



Waste not  
Want not

**Welford collects tools for Tanzania**  
WORKAID provides disadvantaged people with the tools they need to learn a skilled trade. Since 1986, it has helped 100,000 disadvantaged people build better lives for their families. Last year they shipped 8 large containers (25,000 tools) to East Africa which would otherwise have probably gone to landfill.



On Saturday 28th March Welford Methodist Church combined their Workaid collection with a coffee morning and 12 sewing machines, 4 knitting machines and several large boxes of tools were donated. This has all now gone to be refurbished by a team of dedicated volunteers before being sent to a variety of vocational training projects, including Brian Atkin's project in Tanzania. We are grateful to all who contributed.

Brian has responded on behalf of Carpenters` Kids:-  
'Thank you very much indeed for all you did to make this such a success. Tools are like gold dust in Dodoma; I hope we

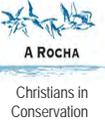
can schedule another shipment to Tanzania very soon. We need such to supply Starter Sets for 100 graduates in 18 months' time '.

### Stratford Green Group at Holy Trinity

Lim and Evelyn Ho from Stratford church took part in the Open to God service in Holy Trinity, Stratford's parish church in March. Under the title 'The Earth is the Lord's' they used the 'Planet Doctor' sketch to introduce the symptoms of climate change. Lim explained the scientific basis of climate change and Evelyn used David Bookless's 'Planetwise', to explain God's concern for our sick planet and the need to be good stewards of God's creation. Rev Steve Bates, interviewed Lim who described the green measures included in the Stratford redevelopment and their involvement with the Eco-Congregation programme since 2004. He went on to say that stewardship of God's creation requires both church life and community action to 'save the planet'.

### Circuit marks Environment Sunday

June 7 has been designated as Circuit Environment Sunday. The theme for UNEP World Environment Day (5 June) is how the well-being of humanity, the environment and economies ultimately depends on the responsible management of the planet's natural resources. ([http://www.unep.org/wed/2015\\_slogan/](http://www.unep.org/wed/2015_slogan/)) Please contact Mark if you need help with resources for Environment Sunday.



### Climate Change: Can the Pope affect the outcome of Paris talks?

In a highly unusual move on 14 February this year the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition all agreed to work together across party lines to tackle climate change. David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg have jointly pledged to:

- ☀ seek a fair, strong, legally binding, global climate deal limiting temperature rises to below 2°C;
- ☀ work together, cross party, to agree carbon budgets which meet the Climate Change Act;
- ☀ accelerate transition to a competitive, energy efficient low carbon economy and to end the use of unabated coal for power generation.

The joint declaration states: 'Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world today. It is not just a threat to the environment, but also to our national and global security, to poverty eradication and economic prosperity.'

President Obama also cited climate change as 'Earth's single biggest threat' with just over a week to the General Election, it has scarcely got a mention. James Lovelock told BBC Radio 4's Today programme he was 'shocked' at the lack of coverage so far and his views were echoed by Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, said: *'It's like Titanic sailing into waters with icebergs, and yet what we hear is a debate in the bar about who is going to buy the drinks.'*

Scientists believe the UN meeting in Paris in December is our last chance to avert dangerous climate change, and are calling on world leaders to sign up to an eight-point plan of action, at the landmark talks: the key element is the



goal to limit global warming to below 2°C by moving to zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Pope Francis's leadership could have a vital impact. Sir David King, UK special representative on climate change, speaking about the Pope's forthcoming encyclical on the environment says: *'I think his impact is almost immeasurable since his message doesn't only go out to Catholics but to people across the world '.*

He also confirmed: *'The scientific community is saying that we know with 95% certainty that the climate change we're seeing is due to our burning of fossil fuels and deforestation '.*

Climate deniers at the Heartland Institute, a US thinktank that seeks to discredit established science on climate change, said it was sending its 'climate scientists' to Rome 'to inform Pope Francis of the truth about climate science'. The Institute group which has received funding from oil companies, is trying to persuade the Vatican that 'there is no global warming crisis' ahead of Pope Francis statement on climate change this summer.

