funding projects elsewhere to balance out a company's emissions. Claims of a neutral, reduced, or positive impact, such as carbon neutral or net zero, cannot rely on offsets. Broad claims face limits too. A company cannot describe an entire product as eco-friendly when only one part is. The same goes for claims about a whole business when only one division qualifies. The EU greenwashing ban for businesses also stops companies from presenting legal minimums as special features. If the law requires recycled content in plastic packaging, brands cannot advertise it as a bonus. Honest marketing now means highlighting what goes beyond the rules.
https://happyeconews.com/eu-greenwashing-ban-for-businesses/

Thursday 31st December
American conservationists have secured protections for a truly unique-in-the-world ecosystem along the state's Bering Sea coastline, writes Andy Corbley. Home to the largest concentrations of Pacific walrus found anywhere in North America, the barrier islands off the coast of the tiny northern village of Point Lay provide a critical refuge for these marine megafauna. Now ensconced within a 47,000-acre protected area (74 square miles) held by the Interior Alaska Land Trust, the islands have been spared from industrial development and other disturbances, as has "one of the largest, undiminished coastal lagoon systems in the world," which was protected in tandem… Every year, a quarter million Pacific walrus would migrate north through the Bering Strait, with the males remaining out at sea and the females with their calves moving towards the shallow, nutrient-rich waters of the Chukchi Sea between Alaska and Russia. Historically, these animals relied on Arctic sea ice for resting spots, but by 2007 the ice had become inconsistent. One year, an estimated 200,000 walrus hauled themselves up onto the barrier islands of Point Lay, and they've returned every year ever since.
https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/one-of-a-kind-refuge-to-200000-walrus-protected-forever-in-alaska/

Prayer guide for the care of creation



December 2026

Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.
Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

Green Christian
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Tuesday 1st December
Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month. Prayer points for this month will be on their website.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now: (prayer from Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief). https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/

Wednesday 2nd December
Tonight is a GC online workshop on Green Christian Local Groups. This is a chance to share and hear the thoughts and experiences of local group members from around the country. We hope this will equip folk to start their own groups, and inspire new ideas among existing groups. Groups come in many different shapes and sizes. Some have opted to be an official GC local group, and others are unaffiliated. But they all have at least one GC member and connect with at least one other green-minded Christian in their area. Kath Clough from St Albans and Cathy Fish from Sheffield will share about what works for them, and then our Local Groups Co-ordinator Isobel Murdoch will describe what is involved in setting up a local group and some of examples of their activities. There will be time for more sharing and for questions in break out groups and in a final plenary discussion https://greenchristian.org.uk/green-christian-local-groups-workshop/

Thursday 3rd December
Watershed restoration in Ethiopia reached a new milestone in July, with more than 1,000 community members planting over 150,000 tree seedlings across four degraded micro-watersheds, writes Jospin Issa Ludunge. The effort marks ProTana's first major field campaign, a five-year project led by the World Resources Institute and partners. Nearly half of the volunteers were women. ProTana focuses on the Tana Subbasin in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, home to Lake Tana, the country's largest lake and the source of the Blue Nile. The https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-how-the-uk-spent-more-than-11-6bn-on-climate-aid-since-2021

Tuesday 29th December
Passing the red rocks and sand dunes that litter the Australian desert, First Nations people regularly trek hundreds of miles across the outback to a waterfall outside the town of Borroloola, whose waters some believe birthed all of creation, writes Tom Brown. But on the path towards the site of Karranjini, deep within Australia's Northern Territory, something else has started to appear on the horizon. Satellite imagery shows gas flares burning around the area after fracking companies started drilling on the traditional land… Flaring usually happens during the extraction of oil and gas, when companies burn fossil gas instead of capturing and selling it, releasing greenhouse gases. When flares burn, they also release harmful chemicals like sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and benzene. Satellite data from the World Bank and Australia's Bureau of Statistics show that 78,000 people live within 5km of a flaring site in Australia, with the burden of pollution falling heavily on First Nations people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than twice as likely to live within 5km of a flare. "It's really clear that if you live within 5km of a gas flare you have a 30% increased risk of leukemia," says Louise Woodward, a pediatrician and founder of Community Healthy Air NT. "There's other health risks including having a premature baby and having pregnancy complications like hypertension." https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/fossil-fuels/first-nation-australians-face-risk-of-dangerous-flaring-pollution_scrolly/

