Don’t forget that if you have any items that you would like to see included, particularly good practice, please send them to me, Barry Goodwin at barry.goodwin@southwark.anglican.org

Reports etc

World Wildlife Fund

‘Climate change: faster, stronger, sooner: A European update of climate science’
- Prepared by Dr Tina Tin and published back in October last year this report from the WWF Europe contains a good review of the recent scientific data

Klima 2009

In the context of Climate 2008 a Climate Change Studies Library has been established. This is a one-stop site where information on studies and reports are available and can be downloaded. This site will facilitate access to information on research and studies on climate change and allows contacts with the agencies performing such studies, hence increasing accessibility and know-how transfer.

Environment Agency

Not a report but the Environment Agency quarterly magazine, Your Environment, containing news, views, reviews and a lot more is an essential read. Read highlights from the latest issue, get details of past issues or subscribe for free at:

World Development Movement

WDM (http://www.wdm.org.uk/) provides a variety of resources for activists, supporters, journalists and researchers alike and their regular news briefs (which
Britain’s day of climate shame

10 Jan 2009

This morning, (10 Jan) the average person in Britain will have already produced more carbon in 2009 than a person from the poorest countries emits in a whole year warns the World Development Movement [1].

Benedict Southworth, director of the World Development Movement said:

"It is shocking that by today the average Briton will have already produced more carbon this year than someone in a poor country will in the whole of 2009. The world’s poorest people contribute little to climate change but will suffer most from its consequences."

Today also marks the minister in charge of energy and climate change, Ed Miliband’s 100th day in post. The World Development Movement challenged him to use his first 100 days to take the lead on transforming the way the UK produces its energy and responds to the threat of global warming. We outlined a five point program asking the Minister to: [2]

1. Refuse E.ON’s application for a new coal power station at Kingsnorth in Kent.
2. Increase the carbon reduction target in the climate bill to 80 per cent, including emissions from aviation
3. Ensure that the carbon emissions reductions happen in the UK, rather than relying on carbon trading
4. Set out a plan to ensure that more than 40 per cent of electricity supplied in the UK comes from renewable sources by 2020.
5. Support the demands of developing countries for funds for mitigation and technology transfer at the UN Climate Change Conference at Poznan

Benedict Southworth continued,

"Ed Miliband has got a tough job, where he needs to make tough decisions and fast. But if he doesn’t make the right decisions now, the average person in the UK will continue to emit 40 times more carbon as someone in the developing world. And that would be simply shameful.

"Ed Miliband must immediately refuse consent for Kingsnorth. To go ahead with this climate wrecking project would be a grave mistake and one which history would judge this government for harshly."

ENDS

Notes to editors

[1] The 50 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are those judged by the United Nations to have the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development. All the CO2 figures are based on the US Energy Information Administration figures for total and per person emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels. We have used the most up-to-date figures,
those for 2006. We calculated the date by dividing per person emissions in a country or group of countries by per person emissions in the UK, and then multiplying this figure by 365 days. For example, the fifty LDCs cumulatively have per person emissions of 0.23 tonnes per person. The UK is 9.66 tonnes per person. $0.23 / 9.66 = 0.0238$. $0.0238 \times 365 = 8.7$, so the ninth day of the year, 9th January.

**Food Issues**

**From Sci Dev net (http://www.scidev.net/en/)**

Climate change is likely to have more dramatic effects on global agriculture than previously predicted, leaving around half the world's population facing serious food shortages, according to a new analysis. Harvests of maize, rice and other staple crops could drop by up to 40 per cent by the end of the century because of higher temperatures during the growing season, the study found.

The research, conducted by a US team, aimed to create a more global picture of the fate of agriculture under climate change than previous analyses.

The researchers calculated the difference between historical and projected average temperatures each season throughout the world, using data from 23 global climate models that contributed to the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's scientific synthesis.

