

# Renewing Creation

A newsletter for Christians  
in Newcastle and Northumberland

September / October 2009

Find out more about  
**Ground-source heat pumps  
(and air-source heat pumps)**  
10am - 4pm  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
at Church House,  
St John's Terrace, Percy Main

Beneath the surface, the ground stays at a constant temperature throughout the year. Ground-source heat pumps transfer this stored warmth from underground to the inside of buildings, with minimal running costs and carbon emissions.

Phil Todd, Technical Manager with Viessmann Ltd, will be available at Church House throughout the day. He will be giving short presentations at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm, but feel free to drop in at any time. A buffet will be available.

The seminar has been organised by Peter Mills, whose company has the heating maintenance contract for clergy houses in the Newcastle Diocese. For more information contact Peter on 07789 914522.

## Countdown to Copenhagen

The United Nations will meet in Copenhagen in December 2009, when countries are due to agree an international climate deal. For more information visit [www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/Countdown-to-Copenhagen-climate-change](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/Countdown-to-Copenhagen-climate-change).

## Shrinking the Footprint

Future issues of *Renewing Creation* will highlight extracts from the Shrinking the Footprint web-site, in the hope of raising awareness and encouraging further investigation. This month we introduce the Shrinking the Footprint campaign and the 'Shrinking the Footprint Path.'

## Creating 'The 20% Church of England'

Shrinking the Footprint is the Church of England's national campaign to enable its members and institutions to address the pressing issue of climate change. It aims to challenge, encourage and support the whole body of the Church to shrink our environmental footprint to create 'The 20% Church' by:

- Making a difference now by following the Shrinking the Footprint Path.
- Planning to make a difference in the future through a growing series of strategic initiatives and partnerships. These will change Church activities, structures and processes in order to achieve sustainable reductions in the Church of England's carbon emissions to 20% of current levels by 2050.

Shrinking the Footprint's first challenge to the Church is to lighten our energy load to *mitigate* our impact on future climate change. 'Measuring our Footprint' - the Church of England National Energy Audit - is the first step. Later activities will look at issues such as biodiversity, waste and water management, transport and other contributing factors, and also at what steps we should take to *adapt* to climate changes already likely to occur in the next 20-40 years.

## Why Shrinking the Footprint?

Your Carbon Footprint is a measure of the impact of your lifestyle on the world's resources. Shrink your footprint and you contribute to slowing down and then reducing global climate change. Calculate your own carbon footprint at [actonco2.direct.gov.uk](http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk).

## The Shrinking the Footprint Path

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has encouraged us to take a walk to remind ourselves that we are part of a wider creation. The current climate change situation is such that it will be a long walk - simply to restore the world's balance we need to cut carbon emissions worldwide by 80% of current levels by 2050. Not only is this a daunting goal but its end lies at least two generations in the future. The results of our actions will only be felt by our children and grandchildren. For individuals and institutions alike, taking action (however simple and obvious that action may seem) and sustaining it will require considerable effort.

The Shrinking the Footprint Path sets out, in simple steps, the action we need to take now to

make a difference. Each of the following steps has its own page on the Shrinking the Footprint web-site:

- **Step 1.** Assess your current carbon footprint - join the 'Measuring our Footprint' initiative
- **Step 2.** Use energy more efficiently
- **Step 3.** Switch to green energy
- **Step 4.** Generate your own renewable energy
- **Step 5.** Support the Climate Justice Fund
- **Step 6.** Review - take another look at your footprint and start again

## **Time for Creation, 1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Resources for Creation Time 2009 are entitled 'Creation in Crisis – a Time for Prayer and Action' and include material to help focus on the crucial issues that will be on the agenda of the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. The resources have been produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and are available from [www.ctbi.org.uk/375](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/375).

CTBI has also called for 4<sup>th</sup> October this year to be a Day of Prayer on Climate Change. For more information visit [www.ctbi.org.uk/409](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/409).

## **Animal Welfare Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, is Vice-Patron of the RSPCA, which was founded by an Anglican Priest, the Revd Arthur Broome, in 1824. The RSPCA has published a 'Service for Animal Welfare,' complete with prayers, readings and liturgies, which is available to download from the Society's website, [www.rspca.org.uk/animalwelfaresunday](http://www.rspca.org.uk/animalwelfaresunday).

## **More news from Alnwick**

*From Jean Lovie*

"Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth has a number of fruit trees available free to community groups, churches and schools in the Alnwick district. To find out more, contact [rachaelroberts@phonecoop.coop](mailto:rachaelroberts@phonecoop.coop). The Group is also planning this autumn and winter a season of films with an environmental and social justice theme, open to its members. Membership is free and you can opt out of other mailings from the group if you so wish. Finally, the Group is taking forward an

Orchard Project within Alnwick. Contact Rachael for details."

## **From Tom Manley**

"An article in the Catholic Times of 16th August states that Christians have a moral duty to press for the immediate construction of nuclear power stations. This view is shared by environmentalists like Professor James Lovelock; Sir David King, a President of the Royal Society; energy professors like Dieter Helm and Ian Fells; the heads of every engineering institution; and Pope Benedict. The article may be read on [www.greenfocus.co.uk](http://www.greenfocus.co.uk), along with an interesting article by A. Kerry on Ideology and Religion."

## **A selection of future environmental dates**

**1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009: 'Time for Creation.'** See above for more details.

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2009: Animal Welfare Sunday.** See above, and visit [www.aswa.org.uk/animalwelfaresun.html](http://www.aswa.org.uk/animalwelfaresun.html).

**25<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> December: National Tree Week (sic).** First mounted in 1975, National Tree Week is said to be the UK's largest tree celebration, launching the start of the winter tree-planting season. For more information visit [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk).

## **And finally ...**

Contributions to *Renewing Creation* are welcome. Please send them to Rob Kelsey. The copy deadline for the next issue is **31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**.

### **Contacts**

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