

# eco- congregation



*an environmental toolkit for churches*

**Module 12**

## **global neighbours**

*Sources and resources to help churches think  
globally and act locally*

Eco-congregation (England & Wales) is a project of  
A Rocha UK, 13 Avenue Rd, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL Registered Charity 1089276

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**An invitation to change the world...**

## **Memo from the Children of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century**

**To:** Churches across Britain and Ireland

**Place:** Planet Earth

**Date:** The start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

*Dear Mothers and Fathers,*

*We write to invite your church to play a role in helping to care for the environment and nurture the well-being of people across the earth. It is now vital to plan and act to ensure that the needs of your generation are met without compromising the ability of our generation to enjoy life in fullness too. Some of your contemporaries say that it can't be done. We say that it must be done!*

*Imagine that you are in a large Ark called Planet Earth. Instead of having two of every creature on board, you have the whole created order! Your challenge is to manage the finite stocks and renewable resources so that you and we, and those that will follow us, can have a share. You must also ensure that the rest of creation is respected and not desecrated. We don't want to be left with your waste in the form of pollution and a ravaged earth. It is a tall order, and one that requires your immediate thought and action, for the well-being of tomorrow's world is in your hands this day.*

*On behalf of tomorrow's children*

## **Across time and space**

We live in an increasingly global society. A stone cast in a pond in one place can cause ripples in places far and wide. A hiccup in a commodity market can spell hunger for a farmer in a developing nation. An environmental accident in one nation can quickly spread down wind and down stream to other nations. Neither economics nor environmental issues/incidents obey international, political or geographical boundaries. This linkage applies to our lifestyles. The way that we choose to live can have an impact, for good or for ill, on people in developing nations and the environment across the world, today and for future generations.

This module is designed to help churches and individuals identify those areas where they can make a positive impact on the well-being of the environment and the poorest people in developing nations. It features information about issues and campaigns together with ideas for action.

***"Justice and ecology are linked indissolubly"***

**- Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

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**One World Week** *believes that when we understand each other's perspectives, our lives can be transformed and enriched.*

One World Week (OWW) is your chance to join thousands of others, just like or not at all like you, in doing your bit to celebrate, learn and act for a fairer world.

One World Week aims to:

- enable groups at local level to work across boundaries such as culture, ethnicity, gender and creed, and to recognise we are part of one world in combating inequality and discrimination.
- celebrate the good things about being part of a diverse yet interconnected world
- learn about what's going on in that world – both on our doorsteps and far away
- take action to change the things that cause injustice, poverty and degradation.

OWW springs into life when thousands of activists in the UK and around the world prepare eight days each October (though OWW encourages events at any time of year) as a focus for celebrating and sharing the richness and diversity of the world we all inhabit. Drawing on the inspiration of an annually changing theme, local committees, including churches, inter faith and community groups, organise educational and celebratory events to build understanding and links between people.

The following illustrates the diversity of OWW activities:

- Stockton URC held a OWW quiz with food cooked from around the world
- A group from Calne, Wiltshire held a children's Caribbean drumming workshop
- Churches Together in Lytham St Annes held an ecumenical celebratory service
- Woking Cinema Club screened a rare film from Senegal
- Slough One World Festival performed poetry in diversity
- Portsmouth OWW organised an inter faith walk focussed on different faiths' approaches to the environment
- A Cardiff group protested at deaths in East Timor
- Haslingden litter bug eaters made a garden out of a grot spot
- In Masaka, Uganda, the Youth Organisation events include playing The Global Game and a football match

### **How could your church celebrate and mark OWW?**

#### **Resources**

The OWW website offers inspiration, ideas, downloadable resources and links to other organisations' resources on each year's specific theme, to help you plan OWW events, or to incorporate OWW into existing programmes and events.

#### **Contact:**

Website: [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

One World Week, PO Box 2555, Reading RG1 4XW. Tel. 0118 9394933

Email: [one\\_world\\_week@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:one_world_week@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Quote**

*"My picture of a green church is a community committed to caring for the earth, a church co-operating to steward the earth's resources, Christ's body collaborating across the globe."*

Rev'd Penny Jones, Minister, St John's Rookhope Anglican/Methodist Church.

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## Christian development agencies

Some of the leading development agencies in Britain and Ireland were established by churches to bring good news to the poor across the world. These agencies include Christian Aid, Cafod, SCIAF, Trocaire and Tearfund. A list of contact addresses is given below.