In *Science* today (9 January) they say that the highest temperatures of the growing season experienced by the tropics and subtropics over the last 100 years will, by the end of the twenty first century, be the lowest. They predict that, for every rise in seasonal temperature of one degree Celsius, yields of major grain crops will drop by 2.5–16 per cent.

"When you're in the tropics or subtropics, an extreme temperature change today might be a half a degree averaged over the summer," lead author David Battisti, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington, told SciDev.Net.

But average seasonal temperature increases could be three or four degrees by the end of the century. "The stresses on agriculture due to [these] temperature increases just haven't been seen yet."

Battisti said the predicted temperature stresses could reduce crop yields by as much as 20–30 per cent across the tropics and subtropics. And the outcome could be worse than the study predicts, as many of the regions assessed are projected to become drier, which would add to the temperature stress, said Battisti.

"The population will double in the next fifty years in the tropics and subtropics — that's a very hard place to be. How do you adapt to that, especially with the lack of resources there?"

Battisti and co-author Roz Naylor, at the US-based University of Stanford, call for major investment in adaptations to develop crops that are tolerant to heat and heat-induced
water stress, and irrigation systems suitable for diverse environments. A key first step, they argue, is investment in infrastructure.

“We need to worry about the next 30 years, not 2100. If you’re going to do any adaptation at all, you have to have an infrastructure.”

Claudia Ringler, senior research fellow in the Environmental and Production Technology Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute, praised the study for stressing the projected increases in temperature in addition to “the more common emphasis on drought”. But she added: “The dire picture in the paper assumes no adaptation. Adaptation will certainly happen … Significant improvement in agricultural production is possible in the lagging regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, within the time span of the projection”.

Historical Warnings of Future Food Insecurity with Unprecedented Seasonal Heat

David. S. Battisti and Rosamond L. Naylor (Science 9 January 2009: 240-244 DOI: 10.1126/science.1164363)

Rusource Briefing

December 2007 was the end of cheap food and all over the over the world they are talking about a new era with focus shifting to greater sustainability, more local, much greater emphasis on environment and a mix of high technology and improved traditional practices. But the degree to which this all will be achieved is doubtful. Thus says David Hughes, Emeritus Professor of Food Marketing, Imperial College, London and International Food Business Consultant, National Farm Management Conference 2008, Institute of Agricultural Management and British Institute of Agricultural Consultants.

Alan Spedding has summarised the paper from a Farm Management conference held in 2008. See the whole summary at:


Just Desserts?: Securing global food futures by Jane Midgley is a free report from IPPR (http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=644)

The synopsis says: ‘Since 2006 a food crisis has engulfed the world, a crisis typified by rapidly rising food prices causing millions of people to experience poverty and hunger. The crisis has become a global phenomenon and a global problem. It has become a symbol of continuing massive global inequalities between rich and poor, North and South, health and wealth. It has also been accompanied by an abrupt end to policy complacency about agriculture and food as it has become clear that what went before cannot continue if the world’s food security is to improve. This report presents principles to the international community and UK government to guide responses to the evolving priorities surrounding food security within a changing global environment’. Technical but worth the read!
Campaigns

- Operation Noah

If you think about it, Noah is a role model for us all in these times of climate urgency. He is described as an upright and virtuous man who acted in the right way at the right time. No awkward questions: he just got on with it. He's a genuine figure of inter-faith unity too as he is a key figure to both Jews and Muslims.

But let’s go further than that... Flood narratives seem to pervade many cultures worldwide and there is something deep in this Genesis story which can reach and out engage huge numbers of people. There is no reason why the Ark Campaign cannot act as a focal point for the many disparate groups that campaign on climate change.

Noah’s selfless actions lead to the preservation of both humanity and members of the animal kingdom. We don’t have to choose between them.

Everyone can back the campaign

Any self-respecting environmentalist worried about species extinction can back this campaign. He or she can find common ground with development groups who are understandably worried about the affect of floods and droughts on the less developed countries of the world.