Wednesday 30th December
The EU greenwashing ban for businesses began applying on September 27, 2026, writes Elena Kryvoshei. The European Union (EU) adopted it through the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive. Shoppers now get clearer and more honest environmental information. Greenwashing means making a product sound more eco-friendly than it really is. Under the new rules, vague claims must be backed up with evidence. Terms like "green," "sustainable," and "energy efficient" now require excellent environmental performance. The EU greenwashing ban for businesses also targets carbon offset claims. Offsetting means

Elsewhere, too, mangroves are reclaiming lost ground. A study published in *Science* in June found that the world's mangroves had been expanding since around 2010, offsetting much of the loss of the preceding decades. A separate assessment by Global Mangrove Watch found a net increase of 477 square kilometers (184 square miles) between 1985 and 2025 — a modest gain of 0.3% over four decades. Much of the new forest has grown without anyone planting a tree.
https://news.mongabay.com/short-article/2026/11/chinas-mangroves-have-bounced-back-birds-have-returned-too/

Sunday 27th December
Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.
- *Author Unknown*

https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/new-years-prayers

Monday 28th December
The UK has spent £12.8bn on climate aid for developing countries since 2021, according to official figures obtained by Carbon Brief. Write Josh Gabbatiss continues: Freedom-of-information (FOI) requests reveal how the UK has used its "climate finance" to support everything from solar projects in Mozambique to carbon offsets in the Amazon. UK climate funding, which reached a record £4bn this year, has supported roughly 500 aid projects, climate funds and private-investment initiatives over the past five years. With this spending, the UK has surpassed its £11.6bn climate-finance target for this period, although Carbon Brief analysis shows that it has partly relied on "questionable accounting". This target is part of the UK's ongoing responsibility under UN climate treaties to financially support developing countries in their efforts to tackle climate change. Despite being central to its international climate policy, the UK government does not routinely release data on progress towards its climate-finance goals.

lake and its surrounding watersheds supply water for millions of people across the region. Decades of deforestation, overgrazing, and soil erosion have steadily degraded the land feeding into it. Lake Tana's importance reaches well beyond Ethiopia's borders. Water flowing out of the lake eventually joins the Blue Nile, which supplies a significant share of the water reaching Sudan and Egypt downstream. Keeping the watersheds that feed the lake healthy therefore affects water security across the wider Nile basin, not just the communities living closest to it.
https://happyeconews.com/watershed-restoration-in-ethiopia/

Friday 4th December
The amount of public funding pledged to help developing countries tackle climate change has dropped by more than 70% in 2026, according to Carbon Brief analysis. Write Josh Gabbatiss continues: Developed countries are required under UN climate treaties to provide "climate finance" and have traditionally announced multi-year pledges to feed into their global commitments. Most of these pledges expired in 2025 and, since then, the US has withdrawn from international climate efforts and many European aid budgets have been cut. A civil-society tracker shows that only six nations have announced new multi-year pledges, including just one major donor – the UK. Germany, France and Japan are among the key contributors that have so far failed to set out plans for new climate finance, while none is expected from the US. As a result, the total amount of public climate finance pledged over the next few years amounts to just $11.7bn a year in spending, down from recent levels of around $40bn. Experts tell Carbon Brief that global conflict, fiscal constraints and the rise of the far right are all making it harder for developed-country governments to pledge new funds.
https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-climate-finance-pledges-fall-70-as-countries-meet-at-cop31

Saturday 5th December
Britain's potato harvest this winter could be one of the smallest in decades, writes Robin Gowers. This is partly down to the hot summer and a poor growing year. Potatoes have shallow roots and need steady moisture, so dry spells cut yield and size. Where farmers had stored water to regularly irrigate, crops fared better. With 75% of England in drought in

