekly collection of recyclable materials, weekly collection of food waste in separate lockable containers and fortnightly collection of non-recyclable waste in wheeled bins. The green garden waste collection will continue.

The changes are aimed at placing more emphasis on the collection of recyclable materials including plastics and less on rubbish. The separate collection for food waste, which is biodegradable and currently represents one third of domestic waste, will also contribute to this. The expected result will be a 40 per cent reduction in non-recyclable waste, hence the fortnightly collection. The new system is expected to save £15 million in land fill costs. www.n-somerset.gov.uk (link to revolution)

Wind turbine news in the local media.

According to the *This is the West Country* web site (Newsquest Media Group) EDF Energy Renewable has outlined plans for nine 2mW wind turbines on farm land in East Huntspill. The proposal is the result of a request of a local farmer who is stated as saying that the decision to start talks with EDF was partly because he wanted to provide electricity for the village and partly for financial reasons. `The way farming is looking at the moment, I could be selling up in a few years but for the wind turbines.

According to the Weston and Somerset Mercury plans to erect two 10-metre high wind turbines on the outskirts of Sandford have been turned down because they present a threat to greater and lesser horseshoe bats. This is because the site would be within five kilometres of the North Somerset and Mendip Bat Special Area of Conservation. It has since been argued by one correspondent to the newspaper that bats have been shown capable of avoiding such slowly rotating objects using their in built sonar sensing.

Personal Rapid Transport in Bath

This month (November) a design exhibition in Bath gave residents the opportunity to see the results of an international design competition which set to answer the question 'Can the world's newest transport system fit into one of the world's most historic cities.' The transport system involved is known as Personal Rapid Transport, a new form of urban transportation using small, silent electric vehicles driven by computer through a dedicated network of guideways.

The city of Bath has been selected for a feasibility study being carried out by Advanced Transport Systems Ltd. To this end ATS has provided designers around the world with the opportunity to put forward designs for all aspects of the system including vehicles, guideways and stations. The results of the study may or may not be applied to Bath, but they will help to provide information that may be of use with similar historic urban environments elsewhere in the world.

www.atsltd.co.uk (link to Bath)

Further boost to South West marine energy research

A South West Regional Development Agency press release says:

The South West's ambition to be a global centre for marine energy research has received a further boost with a £1.2 million investment in a new wave tank testing facility. The wave tanks are being funded by the South West RDA (Regional Development Agency) as part of the Agency's three-year £7.3 million investment in the Peninsula Research Institute for Marine Renewable Energy (PRIMaRE), and will be located at the University of Plymouth.

The facility will be unique in the UK because it will allow model testing in both multi-directional waves and variable direction currents, and will also be able to model shallow and deep water conditions. It will enable the testing of scale models of wave and tidal energy devices individually and in arrays. The main wave tank at the facility will measure 35 metres by 15 metres and be 2 metres deep. It is expected to be completed in early 2012. www.southwestrda.org.uk

South Somerset Climate Action Event

Fri 27 Nov. Day course. £60 per person including refreshments & lunch

Energy efficiency in historic buildings - The David Hall, South Petherton

Using the David Hall as a working example, this one-day course will explore the options for energy efficiency in historic buildings. It is aimed particularly at conservation professionals and those responsible for public buildings such as churches, but will also be of interest to homeowners. Apart from the obvious things, this is about ways to make old buildings warm, dry and comfortable inside without harming their character or creating performance problems for the future. Details from Joe Burlington at joe@jburlington.co.uk or call 01460 55323 or write to SSCA 27 East Street, Ilminster TA19 0AN.

Species' extinction threat grows

More than a third of species assessed in a major international biodiversity study are threatened with extinction, scientists have warned. Out of the 47,677 species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 17,291 were deemed to be at serious risk. These included 21% of mammals, 30% of amphibians, 70% of plants and 35% of invertebrates. Conservationists warned that not enough was being done to tackle the main threats, such as habitat loss...The Red List, regarded as the most authoritative assessment of the state of the planet's species, draws on the work of thousands of scientists around the globe. The latest update lists amphibians as the most seriously affected group of organisms on the planet, with 1,895 of the 6,285 known species listed as threatened. www.iucnredlist.org (3 November entry).

Pews wanted

The following (edited) letter was received from Greyfriar's Kirk in Edinburgh, via Helen Hickman, secretary to the Bath and Wells diocesan missionary.

'Dear Friend.

I am prompted to write to let you know about our woodwork project. I started to collect redundant church pews about ten years ago, realising that some of them were going to landfill when people sold or redeveloped church buildings. We have been developing the GroW (Greyfriars Recycling of Wood) workshop over the last three years and now have a great workshop delivering social and environmental benefits in an emerging social enterprise. This works with people who have homelessness or addiction problems and is called the Greyfriars Community Project.

We are always on the lookout for pews and other church furniture that might be discarded. So let us know if you hear of anything going begging. Our team can travel and do the dismantling and transportation. Also please think of us if you are looking to buy Christmas gifts with a story attached or want to commission a more substantial piece of furniture made from ancient recycled church pews.'

For more details contact Tommy Steel, Enterprise Manager at grow@greyfriarskirk.com.

Soil Association; new report.

Food futures – strategies for resilient food and farming.

In introducing this new report the Soil Association says : *Our current food systems are precarious and vulnerable to external 'shocks'. A combination of one or more external factors, such as extreme weather conditions, global conflict or trade disputes could easily disrupt the continuity of food supplies unless we make fundamental changes to the way we farm, process, distribute and eat our food over the next 20 years. That's the stark message behind this new report which outlines what it believes should be a blueprint for a more sustainable approach to food and farming*

Read the full document to find out more
[Food Futures: Strategies for resilient food and farming](#) [PDF, 428KB]

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. Or you can add your name to the subscriber list through our website www.bathandwellsenvironmental.org.uk Back issues and other useful information can also be accessed through the site.