The work of the development agencies has its origins in offering Christian care to the most needy. The organisations undertake a wide variety of work including:

- long-term development work, often in partnership with the world's poorest communities
- disaster/emergency relief in times of need
- research and analysis of poverty issues
- campaigning issues affecting the world's poorest
- educational work to raise awareness of poverty issues and how to bring about change

Through their work several of the agencies have identified environment as a key issue in development work and the alleviation of poverty. In terms of development work, environmental considerations are usually considered in project work because ultimately taking care of the environment benefits people too. For example, working to conserve forests and trees can reduce soil loss and help to maintain sustainable agriculture, so enabling people to provide sufficient food. In terms of disaster/emergency relief Christian Aid have identified that 9 of the last 11 so-called natural disasters that they have responded to were caused by climate change with a strong link to global warming. It suggests that many of the victims are literally paying the price of other people's profligate lifestyle.

For more information about Christian development agencies, contact one of the following agencies:

**Cafod** (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development)

Romero Close, Stockwell Rd, London SW9 9TY. Tel. 020 7733 7900, Fax: 020 7274 9630, Email: [cafod@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cafod@cafod.org.uk), Website: [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**SCIAF** (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund)

19 Park Circus, Glasgow G3 6BE. Tel. 0141 354 5555, Fax: 0141 354 5533, Email: [sciaf@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:sciaf@sciaf.org.uk), Website: [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk)

**Trocaire:**

Maynooth, Co Kildare, Republic of Ireland

Tel. 01629333, Fax: 01 6290661, Email: [info@trocaire.ie](mailto:info@trocaire.ie), Website: [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

50 King Street, Belfast BT1 6AD

Tel. 028 9080 8030, Fax: 028 9024 3692, Email: [info@bl.trocaire.org](mailto:info@bl.trocaire.org)

**Christian Aid:**

England: Christian Aid, 35 Lower March, Waterloo, London SE1 7RL

Tel. 020 7620 4444, Fax: 020 7620 0719, Email: [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org),

Website: [www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)

Scotland: Christian Aid, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

Tel. 0131 220 1254, Fax: 0131 225 8861

Wales: Christian Aid, 27 Church Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2DX

Tel 029 2061 4435 Fax 029 2052 2920

**Tear Fund:**

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100 Church Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8QE Tel. 020 8977 9144, Fax: 020 8943 3594, Email: [enquiry@tearfund.org](mailto:enquiry@tearfund.org), Website: [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

### **Stories** from churches...

**St John's Church of Scotland in Hamilton** got their Eco-Congregation activities off to a flying start by holding a "Going for Green" week culminating in two special services. The evening service included a musical about rainforest conservation, "The Emerald Crown", presented by St John's Primary school, which put across a very serious message about the threats to the rainforest in a light-hearted way. The church went on to raise £2234 through their Harvest Appeal and Craft Fayre for Floresta – a Christian Charity which aims, through loan schemes and education programmes, to help tropical subsistence farmers to move away from 'slash and burn' agriculture, which destroys the rainforests, towards more sustainable farming practices.

#### **Floresta**

US Office: 4903 Morena Boulevard, Suite 1215, San Diego, CA 92117  
Phone: 800-633-5319 or (858) 274-3718, Fax: (858) 274-3728,  
E-mail: [floresta@xc.org](mailto:floresta@xc.org), [www.floresta.org](http://www.floresta.org)

Hilary Ash from **St David's United Reformed Church in Eastham, Wirral** writes:

In 2003, rather than having a traditional Harvest Supper, we held a Bangladeshi evening. As a church we support Christian Aid's Commitment for Life Programme and Bangladesh is our link country. The organiser approached our local Bangladeshi restaurant, the Spice Garden, for advice on cooking a not-too-spicy but reasonably authentic meal. The owners are not church-linked and did not know about Commitment for Life. However, they rapidly became enthusiastic and provided free of charge a special Bangladeshi chicken curry. A church member who is a caterer made rice, Bengal dahl, riata and poppadums (and a savoury mince for those who couldn't tackle the curry). One of our younger members visited Bangladesh last year with FURY (Fellowship of United Reformed Youth). She presented a Christian Aid video and amplified it with information. We also had a fun quiz, a Traidcraft stall and a display of Bangladeshi wares. We raised £189 for Commitment for Life and had a good social evening.