September, and Wales also affected by dry conditions, one model estimated that British potato yields would be 11% below average. It used the 2018 harvest as a guide. Some farmers reported a greater than 50% drop in how many potatoes they were harvesting. Wholesale prices had already risen by more than 40% by early August. By September, big British buyers were reportedly paying more than £300 a tonne for potatoes. The Food and Drink Federation has warned of the worst potato harvest since the 1950s. Growers have warned supermarkets to expect smaller potatoes and tighter supplies this year, so shoppers may need to accept wider variation in size and quality. This is partly because other European countries, which often provide supplies to the UK, suffered the same hot summer, and this affected their crops, too.
https://theconversation.com/expect-to-see-fewer-and-smaller-potatoes-this-christmas-its-the-worst-harvest-since-1950s-295934

Sunday 6th December
Light up our lives
Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.
Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

Monday 7th December
'Historic victory': Caged farm animals could be banned in the EU after landmark court ruling, writes Craig Sauers. The case was brought by a citizen-led campaign that gathered nearly 1.4 million signatures from Europeans calling for an end to caged farming. About 300 million pigs, chickens and other farmed animals are still kept in cages across the EU, despite a 2021 pledge by the European Commission to outlaw the practice. In a milestone victory for animal welfare campaigners, an EU court has now ordered the Commission to say exactly when it intends to introduce a long-awaited farm cage ban. The ruling could end practices such as confining pigs to crates so narrow that they can't turn around and keeping rabbits in cages that prevent them from hopping or standing upright. On Wednesday, 25 November, the European Court of

that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.
Attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson,
https://hallow.com/blog/christmas-prayer-catholic-blessings/#st-andrews-novena

Friday 25th December
Christmas Day
May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-0#mmm39

Saturday 26th December
Between 1998 and 2020, mangrove cover in China more than doubled, while the number of bird species recorded in those areas rose from 148 to 397, according to findings published in *The Innovation*. Writer Rhett Ayers Butler continues: The recovery follows decades of steep decline: China lost nearly 70% of its mangroves between 1950 and 1990. Since then, the government has set aside mangrove reserves and restored degraded areas, including former aquaculture ponds. Rising temperatures and increased rainfall have also favored mangrove growth, according to the researchers. The additional forest offers birds more nesting and roosting sites, and may have boosted populations of fish and other aquatic organisms on which many birds feed. The number of globally threatened bird species recorded in China's mangrove habitats rose from 11 to 21 over the study period. Not all birds stand to benefit as the forests mature. Sandpipers and plovers feed on exposed mudflats and in openings among the trees. Both may become scarcer as mangroves grow denser.

caused massive flooding in Nepal's Bhotekoshi region, leaving more than 1,400 dead and another 5,000 missing. Initial scientific studies have concluded that global warming likely contributed to the weakening of the glacier and the melting of permafrost that triggered the catastrophic avalanche. The estimated cost of rebuilding exceeds $4.8 billion, or around 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product, but the world has pledged only a few hundred million in aid. Nepal hoped that other countries would provide more relief money at COP31. Two weeks later, Nepal left Antalya no better off than when it arrived. Not only did rich countries fail to provide any additional assistance to the ravaged country, they declined to deliver almost any new disaster aid.
https://grist.org/cop31/nepal-glacier-flood-cop31-climate-finance/

Wednesday 23rd December
The SS United States, once the fastest transatlantic ocean liner, was sunk off Florida in November 2026 to become the world's largest artificial reef, writes Rodielon Putol. The [ship], a 990-foot (302-meter) ocean liner, was sent to the bottom of the Gulf on November 11, 2026. Okaloosa County, Florida, had scheduled the sinking for November 12, about 22 nautical miles (41 kilometers) southwest of Destin-Fort Walton Beach. It bills the wreck as the world's largest artificial reef… Before a ship becomes a reef, fuel, oil, asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are among the materials of concern, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes. Properly prepared, a vessel is meant to be environmentally sound as a reef, unlike wrecks leaking explosives. All 128 fuel and lubricant tanks on the SS United States were emptied, cleaned and certified clean by a marine chemist. Crews collected more than 200 samples to check for PCBs… Plans also called for cutting back the aluminum superstructure to allow a shallower placement. Holes were to be cut so the ship would land upright, and passages opened for marine life.
https://www.earth.com/environment/americas-fastest-ocean-liner-was-purposely-sunk-off-the-florida-coast-making-it-the-worlds-largest-artificial-reef/

Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve
Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,

Justice ruled that the Commission could not leave citizens waiting indefinitely for the legislation it had promised and must provide a new timeline after missing its original 2023 deadline.
https://www.euronews.com/2026/11/25/historic-victory-caged-farm-animals-could-be-banned-in-the-eu-after-landmark-court-ruling

Tuesday 8th December
The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) held its annual meeting in London Nov. 10-13, writes Edward Carver. Its remit includes certain fish stocks in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean, near Europe. The three main species that it manages have been subject to overfishing for years. One of them, Atlantic mackerel, is in particularly bad shape, with a population currently 22% below the NEAFC's target threshold, having been fished above scientifically advised levels every year since 2008. At this year's meeting, the parties made no breakthrough on how to sustainably divide the catch for the three stocks between member parties. Discussions about alleged illegal fishing by Russian vessels occupied much of the event. The parties did adopt a statement committing the NEAFC to develop an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, earning praise from NGO observers who said this could be impactful in the long term.
https://news.mongabay.com/2026/11/geopolitical-tensions-hamper-efforts-to-curb-overfishing-in-waters-near-europe/

Wednesday 9th December
Russia, Saudi Arabia and COP31 co-president Australia are the largest exporters of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in history, reveals Carbon Brief analysis. Author Dr Simon Evans continues: Since 1850, the three nations – and other major fossil-fuel exporters – have exported hundreds of billions of tonnes of CO2 in the form of gas, oil and coal that has been burned in other countries. Carbon Brief's analysis of extraction-based CO2 emissions is based on figures compiled by Robbie Andrew, a senior researcher at Norwegian climate institute CICERO. It shows that Australia is responsible for more than twice as much global warming when including emissions from its fossil-fuel exports, while Saudi Arabia has caused more than four times as much… In contrast, nations that are heavily reliant on energy imports –

such as Japan or Germany – are responsible for far lower shares of planet-warming emissions, if responsibility passes to fossil-fuel producers. There are many different ways to assign historical responsibility for current global warming. https://www.carbonbrief.org/revealed-russia-saudi-arabia-and-australia-are-largest-co2-exporters-of-all-time

Thursday 10th December
Yuvelis Morales Blanco won the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize for stopping fracking in Colombia's Magdalena River communities and helping halt two pilot projects and secure a landmark court ruling, writes Mariz Guiniawan. A university student began stopping fracking in Colombia's Magdalena River towns by knocking on her neighbors' doors. Seven years later, Yuvelis Morales Blanco has won the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize for that work. The prize honors grassroots environmental leaders from six world regions each year. Her campaign helped stop two pilot fracking projects near her hometown of Puerto Wilches. It also led to a Constitutional Court ruling that upheld her Afro-Colombian community's right to a say. To date, no fracking project has moved forward anywhere in Colombia. https://happyeconews.com/stopping-fracking-in-colombias-magdalena-river/

Friday 11th December
Thailand and Myanmar have agreed to establish six water-quality monitoring stations to investigate heavy-metal contamination in rivers along their shared border, Thai officials said on Wednesday, as concern over pollution grows in northern Thailand. A rash of mining activity in Myanmar, primarily to extract gold and rare earths, has led to the release of toxic chemicals into rivers flowing into Thailand, potentially contaminating water sources for communities, Reuters has reported. More than 2,400 mines — many of them illegal and unregulated — across mainland Southeast Asia could be releasing deadly chemicals such as cyanide and mercury into river water, according to the US-based Stimson Center think tank… At the first meeting of a Thai-Myanmar working group set up to tackle the pollution, both sides agreed to install four monitoring stations along the Kok River and two along the Sai River,

