

Prayer guide for the care of creation



September 2026

“We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city.”

“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” Ezekiel 47 v 12

Picture on front cover: Autumn leaves, Emma King.

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please fill in the sign up form at <https://greenchristian.org.uk/about/contact-us/> or email: prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk

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 **Green Christian**
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Tuesday 1st September

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for the Season of Creation, a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it with us. This year, the theme for the Season is "Living Water. From the Celebration guide, <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Wednesday 2nd September

Toonight sees a Green Christian workshop on the Season of Creation. The international, ecumenical theme for this year's Season of Creation (which started yesterday) is Living Waters and this year the season launches with a new Feast of

Creation in Christ, on 6th September. In this workshop, Deborah Colvin will explore practical and spiritual streams of living water we might immerse ourselves in. How do we relate to the rivers, wells and undergrounds flows all around us? What are the implications for igniting imagination and transforming lives? And what might the new Feast mean for our patterns of worship? Free, but register for the zoom link.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/living-waters-green-christian-talk/>

Thursday 3rd September

The Biblical text for the Season of Creation this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

emissions by 2045, following up with formal carbon budgets last year, which mapped out required emissions limits from 2026 to 2045. The same year, the UK Government confirmed its binding net-zero emissions by 2050 target, becoming the first major economy to do so. <https://www.edie.net/welsh-government-announces-new-net-zero-by-2040-target/>

Wednesday 30th September

While firefighters battled blazes across the south of England this week, Barclays helped arrange a \$750 million bond deal for UK oil and gas giant Harbour Energy, Global Witness can reveal. Barclays earned an estimated \$700,000 from its involvement in the deal with Harbour Energy - a key player in North Sea oil production. Four other non-UK headquartered banks – Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, DNB Bank ASA and JPMorgan - were involved in the deal. Harbour Energy is actively exploring new fields in Mexico, Argentina and recently obtained 9 new exploration licenses in Norway - but leading climate scientists have repeatedly warned that there must be no new oil and gas projects if

global heating is to stay under 1.5 degrees... Barclays publicly states it won't finance new fossil fuel expansion "projects", but climate campaigners have previously criticised "loopholes" in its sustainability policy that still allows it to finance companies developing new oil and gas fields. According to a recent analysis, Barclays provided a total of \$34.1 billion of financing to global fossil fuel companies in 2025 alone. In 2025, Barclays became the second major UK bank to withdraw from the now-defunct Net Zero Banking Alliance, arguing that its depleted membership undermined its effectiveness.

<https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/fossil-fuels/barclays-helps-arrange-750-million-bond-to-north-sea-oil-company-during-uk-wildfires/>

Sunday 27th September

May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Excerpt from the Season of Creation 2026 Prayer in the Celebration Guide
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Monday 28th September

When cougars are present in a landscape, roads are safer, according to a new study [conducted in the US state of Washington], writes Starre Vartan. In area where the cats were highly active, the expected number of deer-vehicle collisions fell by 76% over five years, with the probability of a collision falling by 67%. Researchers found that fear changes deer behavior: Rather than simply reducing deer numbers by eating them, pumas appear to create a “landscape of fear” that pushes deer away from developed areas and shifts their active hours from nighttime into

daylight. Large carnivores, including cougars, keep fast-reproducing prey species in check, while also reducing dangerous and costly wildlife collisions — another reason why coexistence with them is important, experts say.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2026/08/cougars-cut-deadly-vehicle-deer-collisions-in-the-u-s-by-up-to-76-study-shows/>

Tuesday 29th September

Welsh Government announces new net-zero by 2040 target, writes Matilda Cox. As part of the proposed Climate and Nature Action Plan, Wales is aiming to be net-zero by 2040, 10 years ahead of the UK Government's target. To shape the plan, the Government is establishing a new Climate and Nature Board to be chaired by Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability Llyr Gruffydd. Once finalised, the plan will detail a cross-governmental programme of action to encourage sustainable development, strengthen climate and nature resilience, support a just transition and chart an actionable pathway towards net-zero. In 2019, Scotland set its own legally binding target of net-zero