Margaret Keir from **Fairlie Parish Church of Scotland** writes:

For Harvest 2002, we arranged with the Minister that the Christian Aid workshop materials "Planting trees, planting life" should be used for the service. It was a fun service in which the children participated fully. The offering was sent to Christian Aid for the Tree of Life Appeal, to help with the planting of saplings "to protect the soil and supply food such as almonds and apricots" in Afghanistan "struggling with the aftermath of war and four years of severe drought." We have since received an update from Afghanistan expressing their gratitude and indicating how the people "have benefited from seed, water and fertilisers. This is the first year since the drought began that (they) have wheat from the land, as well as water melon, cumin and barley."

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## **Trade**

As the 21<sup>st</sup> century begins, several major Christian development agencies are focussing some of their campaigning work on the issue of trade. The following are some thoughts on trade, drawn from the OWW 2000 Ecumenical Worship Anthology.

*People and the Earth are God's creation and the goods of the Earth are intended for all to share. These are fundamental principles of Christian belief. For a Christian, people are always more important than profit. Rich countries and businesses do not just have rights, but also responsibilities towards people and the environment. Human lives should not be sacrificed on the altar of the new god of free trade. Justice demands that if trade is carried out between two partners who are not equal in power or wealth, every effort must be made to ensure that the trade is fair. What would global trade look like if people and the Earth mattered?*

***“Not to enable the poor to share our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.”***

St John Chrysostom

## **Listening and responding to God's word...**

Listen to this, you that trample  
on the needy and try to destroy  
the poor of the country. You say  
to yourselves, “We can hardly  
wait for the holy days to be over  
so that we can sell our corn.  
When will the sabbath end, so  
that we can start selling again?  
Then we can overcharge, use  
false measures, and tamper  
with the scales to cheat our  
customers. We can sell  
worthless wheat at a high price.  
We'll find a poor man who can't  
pay his debts, not even the  
price of a pair of sandals, and  
we'll buy him as a slave.”

The Lord, the God of Israel, has  
sworn, “I will never forget their  
evil deeds.

*Amos 8:4-7*

Our choice could  
tip the balance in favour of the poor  
and lighten the load of those weighed down

We could level inequality  
and distribute warehouse mountains  
Share out the wealth  
that was never ours to hoard  
Turn the tables  
on those who play the markets

We could stockpile generosity  
and speculate in hope  
Sell up our share of selfishness  
and settle for the dividends of solidarity

For added value  
build portfolios of justice  
Or an ISA in the growth  
of the Kingdom of God  
Buy shares in trust and act in faith  
risk our securities to find a richer life

May the percentage of our interest  
in people rise  
and may we be the prophets of hope.

*Sophie Stanes/Cafod*

For more information on trade-related issues contact either One World Week or a Christian development agency (contact details on previous page).

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## **Fair Trade**

### **The Fairtrade Foundation**

The Fairtrade Foundation was established by Cafod, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam, Traidcraft and WDM. It works to ensure that marginalised and disadvantaged third world producers get a better deal. The independent Foundation awards a Fairtrade Mark to products that meet internationally recognised standards of fairtrade. The founding organisations have been joined by the Women's Institute.

Fairtrade aims to make a real difference to people lives by:

- Challenging the conventional model of trade, and offering a progressive alternative for a sustainable future.
- Empowering consumers to take responsibility for the role they play when they buy products from the third world

#### **Contact:**

The Fairtrade Foundation, Suite 204, 16 Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ  
Tel. 020 7405 5942, Fax: 020 7405 5943,  
Email: [mail@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:mail@fairtrade.org.uk), Website: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

### **Traidcraft**

Traidcraft is a trading company that aims to 'fight poverty through trade'.

Traidcraft was established to provide an alternative way of trading to ensure that families in developing countries get a fair share of the wealth generated by their own skill and effort and the resources of their land. Traidcraft:

- pays people in the 'third world' fair prices
- gives them credit when they need it
- works with producers for a better future

Traidcraft's primary aim is to promote fairtrade and it recognises that environmental issues are important, not least for many of their producer partners. Consequently Traidcraft has developed an environmental policy. This policy includes the following:

Traidcraft's mission is to 'fight poverty through trade' and as a Christian response 'we strive to respect people (including future generations) and the environment, and to be transparent and accountable. We have a duty to respect the integrity of God's creation and to act responsibly towards it. People and the environment are inextricably linked, and a healthy environment is vital for us all. Both the poor in developing countries and we in the UK depend on fertile soils, clean water and other environmental resources for our livelihoods and health'.

