

# Renewing Creation

A newsletter for Christians  
in Newcastle and Northumberland

January 2006

Diocesan Synod Forum

## The End is Nigh?

**A Christian Response to Global Warming  
10am-1pm, Saturday 11th March 2006  
St John's, Kingston Park**

If you receive a paper copy of this newsletter then a leaflet and booking form for the above event should be enclosed. If you receive the newsletter by email then the leaflet should be attached. If you have any problems or for more information please contact Rob Kelsey, whose contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

## ***Fair Trade and Green Living Directory 2005/2006***

This is the title of a booklet that has been produced by Janet Irvine on behalf of the Moorland Group of Parishes near Hexham. It includes information about local farm shops, box schemes, farmers' markets and other useful contacts. To obtain a copy please contact Janet at The Vicarage, Slaley, Hexham, NE47 0AA, Tel. (01434) 673609.

## **Putting their house in order**

A new house at Eyemouth owned by Berwickshire Housing Association is the first site in Britain for a 12-month trial of a combined heat and power system based on hydrogen fuel-cell power. The technology is said to produce 1.5kW of electricity and 18kW of heat, which is enough to supply 75% of the electricity and all the heat needed for a 4-bedroomed house. The fuel cells use hydrogen extracted from methane, which reacts with oxygen in the air to produce electricity and heat. An Aberdeen-based firm called siGEN is running the trial. For more information visit [www.sigen.co.uk](http://www.sigen.co.uk).

## **Getting the wind up!**

A large number of windfarms are being proposed in various parts of Northumberland. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? You might like to share your own views with other readers of *Renewing Creation*.

The web-site of Northumberland and Newcastle Society, [www.nandnsociety.org.uk](http://www.nandnsociety.org.uk), has a summary and overview of prospective windfarm developments.

## **'Cherishing Churchyards'**

This is the title of a 2-day national conference to be held in and around Ludlow, Shropshire, from Tuesday 23rd to Wednesday 24th May 2006. The conference provides a forum for the exchange of best practice in the field of churchyard and burial ground management. The keynote speaker is Professor David Bellamy OBE, and there will be site-based visits, workshops, interactive lectures and displays. The cost is £75.00 for charitable organisations (accommodation not included). For more information email [info@cfga.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:info@cfga.fsnet.co.uk) or visit [www.caringforgodsacre.co.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.co.uk).

## **The Living Churchyard Project**

Lots of DIY churchyard survey packs are available from the Arthur Rank Centre which are slightly out of date in terms of the contact details included, but still very useable in helping churches take a first step into churchyard conservation. The packs are available until the end of February for the cost of postage only. Please contact Jo Rathbone on 024 7685 3060.

The 'Hunt the Daisy' pack, aimed at Key Stage 2 children, enables the churchyard to be used as an educational resource. It is available for £5 plus p&p. Phone Jo for more details.

## **Free advice on becoming greener**

Tear Fund have published a sustainable-living guide for Christians, entitled *For Tomorrow Too*. It is available free of charge from 0845 3558355 or [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org).

## **What I think is ...**

*From Tom Manley*

The use of the term “toxic chemicals” in October 05 *Renewing Creation* should alert us to the propaganda of the political greens: there is no such thing as a toxic chemical. Paracelsus (1493-1544) pointed out that all substances are poisonous. It is the dose that distinguishes the remedy from the poison. In old films elderly ladies may use large dosages of arsenic to get rid of inconvenient people, but in real life H.M. the Queen has lived to a great age while using homeopathic remedies, one of which is to take tiny amounts of arsenic. One aspirin will cure a headache, 50 will ensure that you never get another headache. The toxic dose of water is six pints, taken over a short period.

Christians should also be concerned about the phrase “Frankenstein food” used by Greenpeace to hide the fact that no human being has been harmed by the consumption of genetically modified food. The Greenpeace campaign against GM food (the overall effect of which is basically to damage European economies) is preventing the introduction of “Golden Rice”. This is a strain of rice genetically modified to contain a precursor of vitamin A, which thus could compensate for the vitamin A deficiency that kill thousands of children in the Third World and leaves millions blind. Christians who support Greenpeace should examine their conscience.

*Other people's views would be welcome for publication in *Renewing Creation**

## **Meanwhile ...**

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) has been seeking support for the REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) legislation which aims to regulate the use of ‘dangerous chemicals’. For more information contact ARC’s programme officer John Smith at [johns@arcworld.org](mailto:johns@arcworld.org).

## **The Children’s Warehouse**

This is a Newcastle-based charity which assists creative activities involving children and young people. An important part of their service is the Scrapstore. Materials which are considered as scrap by businesses and industry (and which would usually end up in landfill sites) are collected by the warehouse

staff, checked for usefulness and safety, and then made available for re-use in creative activities. The Children’s Warehouse is located on the First Floor of Sunco House, Carlisle Square, Newcastle upon Tyne. Opening times are 9.30am-4.30pm from Tuesday to Friday, and 10am-4pm on Saturday. For more information visit [www.childrens-warehouse.org.uk](http://www.childrens-warehouse.org.uk).

## **Eight ways to live gently on the earth**

*From Christian Ecology Link (CEL)*

**No. 1. Don’t fly!** – or if you must, at least donate £50 to £100 to disaster relief agencies (in reparation for the climate damage of your flight) and/or to sustainable energy projects.

## **Save paper and postage!**

*From Jill Elphick*

If you receive this newsletter by post, you might like to save both paper and postage by asking for it to be sent to you by email instead. To do so, please let Jill Elphick know your email address. Her contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

## **What is this, and where does it come from?**

This newsletter is intended primarily for Christians in the area covered by the Church of England Diocese of Newcastle, and for anyone who wishes to receive it. It is produced on behalf of the diocesan Advisory Group on the Environment, whose purpose is to help the church to play its part in caring for the good earth which God has made.

## **And finally ...**

Contributions to *Renewing Creation* are welcome. Please send them to Rob Kelsey. The copy deadline for the next issue is **2nd April 2006**.

### **Contacts**

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