



newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Hope for Planet Earth tour
- ECEN Milan assembly Sept 2008
- Resources for carbon detoxing
- Rachel Carson play on tour
- Books, books, books!
- More Eco-congregation Awards

eco-congregation (England & Wales)

Hope for Planet Earth tour

Hope for Planet Earth is a national tour exploring the science behind climate change from a Christian perspective and its impact on people and the planet.

Leading experts from Tearfund, A Rocha, John Ray Initiative, The Faraday Institute and Share Jesus International are working together to create stimulating, educational, interactive and challenging presentations for students and adults. During the day the team will be working with students in schools around the country. The evening presentations provide the opportunity for parents and the general public to meet the experts, explore the relationship between science and faith and challenge the myths surrounding climate change.

The tour dates are:

February	Mon 18th	Stoke	Swan Bank ST6 2AA
	Tues 19th	Rugby	Lawrence Sherriff School, CV21 3AG
	Wed 20th	Stourbridge	Old Swinford Hospital, DY8 1QX
	Thurs 21st	Nottingham	Nottingham High School for Boys, NG7 4ED
	Fri 22nd	Wakefield	Horbury School, WF4 5HE
	Mon 25th	Penrith	Ullswater Community College, CA11 8NG
	Tues 26th	Chester	The Bishop's Blue Coat School, CH3 5XF
	Weds 27th	Lancaster	Ripley St Thomas School, LA1 4RS
	Thurs 28th	Dronfield	Henry Fanshawe School, S18, 2FZ
	Fri 29th	Derby	Littleover Community School, DE 23 4BZ
March	Mon 3rd	Bristol	St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, BS1 6RT
	Tues 4th	Torquay	Churston Ferrers Grammar School, TQ5 0LN
	Wed 5th	St Austell	St Johns Methodist Church, PL25 5AE
	Thurs 6th	Taunton	St Augustine of Canterbury School, TA2 7EF
	Fri 7th	Castle Cary	Ansford School, BA7 7JJ
	Mon 10th	Loughton	Davenant Foundation School IG10 2LD
	Tues 11th	Guildford	St Saviours Church GU1 4QD
	Wed 12th	Stanford-le-Hope	St Clere's School, SS17 0NW
	Thurs 13th	Newbury	Park House School, RG14 6NQ
	Fri 14th	Sutton	Greenshaw High School, SM1 3DY

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You can find out more details and book online at www.hopeforplanetearth.co.uk or for general enquiries phone 020 8781 1741.

Opportunity to share with others in Europe

Would you like to travel to Milan (by train or coach, of course) to learn what other churches are doing in other parts of Europe? The next European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) assembly is happening in September 2008 to consider Climate Change. The assembly will:

- consider topics of current importance
- relate to local issues in the host country
- share in worship and on a theme of God's creation
- engage in joint action through working groups
- share materials and experiences

Have a look at the website www.ecen.org for more information (click on 'assemblies' on the left hand side).

Also, Eleanor Todd, the web editor for the www.ecen.org site is pulling together some resources for churches to use in Creation Time (1 Sept—4 Oct), and would gladly receive any ideas, prayers, new hymns/ chants, suggested readings and/or reflections, responses, meditations, new psalms or liturgies... so that others may share in using them. Please send any to her at webeditor@ecen.org

Resources for lifestyle change motivation



Buy less, live more

This is the Lent project of the Methodist Church—a credit card sized reminder before you reach for the real thing... do you really need to be buying this?

www.buylesslivemore.org.uk has ideas for becoming less consumerist and more fulfilled. If your church is finding it a bit difficult to see the links between consumerism and the environment, and therefore, don't make the lifestyle changes that we need to be making, perhaps this might offer a different way in.

Sign up and receive daily emails giving you positive ideas for the planet and it's people.

Carbon Fast

This is the Lent project of Tearfund—register with them and receive daily ways to reduce your carbon footprint during Lent.

Also on their website are lots of ideas to help you communicate climate change to your church, including sermon notes, power-point presentation, discussion starters after viewing Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, Bible study notes, and more! Go to www.tearfund.org then click on Churches, and Carbon Fast.

Livesimply

www.livesimply.org.uk
This is the lifestyle changing idea from CAFOD—it simply asks

you to make a promise to change your habits in one way, and they encourage others to join you in the challenge.

If everyone did

www.ifeveryonedid.com
This is a way of trying to measure what individual actions all add up to. It could be a way of getting folks in church to add all their actions together to see the total amount of carbon that you are saving by acting together.