### **Producer's Story: Banana Growing in the Philippines**

The Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC) was established in 1991 by a women's association as a 'not for profit' venture that supplies Traidcraft with banana chips. In addition to ensuring a fair deal for farmers and producers, PFTC is also concerned

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about environmental issues and is actively encouraging organic farming. Cataline Buscar, a member of the association said:

*One of our problems in our district is that our products are bought at a very low price. The middleman benefits more. Selling our bananas to fair trade facilitators like PFTC has helped us to earn more from what we sell. Bananas are a survival food as well. During lean months (May to August) we eat this cooking type of banana as a supplement to rice. Now we are eating only organically grown vegetables.*

**Contact:**

Traidcraft, Kingsway, Gateshead NE11 0NE.

Tel: 0191 491 0591, Fax: 0191 482 2690

Email: [comms@traidcraft.co.uk](mailto:comms@traidcraft.co.uk), Website: [www.traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk)

### **Stories from churches...**

The **Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in Easington Village** held a Fairtrade "Chocolate Evening". They had fun and games, quizzes associated with the display they had up about the production of chocolate, and coffee and cake. The evening was very well attended by children and their parents and as a result the church was able to send £94 each to Christian Aid and Acton Aid.

**Stockton United Reformed Church** has run a Traidcraft stall for over 10 years. Staffed by a willing rota of volunteers, it stocks a supply of 'core' goods and also has catalogues available for perusal from which it takes orders. Whilst the stall aimed to break even from the outset, it has generated a profit each year which goes towards social responsibility activities and outreach. It has been remarked that the Traidcraft stall acts as an additional incentive for people to come to worship week-by-week!

**St Mary the Virgin, Easington, Co. Durham** host a display of fairly-traded (and environmentally-friendly goods) for sale in their local supermarket to raise members awareness of their availability. **Papa Westray Church, Orkney** persuaded the community co-operative shop to stock fairly traded goods. Now they are easily available to the whole island community.

**Barnstaple Parish Church** held a 'Parish Eco Day' to encourage the congregation to change their personal lifestyles. Part of the day focussed on how our personal lifestyles can contribute to global problems. The congregation learnt about food by example: the refreshments were entirely home grown, locally produced or fairly traded goods. The food was extremely tasty and everyone was fed to capacity (coffee, lunch and tea) for only 50p each!

**Dundee Church of Scotland Presbytery** has become a Fairtrade Presbytery. Almost 70% (and rising!) of charges in the presbytery use Fairtrade tea and coffee and a range of Fairtrade produce is available and served at Presbytery meetings and other events. They have also raised awareness of their efforts through the media.

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### **A Rocha** – Caring for God's creation together

#### **The story of A Rocha**

A Rocha is an international conservation organisation working to show God's love for all creation. It began life in 1983 when the A Rocha Trust was formed. A Rocha's first practical project was to establish a Christian field study centre in Portugal, which opened in 1986 on the Alvor estuary. In 1994, with the Portuguese project under national management, the UK Trustees decided to respond to requests for help from elsewhere. In the period 1997-2004, new A Rocha projects have been established in fourteen countries spanning five continents: Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Asia. There are national membership schemes in each country.

#### **Some snapshots from A Rocha International**

**Cruzinha, Ria De Alvor – Portugal.** In the first 18 years since the establishment of the field study centre and bird observatory in south west Portugal in 1986, thousands of visitors have taken part in the environmental education programmes and over 400 volunteers and students have been trained, many of whom continue to be active in environmental issues. The database at Cruzinha now holds records of over 60,000 birds ringed, while extensive studies of plants and fungi, moths and butterflies have given a firm basis for influential reports and articles on the Algarve's environment. Proposals for reserve status for the Alvor Estuary stem directly from A Rocha studies.

**Arabuko-Sokoke Forest – Kenya.** A Rocha Kenya was formally established in 1998 and opened the Mwamba Bird Observatory and Field Study Centre in Watamu, in the coastal district of Malindi, in 2002. Malindi is home to some of the richest and most diverse habitats in the whole of Kenya. The Arabuko-Sokoke Forest alone is home to at least 5 globally endangered species and has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site. However, a growing population and high levels of poverty put a huge strain on the relationship between local people and their environment. By working with local communities, A Rocha Kenya aims to achieve the long-term conservation of threatened habitats and species in this area.