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Friday 4th September

According to a review of major corporate filings and calls, El Niño has rapidly risen up the business agenda for companies across industries like food, chemicals and banking, writes Matilda Cox. As reported by Reuters, the review used data from market intelligence firm AlphaSense, revealing that 478 companies mentioned ‘El Niño’ in 1,443 documents between 1 May and 4 August. This is the most widely mentioned that the weather phenomenon has been in corporate settings since 2019. ... El Niño is a naturally occurring weather pattern that comes about roughly once every two to five years, where water surface temperatures rise across the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. ... The result is more extreme weather across the globe, including heatwaves and drought, along with increased rainfall, flooding and storms. This is on top of worsening extreme weather events that are occurring as a result of climate change. An El Niño event was officially declared this June, with

experts defining this year's as a ‘super El Niño’.

<https://www.edie.net/business-concern-over-el-nino-risk-hits-multi-year-high-analysis-finds/>

Saturday 5th September

Sri Lanka's government has greenlit the country's long-delayed animal welfare bill, which proposes stringent penalties for cruelty to animals and would replace a century-old animal cruelty law, writes Malaka Rodrigo. The draft law has reignited a fierce debate over the centuries-old practice of using domesticated elephants in religious processions. Critics say the proposed law could effectively end elephant chaining, while animal welfare advocates argue that the bill does not explicitly prohibit chains but instead targets causing unnecessary pain, suffering and cruelty. With the bill now before parliament, the elephant debate is forcing Sri Lanka to confront the realities of regulating the use of an animal that occupies both a place in religious tradition and is a protected species.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2026/08/culture-welfare-and-politics-clash->

[over-sri-lankas-long-delayed-animal-welfare-law/](#)

Sunday 6th September **Living Water**

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

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<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Monday 7th September

The UK has abandoned projects worth tens of millions of pounds that were meant to help protect Congo rainforests and support local people, writes Josh Gabbatiss. Together, these initiatives would have made up around half of the £200m that the UK pledged to support conservation in

the Congo basin – the world's second-largest rainforest. When it hosted COP26 in Glasgow, the UK led a new initiative to end forest loss, which included a collective pledge by 12 donors of “at least” \$1.5bn (£1.1bn) for Congo rainforest nations by 2025. Development minister Jenny Chapman revealed [in July] that, as of 2024, the UK had only provided £39.8m towards this goal. Alongside the US and much of Europe, the UK has significantly cut its aid budget in recent years, leading to much of its Congo rainforest spending being cancelled or reappraised. The government says it still plans to “prioritise” rainforest regions, including the Congo basin, but civil society groups and MPs are concerned about the lack of “ring-fenced” forest funding in the UK's new aid strategy.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/uk-withdraws-millions-in-funding-from-worlds-second-largest-rainforest-in-congo>

Tuesday 8th September

The 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) opens on September 8, 2026. Two weeks later, General Debate kicks off

Friday 25th September

Researchers are already designing advanced textiles that look exactly like regular clothes or fabrics but come with embedded electronic functions, write Ian Williams et al.. These are referred to as electronics textiles, e-textiles or smart fabrics. E-textiles integrate sensing, computation and power into fabrics so that the threads themselves become the sensors and the stitches become the circuits. These textiles can monitor health, temperature, motion and air quality. They can communicate wirelessly and harvest various forms of energy...

Developments in e-textiles will revolutionise the way humanity views clothing; but at what cost?.. Electronic textiles will bring a new kind of hybrid waste. E-textiles commonly use mixed polymers, metal nanoparticle inks, and include components that create fire hazards within conventional textile recycling. They can release toxic residues if incinerated or landfilled. This results in hazardous and precious materials becoming trapped within garments, leading not only to environmental and health problems, but to a loss of

vital resources such as graphene and rare-earth elements.

<https://theconversation.com/smart-clothes-will-soon-be-on-sale-but-regulations-are-needed-to-prevent-a-new-waste-mountain-287269>

Saturday 26th September

Tackling methane is an underused but critical emergency brake on climate change – it's time the UK used it, writes Liam Hardy. The argument over new oil and gas drilling in the North Sea has become painfully familiar. One side says new drilling is incompatible with climate goals. The other claims domestic production is essential for energy security and, supposedly, British oil and gas is cleaner than imports. That last claim is repeated so often it has acquired the status of accepted fact. But, before ministers approve another well, they should answer a simple question: can UK oil and gas really be clean if vast quantities of methane are being leaked into the atmosphere?