Operation Noah has even come across many an atheist who has warmed to the inspiration of this story! But a word of caution: changes in climate are predicted to have knock-on effects everywhere with unpredictable patterns of weather and longer, stronger precipitations of rain here in the UK. So this is not even a North/South split: we are ALL in this boat together.

Embracing the Ark

And there is so much that is upbeat about this story which gives us the hope and the courage we will need in the trying times ahead. The covenant that God makes with all creation after the waters recede, the rainbow which signals reconciliation between God and humanity and the image of the dove heralding a return to peace and safety.

If we embrace the ark, we embrace a promise that all may turn out well if we choose rightly, if we walk justly and with courage. The ark contains all that we cherish in the rich diversity of the natural world: humans, animals and plants.

Let us fight to preserve the gifts we have been given.

The UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen December 2009 is being described as the “last chance for the planet.”

To ensure this chance is taken by world leaders, we call on YOU to join our new, world-changing campaign – the ARK CAMPAIGN.

Imagine thousands of ARKs- handmade from wood, cardboard and origami- plus real ships of every shape and size, converging en-masse on Copenhagen bringing our demands to act now to save creation. http://www.operationnoah.org/5
• Put People First

March for jobs, justice and climate

On 2 April the leaders of 20 of the world’s biggest economies meet in London to tackle the recession and global financial crisis.

Even before the banking collapse caused recession, the world suffered vast poverty and inequality and faced the looming threat of climate chaos. Governments, business and international institutions have followed a model of financial deregulation that has encouraged short-term profits, instability and an economy fuelled by ever-increasing debt, both financial and environmental.

There can be no going back to business as usual. The only sustainable way to rebuild the global economy is to create a fair distribution of wealth that provides decent jobs and public services for all, ends global inequality and builds a low carbon world.

Recession must not be an excuse for putting off action for global justice or to stop climate chaos. Creating a just, fair and sustainable world is the only lasting way out of recession.

On 28 March thousands of people will march through London as part of a global campaign to challenge the G20 leaders. Our message is clear. We must put people first.

• Put People First: Decent jobs and public services for all
• Put People First: End global poverty and inequality
• Put People First: Build a green economy

Put People First! is supported by a wide range of civil society groups including unions, development organisations, faith groups and environmental groups.

There will be an ecumenical service in Methodist Central Hall beginning at 11 am (details to be confirmed). Participants from this service will then join the march en route from the Embankment towards Hyde Park for a rally beginning at 2.00.

Please share this information as widely as possible. All organisations and individuals are welcome to join this mobilisation.

For more information, artwork and publicity flyers or to sign up your organisation as part of this mobilisation please contact: Tim Gee: tgee@bond.org.uk

Come to the Campaigning Forum on 2 March which will include a mass planning meeting for the Put People First: mobilisation, from 9.00 - 12.30. You MUST book in advance for this, by contacting BOND Campaigns Communications Officer Tim Gee on tgee@bond.org.uk or calling 020 7520 0253.

A ‘Put People First ‘ mobilisation website will follow shortly.

- **Nominations for Landfill Prize**

  John Naish has invented "The Landfill Prize - the award for Britain’s most useless consumer product ([www.enoughness.co.uk](http://www.enoughness.co.uk))."

  ‘We want people’s nominations for the most needless, wasteful uses of our planet’s precious resources that they’ve seen, bought or been given in the past year. The winner will be announced on the 13th February 2009’.

  No prizes for suggestions -The whole venture is entirely voluntary and unfunded. The closing date for suggestions is February 10th.

**Other Events**

**From David Shreeve**

This is advance notice of an initiative to be launched soon which is being supported by Defra and being 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 behaviours 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 organised by the Eden Project and aims to encourage as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to sit down to lunch together with their neighbours.

The organisers have high hope and great ambitions, but as many streets may not be suitable for being closed to transport this may be a chance for churches to act as hosts, by either 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.  Hence this note prior to the media launch.  It would be good to let churches know of this initiative so that those who would like to be involved in some way get plenty of notice.