This is a not-for-profit enterprise, not associated with the church, but could be a useful tool in getting people to see that everyone doing a little bit makes a big difference.

Every Action Counts



Do you need some new input to getting the climate change message across in your church or community? Well, the Government's scheme Every Action Counts might be the answer.

If you log on to www.everyactioncounts.org.uk you'll see that there are free resources for groups, workers and community champions once you register in one of those areas. You'll receive a monthly newsletter, access to games to help you draw up an action plan

if you've reached an impasse, or have just run out of ideas. You can record your actions on the site, and get involved with online forums to meet with others doing similar things.

The project also helps with free training, and courses up and down the country.

For those wanting to bring a lighter touch to their communications, there are some excellent cartoons, under the Eco-worrier's guide.

Climate Challenge

Add to this the site which gives you lots of information about climate change, and you are well on your way! The site is www.climatechallenge.gov.uk and

it has some really helpful ways of addressing the fact that many people are really not interested in the issues, and suggests helpful ways to get through to them (see the section on communicating climate change).

Rachel Carson play—Breaking the Silence



'**Breaking the Silence**' is a play about Rachel Carson and the extraordinary impact of her book 'Silent Spring'. Rachel Carson wrote the book in 1962 overcoming the opposition of government, industry and her own failing health, in order to alert the world to the use of chemicals in our environment. This one woman show enables us to hear her story.

It is currently on tour (for the tour dates, see www.rachelcarson.co.uk) but they are looking for venues for

the autumn. It is suitable for small arts venues, colleges, conferences and other non-arts venues. How about churches?

If you think you might be interested in having the play perform in your community, then contact the tour administrator, Trish Wickstead on 01367 244 322.

There has been debate on the blogs about the role of Rachel Carson, as some are suggesting that Rachel Carson's book, and the subsequent public call for the banning of DDT actually led to

the death of millions from malaria. The issue is complex: DDT is still used in certain situations, and the complexity of the ecosystems which interact with malaria (numerous parasites and vectors). It has been suggested that the other factors contribute to the difficulty in defeating malaria (such as poverty, mass migrations, poor housing etc).

Perhaps you could take a group to see the play and then have a debate about the wider issues afterwards?

New Books—a plethora!

Planetwise by Dave Bookless (National Director of A Rocha UK). Published by IVP. 160 pages.

This is a clear and compelling biblical case for Christian involvement in the issue of our age. Dave writes to encourage and inspire hope.

There is also an Environmental Resource Pack (£10) produced by A Rocha full of all sorts of stuff for church use (including short films to use in services or small groups). The book is £7.99 or you can get both together for £16 including p+p. Now that is a bargain! Contact A Rocha UK on 020 8574 5935.

Cherishing the Earth by Margot and Martin Hodson

Written by a scientist and a pastor, Martin and Margot Hodson take us on a journey of hope and bring practical enthusiasm for a better way of living. Drawing on stories of people who have found positive ways to respond, they call for Christians and others to become more involved in communities and seek change at national and international level. Far from being a distraction from living a Christian life, this sustainable lifestyle is a key to a life lived with Jesus at the centre.

Published by Monarch Books for £8.99. 256 pages

A Moral Climate by Michael Northcott

An in-depth look at the origins of our current crisis. A weighty read, but it's well worth it!

Published by Darton, Longman & Todd £12.95 256 pages

Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living by Nick Spencer and Robert White

An excellent introduction to the science of climate change and tackling some of the implications from a biblical perspective. Published by SPCK £9.99 224 pages.

Or see below for reduced prices on books from the Arthur Rank Centre!

Book sale at the Arthur Rank Centre

My colleague here at the Arthur Rank Centre provides resources on all sorts of rural issues. He hoped that people would be interested in wider issues of environment and global justice, but alas! people haven't been buying those books, so he is offering them at a reduced price:

100 Ways to Make Poverty History (£4.59)
50 Reasons to buy Fair Trade (£6.39)
Bird of Time (£4)
The Care of Creation (£7.29)
Caring for Creation (£7.65)

Caring for the Earth (Grove Booklet £2.50)
A Christian Approach to the Environment (£5.70)
Christianity, Climate Change & Sustainable Living (see above!) £8.49
Decluttering: a spirituality of less (Grove booklet £2.50)
Feeding People is Easy (£7.59)
Globalisation (Grove Booklet £2.50)
Good Food Stories (£6.35)
How Many Lightbulbs does it take to change a Christian? (£3.65)
Jesus and the Earth (4.95)
Living in a Fragile World (£5.49)