<https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2026/08/19/before-drilling-for-more-oil-and-gas-lets-stop-wasting-what-we-already-have/>

to help mitigate heat. But some are still sweltering through increasingly warm summers. The new study suggests a solution might be found outside the cities themselves. *“For urban cooling, where we place vegetation can be just as important as how much vegetation we have,”* says study team member Shi-Jie Cao, director of the Center for Sustainable Built Environment at Southeast University in Nanjing, China. ...The team set out to explore whether this approach could also apply to today’s large, heterogeneous metropolises. They used a computer model to gauge how temperatures in the urban core on a hot summer day would be affected if suburban areas upwind of a city were converted to either woodlands or built-up areas... Analysis based on ... two cities revealed the mechanisms involved: first, the suburban vegetation creates a cool mass of air, and then prevailing winds sweep the cooler air from the suburbs into the city.
<https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2026/08/urban-heat-overlooked-fix-greening-the-land-upwind-of-cities/>

Thursday 24th September

As one of the most isolated landmasses on Earth, residents of Rapa Nui, or Easter Island, rely on the bounty of the ocean more than most, writes Andy Corbley. It’s as good a place as any to institute marine environment protections, and indeed the island’s famous stone heads, or moai, now gaze out upon one of the largest marine protected areas (MPAs) on Earth at more than a quarter-million square miles. Moreover, the indigenous people of the island will maintain a voting majority on a “sea council” established to govern the massive area, holding 6 seats compared to 5 held by elected officials from Chile, the sovereign of Rapa Nui. It will be one of the largest indigenous-managed reserves on land or sea anywhere in the world, and reflects the rich Polynesian heritage that saw this seafaring race make an unprecedented trip across the open ocean to settle the island.
<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/270000-square-miles-around-easter-island-to-become-indigenous-managed-ocean-reserve/>

Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Leaders will convene in New York to discuss solutions to the world’s most pressing global issues, from climate change to global health to peace, security, and humanitarian response. This year during UNGA 81, the race for UN Secretary-General is certain to dominate the conversation, as momentum builds toward the selection of the organization’s next leader. Pray for the selection process, for the right person to replace Antonio Guterres from January 2027.

<https://unfoundation.org/unga81/>

Wednesday 9th September

With two months to go before COP31 in Antalya, the Presidency has announced the thematic day programme for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, taking place in Antalya from 9 to 20 November 2026. Each of the conference’s twelve days is dedicated to a distinct priority area of climate action. The programme opens on 9 November with Food, Agriculture and Health, followed by Energy and Transport on 10 November. The World Leaders Climate Action Summit, the highest-

level segment of the programme, will convene on the third and fourth days of the conference — 11-12 November. Bringing together heads of state and government, the summit aims to strengthen political momentum, reinforce global cooperation and accelerate the implementation of climate commitments. Its first day runs alongside the Zero Waste theme and its second day alongside Resilient Cities and Built Environment. Other themes include finance and trade, Oceans, seas and nature, and Children, youth, education and skills.
<https://cop31.tr/news-detail/thematic-days-announced-2026>

Thursday 10th September

The Great Koala National Park was proposed to save a species on the brink of extinction, writes Bente Baekers. Koalas were declared endangered in New South Wales in 2022, with a parliamentary inquiry warning they could vanish from the state entirely before 2050. The park is projected to protect an estimated 12,000 koalas, 36,000 greater gliders, and more than 150 other threatened species, as well as ancient Gondwana rainforest

remnants and rare spider orchids. The reserve merges 175,000 hectares of state forest with existing protected areas, creating a 315,000-hectare landscape comparable in scale to the Blue Mountains or Kosciuszko National Park. Aboriginal rangers will be employed throughout the park to protect cultural heritage. Environment Minister Penny Sharpe has framed the park as an economic engine too, with tourism officials hoping international visitors will eventually rank it alongside Uluru and the Great Barrier Reef, backed by an additional AUD \$60 million for trails, campgrounds, and adventure infrastructure.