To quote from the organisers: “On the day itself, for three or four glorious hours, traffic will stop, technology will be switched off, and people will meet, break bread together, discuss, laugh, and feel hope.  However the legacy of The Big Lunch is much bigger.  Crucially we hope to make permanent changes in these rejuvenated communities by giving people the tools by which they can strengthen activities such improving local amenities and local environments, share resources and support local charities.”
Grants

New Funds Available for Communities' Wildlife and Green Space Projects

Church Urban Fund and GrantScape have launched an innovative new grant programme which they will jointly fund and administer.

This programme, “Believing in Your Local Community: Wildlife and Green Spaces”, has been specifically designed to support faith-based community groups delivering nature conservation and green spaces projects with a community benefit in London.

Applications are now invited from eligible groups for grants of up to £10,000. The closing deadline for submission of these is 17 March 2009.

Full details of the new grant programme’s eligibility criteria (including some example projects) and to find out how straightforward it is to apply for grants, are found at http://www.cuf.org.uk/resources/5/Wildlife%20and%20Green%20Spaces%20grants.pdf

Eligible groups:
- Social action groups and small voluntary organisations linked with a faith or belief and/or a church or place of worship.
- Based in a deprived community in London.
- With annual income of less than £150,000.

Projects should seek to demonstrate:
- Community and social cohesion benefits and tackling local deprivation by improving people’s access to nature and green spaces where there is a present deficiency.
- Promoting awareness of and delivering benefit for the local natural environment.
- Community involvement, engaging with volunteers and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Potential to be used by a wide range of local people and groups (e.g. schools and community groups).

Resources

From CEL

NEW PAGES ON CEL'S WEBSITE

www.christian-ecology.org.uk/transition-towns.htm
www.christian-ecology.org.uk/get-fit.htm
ECOCELL
Launched last year, Ecocell is described as ‘a journey in practical discipleship for the 21st century’.
The resources on the CD enable you to run a series of five workshops/discussion sessions. They would make a good theme for Lent (see: www.christian-ecology.org.uk/ecocell.htm)

Modules include:
* Waste
* Shopping and food
* Energy in the home
* Water
* Transport and travel

Individual units can profitably be run as a one off session.

Because CEL are continually improving ECOCELL, they are very keen to have feedback from groups that have used this. Feedback just from a single evening session can be very useful.
Pete Redwood will be pleased to receive comments, long or short.
predwood@christian-ecology.org.uk

Diocese of St Paul
Our good friend Roy Tindle alerted a number of us to this material (from the Climate Progress blog) where theology and science are powerfully combined in a pastoral letter.
http://www.dioceseofstpaul.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=11

Nuclear Spin website
The Nuclear Spin website is designed to help people find out more about the key pro-nuclear advocates in the UK. It was started in response to the Energy Review officially launched by the Government in January 2006.

It is a project of SpinWatch and forms part of a wider database called Spin Profiles that contains an extensive collection of data on spin, propaganda, think tanks, corporate front groups, PR Consultancies, "Fake Persuaders", "Industry friendly experts" and corporate lobby groups. This means that some of the information on individuals or PR companies may relate to non-nuclear activity.
The Nuclear Spin Website has been funded by grants from the JMG Foundation, Greenpeace UK, the Network for Social Change, Greenpeace International and Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation.

http://www.nuclearspin.org/images/2/20/Nuclear_Costs_and_Finances.pdf

A good read......

I’ve always been a fan of Grove Booklets and another has emerged on environmental issues:

**The Earth is the Lord's: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues — Hilary Marlow**
(Grove Books, Biblical Series 50, ISBN 978 1 85174 705). The blurb says ‘Looking at a range of texts and themes in Old and New Testaments, this study shows how the whole of the non-human created order is included in the biblical vision of God’s restoration. It includes questions for reflection and points to resources for practical action’. I enjoyed it and could think of ways in which it might is used during Lent or at other times.

Barry Goodwin