Monday 21st December
I came home from COP17 in Yerevan with an overriding question, writes Dr Gemma Harper OBE, chief executive of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. We know that an extraordinary amount is being done for nature. So why aren't the outcomes changing quickly enough? COP17 was deliberately about implementation. We have already agreed, globally, what we're trying to achieve through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 23 targets for 2030. The question in Yerevan was whether we're getting there. The first global review says we're not on track. Here in the UK, our Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity tells us that, on current trajectories, we're on track to achieve three of our 23 national biodiversity targets by 2030. We're making progress on 19, but not quickly enough. For one, we don't yet know. Across the four countries of the UK there are significant commitments, laws and strategies for nature. I see extraordinary work going on all the time to restore habitats, recover species, improve our evidence and invest in nature. I don't doubt the effort at all but I wonder about the outcomes. We often talk about implementation as though the thinking is finished. We agree the goal, decide what to do and move into delivery. But, for nature recovery, the thinking can't stop there. Decisions about farming, housing, water, transport, infrastructure and investment may each make good sense on their own terms. But nature experiences them together. https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2026/11/18/cop17-is-over-the-hard-question-is-whether-were-learning-fast-enough/

Tuesday 22nd December
In recent years … financial failure has all but derailed the United Nations climate process, in which countries try to achieve global decisions based on universal consensus, writes Jake Bittle. Developing countries say they can't ditch fossil fuels without much more money, while rich countries say they can't go beyond their current commitment to provide $300 billion a year in climate finance by 2035. It was against this backdrop that leaders from Nepal arrived at COP31, this year's U.N. climate meeting, or "conference of the parties," in Antalya, Turkey. Just three months ago, a glacial collapse in the Himalayas

Cop trapped in the unanimity trap. In 2010, this was enough for Bolivia alone to object to risk derailing the entire negotiation… Most other traditional UN institutions do not operate under such strict consensus: [they] all vote with a qualified two-thirds majority on important matters.
https://theconversation.com/climate-summits-need-radical-reform-heres-how-to-transform-global-negotiations-297316

Saturday 19th December
Solar panels above, fish below: That's the idea behind aquavoltaics, an emerging way to pair solar power with fish farming, writes Douglas Fox. Freshwater aquaculture produces more than 160 million tons of fish, crabs, and shrimp a year, emitting an estimated 438 million tons of CO_2 equivalents (tCO_2eq). A new study finds that covering the world's aquaculture ponds with floating solar panels could generate nearly as much electricity as the United States uses, far more than enough to offset the industry's carbon footprint. Photovoltaic electricity is Earth's most abundant potential source of renewable energy, but it requires lots of surface area. So people have tried to combine it with other types of land use, spawning agrivoltaics, in which solar panels are spaced across farm fields or pastures—harvesting a fraction of the incoming sunlight without appreciably reducing crop yields. People have also tried covering lakes, canals, and reservoirs with photovoltaic panels—but the wildly fluctuating levels and large size of these water bodies present major challenges. Aquaculture ponds, in contrast, are generally small and shallow, with consistent water levels.
https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2026/11/solar-above-fish-below-double-decker-farms-could-rival-us-power-use/

Sunday 20th December
Light up our lives
Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.
Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

according to a Thai government statement.
https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/thailand-myanmar-agree-monitor-border-rivers-amid-pollution-fears-2026-11-25/

Saturday 12th December
Andy Burnham's Labour government announced a 'toothless' Data Centre Covenant that won't stop Britain following Ireland down a dangerous climate path, writes Anne Alexander. The new Data Centre Covenant announced by the British Government alongside its 2026 Budget will "*throw our climate commitments under the bus*", a leading campaigner has warned. Kat Jones of Action to Protect Rural Scotland, which is coordinating anti-data centre campaigns across Scotland, told *The Ecologist* that the covenant was "completely lacking in teeth". "*Where other countries are sounding the alarm and cracking down on the liberties that hyperscale data centres are taking with their resources and energy, the UK is rolling out the red carpet*", she explained. The covenant sets out five "tests" which "strategic data centres" must meet to qualify for support from a "ministerial control centre" which "will use the power of the state to accelerate time to power and speed up the planning process". This includes reserving grid connections and allocating additional power capacity for data centres, as well as allowing on site generation to "bridge the gap to grid connections." In return, data centres are meant show that they are contributing to lower electricity bills, investing in local communities, adhering to environmental standards, creating jobs and strengthening national security.
https://theecologist.org/2026/nov/25/completely-lacking-teeth