<https://happyeconews.com/the-great-koala-national-park/>

Friday 11th September

The average global sea surface temperature outside polar regions reached 21.1°C [in late August], writes Marta Pacheco. The world's oceans have reached their highest daily temperature on record, with global sea surface temperatures hitting 21.1°C on 22 August - a new high made particularly striking by the time of year, according to the European Union's climate change

data. The reading, recorded by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, narrowly surpassed the previous daily record of 21.09°C, set in March 2024. Ocean temperatures typically reach their global peak in March and April, following the southern hemisphere summer, Copernicus explains. This new record being set in August, when temperatures would normally be declining, highlights the persistent warmth spreading across the world's oceans. The latest figure also beats the previous August record of 20.98°C, set in 2023... The record comes as a strong El Niño develops in the tropical Pacific, adding further heat to an ocean that has already warmed significantly over decades because of human-driven climate change.

<https://www.euronews.com/2026/08/24/worlds-oceans-hit-hottest-temperature-ever-recorded-in-august-as-el-nino-takes-hold>

Saturday 12th September

Fluctuations to Spring patterns due to climate breakdown is playing havoc with Britain's wasps, writes Femi Ezhuthupallickal Benny. As wasp populations swing wildly

Tuesday 22nd September

How the war in Iran changes China's decarbonisation path, by Mathias Larsen.... The war in Iran, launched by America and Israel in late February 2026 and gradually coming to a halt in mid-June, led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow stretch of water between Iran and Oman through which much of the region's exported oil must travel. The pause in exports pushed global oil prices up to more than \$100 through bidding wars between importing countries. Even though China's oil imports have fallen by 25 per cent as the country draws from its reserves, the higher prices of oil and gas incentivise China to use other energy sources. While on the one hand the Iran war may push China towards coal in the short term, it will likely also cause China to double down on the expansion of clean technologies for growth. As well as for security, China has supported clean tech as a driver of growth, which has placed the country at a critical technology frontier, tapped into global export demand and reduced energy costs. The current fossil fuel price shock makes clean technologies relatively cheaper

and increases global demand for them. For example, already before the war, expensive oil imports made Ethiopia indefinitely ban the import of fossil fuel cars, while in Pakistan a poorly designed and coal-based electricity system led to an explosion in rooftop solar. China will increase support for clean tech to meet demand arising from this, now exacerbated, global trend of more competitive clean technologies.

<https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/conflict/how-war-iran-changes-chinas-decarbonisation-path>

Wednesday 23rd September

Strategically placed greenbelts in the suburbs could cool some of the world's biggest cities by almost half a degree across at least half their area, according to a new analysis, writes Sarah DeWeerd. The findings suggest an old but often overlooked strategy to manage the urban heat island effect, the tendency for cities to be a few degrees hotter than surrounding landscapes due to their extensive pavement, concrete and steel buildings, and lots of people packed together. In recent years, many cities have tried planting trees

NYC was set up, and why ... once again it's connecting the people and ideas which how we live, work and build a low-carbon economy and a more secure future. ... Climate Week NYC is organized by Climate Group, an international organization that has driven climate action for over 20 years by convening leaders across business and government. Taking place alongside the UN General Assembly, [the] event brings together the decision-makers and experts shaping capital, policy and markets across sectors and regions.

<https://www.climateweeknyc.org/>

Sunday 20th September

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.

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Monday 21st September

China has released a five-year plan dedicated to addressing climate change, writes Lekai Liu. The 15th five-year plan for a national response to climate change is the latest in a series to outline in-depth climate and energy targets for the 2026-2030 period. These include five-year plans for “building a Beautiful China”, developing a “new-type energy system” and developing renewable energy. There are also separate “action plans” for the 2026-2030 period, such as for peaking carbon emissions. China has pledged to peak its emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality before 2060. The new plan does not include any major new targets, instead consolidating and reaffirming existing policies. Nevertheless, it includes significant signals on key policy areas, such as non-carbon dioxide (CO₂) greenhouse gases, global climate governance and carbon markets.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/qa-what-is-in-chinas-new-five-year-plan-for-climate-change>

between boom and bust years, scientists say climate volatility is behind Britain's disappearing stinging insects. Every Summer, Britain reliably produces two things: warm weather complaints and wasp headlines. Last summer delivered both in force, with “plagues of wasps” reports across the press after a hot, dry spring favoured the insect colonies. This summer, the wasps have simply not turned up. At the Sumner Lab in the Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research (CBER), UCL, Professor Seirian Sumner reported that her students cannot find enough wasps for their own experiments – an odd problem for a wasp lab. Pest controllers report a fall in nest callouts. The usual late-summer wasp panic hasn't materialised either, and its absence from the news agenda is itself a telling data point. It's tempting to read this as one freak year following another. But treated as a single event, rather than two isolated ones, the 2025 boom and the 2026 bust look like the same phenomenon: wasp populations swinging harder and less predictably as the climate they depend on becomes less stable.