Making Creation Visible (Grove Booklet £2.50)
A Moral Climate (see above!) £11
Sharing God's Planet (£4)
Thinking Biblically about Climate Change (£2.89)
Time to Change (£2)
Trade Justice £3.65
What a World (£9.29)
You Are What You Grow (£7.49)

Contact Simon Martin on 024 7685 3068 for more information. Have a look at the website—fantastic stuff on there: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk



The Arthur Rank Centre is the centre for rural ministry for the CofE, the Methodists and URC.

Operation Noah—the latest

Operation Noah has taken some huge steps forward over the course of the last year.

Ann Pettifor was appointed as part-time campaign director, and more staff have come on board since, including Mark Dowd (famous for his challenge to the Bishop of London in the course of his documentary 'God is green' on Channel 4 last year).

Do have a look at the website—it is updated regularly. There are some excellent guides to the Climate Change Bill, currently going through Parliament, and

lots of ideas about what churches can do. If you register with the campaign, then you will receive updates.

They are currently encouraging people to have a fast day, to symbolise the fast we are going to need from carbon. Look at the website for the background: www.operationnoah.org

"Fasting seems both a spiritual exercise and a digestive one; it makes you see things differently, appreciate small mercies, and, despite its name, it slows you

down.....it strikes me that it is potentially one of the most profound and promising of the responses to ecological crisis. Here you become aware of over-consumption in the most intimate and convincing way; you realise you have been eating too much, too fast for most of your life (and that is just the tip of the iceberg). You actually feel better and become happier by consuming less, and more slowly."

Harry Eyres, *Financial Times*, 19th October, 2007.





eco-congregation (England & Wales)

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Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire CV8 2LZ

Phone: 024 7669 2491

E-mail: ecocongregation@arocha.org

Web: www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

The Churches' Environmental Programme

Eco-congregation provides a framework to get churches involved with environmental issues. Start with the church check-up (module 1), draw up an action plan, download the modules, get on with the work, and then apply for the Award!

Set up initially in partnership with Encams, it is now a project of:

A Rocha UK

13 Avenue Road
Southall
Middlesex UB1 3BL
Registered Charity 1089276

The Eco-congregation England & Wales office is at Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

All material is freely available from the website:

www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

It is helpful if you register your church after working through the church check-up (so that we can build up a national picture), and receiving the Award is a way to publicise your activities, and encourage other churches to get involved!

All donations gratefully received: please make cheques payable to 'A Rocha UK'. Thanks.

Find more resources on the web:

www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

More Eco-congregation Awards!

Well, I think last year was the busiest yet for me in organising for churches to be assessed for their Eco-congregation Awards! And lots happening in all sorts of ways in those churches.

Recent Award winners are:

- **Dorking Quaker Meeting (2nd Award)**
- **Lostock Hall Methodist, Preston**
- **Andover URC, Hants**
- **Trinity Methodist, Woking**
- **Reigate Park URC, Reigate**
- **Seascale Methodist, Cumbria**
- **Wylde Green URC, Birmingham**
- **Bethesda Methodist, Cheltenham**
- **Westborough Methodist, Scarborough**

Here are some of the things that these churches have been doing:

- Zoned heating
 - Wildlife garden developed
 - Showing An Inconvenient Truth in the community
 - Involvement of Minister in Industrial Mission gives opening for green issues to come up more widely
 - Local green group established which includes folk from other local churches
 - Initiated 'Beach Clean' and 'Village Tidy' groups in the village
 - Active involvement of young people in annual environment service
 - Energy survey of church buildings.
 - Prayer vigil for the planet
 - Going Organic church night
 - Grant for energy audit for church
 - Taking lessons on environmental issues at local schools
 - Running workshop on Eco-congregation to encourage others locally
 - Sold hundreds of low energy bulbs to members and friends
 - Emphasising environmental conditions in terms for hall hire
 - Adding new verses to harvest hymns to bring the message home
 - Green articles in magazines and church notices.
 - Eco-teams programme run
- Fantastic achievements by all!
- If you are wondering about the benefits of applying for your Award, then I'm sure all these churches would say that having someone from outside coming to assess the work done gives something to aim for, and also gives a huge sense of achievement and affirmation.
- Don't delay—apply today!