Sunday 13th December
Light up our lives
Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.
Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

Monday 14th December
Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) can begin before birth, leading to a broader range of

human and environmental health effects than previously understood, according to a new report released [in mid November] by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These chemicals, which can interfere with the body's hormones, have been detected in blood, breast milk, and cord blood. Early exposure, sometimes before babies are born, can cause hormone disruption that can have lasting effects on brain development, growth, and reproductive health. https://www.unep.org/en/news-and-stories/press-release/evidence-mounts-exposure-hormone-disrupting-chemicals-starts-birth

Tuesday 15th December

China's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions fell by 3.1% in the third quarter of 2026, as the Hormuz crisis continued to hit oil demand and coal use also dropped, writes Lauri Myllyvirta. This was the largest quarterly reduction since the 2022 Covid lockdowns and means that China's CO2 emissions have now fallen by an estimated 0.5% in the year to date. The new analysis for Carbon Brief, based on official figures and commercial data, shows that coal use fell by 3% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2026, while oil was down 4%. The main drivers were a fall in power-sector coal consumption, a continued sharp reduction in transport oil consumption and slowing growth in the coal-to-chemical industry. The sharp decline in China's CO2 emissions extends a "flat or falling" trend that began in March 2024 and has now lasted more than two years, https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-chinas-quarterly-co2-falls-3-in-largest-drop-since-covid

Wednesday 16th December

Frustration and bafflement were the overwhelming emotions at a recent Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) committee circular economy roundtable discussion, writes Trewin Restorick. The promised Circular Economy Growth Plan is long overdue. Despite extensive consultation, there is still no clear indication of when it will appear. Why? If anything, the need for a strategy has increased over the past 12 months. Maximising the use of existing resources could build national resilience by reducing our reliance on imported materials from increasingly fragile supply chains. A more circular approach could cut carbon emissions, stimulate innovation and deliver the economic growth this government craves. The EU has recognised the opportunity and is much further advanced in building a regulatory framework. The risk is that the UK's failure to keep pace will create further friction for businesses trading with our European neighbours. https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2026/11/26/why-is-uk-circular-economy-strategy-on-the-road-to-nowhere/

Thursday 17th December

We would love to hear your views on the way we present ourselves both in print and online, so we'd very much appreciate it if you would pray for and take part in our Green Christian brand survey. If you're new to Green Christian and aren't familiar with our brand or publications, please take a look at the website where you can also see examples of our magazine and leaflets. The website footer also has links to our Social Media sites. As a thank you for your time, there's an opportunity at the end of the survey to enter a Free Prize Draw to win a charity shop gift card! Closing date is tomorrow! https://greenchristian.org.uk/we-need-your-help/

Friday 18th December

The recent failure of the UN climate summit, Cop31, went beyond already gloomy expectations, writes Francesco Grillo. Yet this political and diplomatic catastrophe may become a historical opportunity for global climate governance to tackle its structural problems. It is a miracle that Cop climate summits have survived and grown for 31 years, with all decisions needing unanimous consensus from all 195 nations or parties. Cops have produced some positive results such as the 2015 Paris climate agreement to cut greenhouse gases. But now it's time for radical reform. A reform that must not only abolish unanimity, but also make the Cop capable of engaging a strong enough coalition of interests to advance the climate change agenda…Cop has probably been killed by a contradiction. The first Cop in 1995 – chaired by Angela Merkel, then Germany's young environment minister – was regulated by a UN law. This was the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which envisaged that decisions had to be taken by consensus or, if that wasn't possible, by two-thirds of the parties (each state of the world is a "party"). This law, known as draft rule 42, was never accepted or rejected, leaving