<https://theecologist.org/2026/aug/20/are-wasps-losing-their-rhythm>

Sunday 13th September

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

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Monday 14th September

Over 75% of the UK's bogs, fens, marshes and other wetlands have been dug up, drained and destroyed since 1700, stripping the landscape of much of its natural ability to hold water, writes Christian Dunn. Restoring them would keep soils and vegetation wetter, providing less fuel for flames. Strategically placed wetlands could also form natural breaks that slow fires before they reach homes, forests or farmland. This is becoming increasingly important. Across England and

Wales this summer, firefighters had already responded to 966 wildfires by August 10, including 458 during July alone. Many of the upland areas affected by wildfires are peatlands, or bogs, but that does not mean they are still functioning as healthy wetlands. In a healthy bog, waterlogged conditions prevent dead plants from fully decomposing, so their remains slowly accumulate as peat, rather like a giant inefficient compost heap. Where bogs have been drained, as many have been for generations, the water table falls and the peat and vegetation dry out, creating more fuel during prolonged hot weather.

<https://theconversation.com/over-75-of-uk-wetlands-have-been-destroyed-restoring-them-would-help-prevent-wildfires-289192>

Tuesday 15th September

Nature-based solutions are being used by 55% of global cities, states and regions as climate-adaptation measures, environmental disclosure platform CDP has revealed. Joshua Neil continues: the CDP's new research, 'Nature for People and Places', analysed data disclosed by 1,005 cities, states and regions

across 80 countries. Collectively, these areas represent around 1.32 billion people. It found that the majority of these were implementing at least one nature-based solution, including ecological restoration, building green infrastructure and afforestation. It also found that 70% of subnational governments with climate adaptation goals prioritise nature-based solutions. The CDP found that extreme heat, urban flooding and heavy rain were the most critical climate hazards facing regional governments.

<https://www.edie.net/majority-of-cities-and-regions-using-nature-to-tackle-climate-change-finds-cdp/>

Wednesday 16th September

There's a Green Christian online talk tonight on *The Good Apocalypse Guide*, 7-8.15pm. Join us to hear Alex Evans talking on *The Good Apocalypse Guide* and being Christian in these challenging times. Alex is the founder and Executive Director of Larger Us and also writes a Substack called *The Good Apocalypse Guide*. Free, but register to get the zoom link.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/the-good-apocalypse-guide-and-being->

[christian-in-these-challenging-times-green-christian-talk/](#)

Thursday 17th September

Countries around the world are increasingly turning Just Transition pledges into laws, policies, institutions, and court decisions. This is the key finding of a report published [late August] by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), released ahead of the first anniversary of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of climate change. The report, *No Transition Without Justice: Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law for People and Planet*, concludes that just transition should be approached through an environmental rule-of-law lens. It frames Just Transition as the fair, inclusive and rights-based transformation towards sustainable and resilient economies and societies that respects environmental rule of law. It spans diverse stakeholders (e.g., workers, Indigenous Peoples), sectors (e.g., energy, mining, construction, and agriculture), and timeframes, in order

to rectify past harms and address intergenerational justice.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/courts-legislatures-countries-are-embedding-just-transition-law-and>

Friday 18th September

The UN High Level General Assembly Week starts today. This assembly will once again convene world leaders to revitalize global cooperation, give a critical push to the Sustainable Development Goals and drive collective action for peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet. Over the next ten days different aspects of the SDGs will be discussed, including sea level rises, just transition and nuclear disarmament.

<https://www.un.org/en/high-level-week-2026>

Saturday 19th September

This year's Climate Week NYC [which starts tomorrow] will focus on the energy, the impact, and the action that we drive together. In times of economic and climate uncertainty, collaboration, and learning from one another is key. That's exactly why Climate Week