### Scrap fossil fuel subsidies

World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim calls for a five-point plan to bring in a carbon tax and deliver low-carbon growth, including removal of incentives to exploit oil, gas and coal. He said he had been impressed by the divestment campaigns on US University campuses, persuading investors to remove their funds from fossil fuel companies.

He predicted taxes on the use of carbon would trigger a wave of clean technology which would help lift people out of poverty in the developing world whilst helping to prevent a 2°C rise in global temperatures. Politicians current spend about \$1tn (£680bn) a year subsidising fossil fuels. Kim said: ' *Fossil fuel subsidies send out a terrible signal: burn more carbon* '.

Out circuit has passed a Memorial to Conference 2015 urging divestment in fossil fuels and went to District Synod on April 25. Lancashire District passed a similar memorial (71/36) on 25 April.



### Eco Gathering at Colemans Hill Farm

On Saturday afternoon 6 June you are invited to spend an afternoon in stunning Cotswold countryside near Mickleton. We start at 3.00pm with a brief talk about ecohouses (the Colemans Hill has just received ' the best sustainable build ' award from Stratford District Council). There will be an update on our EcoCircuit programme, hymn signing and a bring and share tea followed by an address from John Iles from the Wyre Forest Community Land Trust & A Rocha. Bring a picnic chair, a mug, plate and some cutlery and share transport whenever possible.

### Get an electricity quote from 2buy2

The Methodist Church bulk buying energy scheme is now making progress. To get a quote (ideally for green energy) phone 0333 201 015 or email: [enquiries@2buy2.com](mailto:enquiries@2buy2.com).

One church tells us: ' *We've made significant savings through 2buy2, essential to us as a small church with a falling income. I'd definitely recommend them to other churches* '.  
St Bees Methodist Church.

### Gorillas face further threats

Africa's oldest nature reserve, Virunga National Park in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo home to critically-endangered mountain gorillas, is at risk of 'devastating consequences' if SOCO International - a British firm - continues its oil exploration there, conservationists have warned. Two hundred of the world's remaining 880 mountain gorillas and other endangered wildlife live in this World Heritage Site.

### Capitalism as if The World Matters

2007: the atmosphere warms up; the forests crash down; the poor of the world go on getting poorer; water resources in more than 30 countries are running dry; fish stocks decline; an additional 73 million people join the human race; 800 million go hungry while a billion get fat. Just an average year in the life of planet Earth. And still we wait for today's political ' leaders ' to begin to get their act together.

In the context of the General Election Jonathon Porritt's assessment deserves careful attention: ' *This is not a question of disputed science. Even on climate change, the consensus is now overwhelming. Neither it is a question of money. The rich world squanders countless billions of dollars of tax payers money on subsidising life-destroying industries year in, year out. Instead, it is a question of fear and lack of political vision* '.

### Naomi Klein's new book "This Changes Everything: Capitalism v Climate"

This challenging book takes Porritt's views even further though drawing mainly on the situation in the USA. In her most provocative book yet, Naomi Klein tackles the most profound threat humanity has ever faced: the war our economic model is waging against life on earth. She describes some of the wheeler-dealing going on by US climate deniers and the way in which big corporations to maximise profit threatening the finite resources of our Planet.

Not any easy read, but a powerful one, on the future we are bequeathing our grandchildren. Get it from the library or call book service on 0330 333 6846. Price £7.20 paperback. ([guardianbookshop.co.uk](http://guardianbookshop.co.uk))

### Guardian newspaper leading the field?

Some of you will know about Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger's new project on climate change.

' *Sometimes* ' he says ' *there's a story so enormous that conventional journalism struggles to cope with it, never mind do it justice. The imminent threat to the species is the most existentially important story any of us could imagine telling – for our sakes, for our children and for their children* '.

You can sign up to get the Guardian's regular top environment news stories sent automatically to your email address (<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/signup/2009/sep/30/green-light-email-sign-up>).