**Aammiq Marsh – Lebanon.** The Aammiq Marsh is Lebanon's most significant remaining freshwater wetland, one of all too few in the Middle East. This major stop-over site for migrating birds is under severe threat. Due to the work of A Rocha since 1997, the decline in the habitats of the wetland has been reversed. Current efforts are focused on protecting the marsh through scientific study, practical conservation and environmental education.

**Minet Country Park - UK.** The initial focus for A Rocha's work in the UK has been the A Rocha Living Waterways Project in Southall and Hayes, West London, which was launched in early 2001. Located in a heavily built-up, culturally diverse area the project aims to open up the wonders of God's creation to people who have little chance to enjoy the beauty of the natural world at first hand. A Rocha Living Waterways has worked with local landowners, Hillingdon Council and other community groups to turn a 90 acre wasteland site between Southall and Hayes into the Minet Country Park, with recreational space and nature conservation areas.

<p><b>Contact:</b> A Rocha UK 13, Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL Tel 0208 574 5935, Email: <a href="mailto:uk@arocha.org">uk@arocha.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.arocha.org.uk">www.arocha.org.uk</a></p>
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## **Climate Change**

### **Introduction**

There are many ways in which our individual and corporate lifestyles in Britain and Ireland affect the global environment and impact on other peoples and species both now and in the future. Probably the most serious of these issues is Climate Change, sometimes known as “global warming”.

Human activities, particularly the burning of oil, coal and gas, produce carbon dioxide and other gases, known as ‘greenhouse gases’, which trap heat from the sun. It is now clear that these activities are affecting the global climate. The effects of climate change are already starting to be visible and are likely to get worse for some time to come, even if we succeed in cutting back our greenhouse gas emissions. They include rising sea-levels, an increase in storms and flooding in some places and drought in others and changes in the distribution of some disease-bearing organisms.

People in Britain and Ireland contribute as much as 50 times more to climate change than those in the poorest countries. We use a great deal of energy in our homes, our industries and businesses and in transport. But it is the poor who will feel its worst effects. It is estimated that, by 2050, rising sea levels, severe weather and crop failures could create 150 million refugees. Even in the UK, an estimated 5 million people are at risk from increased flood and storm damage.

Most of the major aid agencies are now campaigning on Climate change (Christian Aid, Tearfund, World Development Movement) and working together through **Stop Climate Chaos** (2 Chapel Place, London EC2A 3DQ Tel 020 7729 8732 Email [info@stopclimatechaos.org](mailto:info@stopclimatechaos.org) Website [www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)

**Module 7** on caring for church premises and **Module 10** on personal lifestyles both give advice on saving energy in church and at home. Reducing the amount of energy we use reduces our impact on the climate.

### **Operation Noah**

Operation Noah is a Climate Change Campaign set up by Christian Ecology Link and endorsed by the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It calls on people to:

- Sign the Climate Covenant urging the UK government to lead the search for a global solution to Climate Change
- Take action themselves by switching to green electricity
- Spread the word with the resources available

If you would like to get your church involved, contact Operation Noah at the address below. They can supply free campaign leaflets and other information. There are lots of resources on the website for campaigning and for use in churches, including talks, powerpoint presentations, prayers, and a sketch: The Ark in the Garage.

**OperationNoah**, 9 Nuthatch Drive, Earley, Reading, RG6 5ZZ. Tel. 01949 861516, E-mail: [noah@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:noah@christian-ecology.org.uk), Web: [www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah)

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### **Stories** from churches...

Myra Stonley from the **Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in Easington Village** writes:

We held an open evening on the theme of Climate Change – what it might mean to us and our children’s future and what we can do about it. A representative from County Hall gave an illustrated talk about Durham County’s action plan on climate change and children from the local school performed the drama about climate change “The Ark in the Garage”, produced by Christian Ecology Link. The local council also provided a display and advice on energy saving in the home and low energy light bulbs were available. Although the rain came down in torrents there was quite a large audience of parents and children with many questions and discussions.

**Zion United Reformed Church, Northallerton**, held a games evening to launch “Operation Noah” and the concept of global warming and energy conservation. They started by using a global footprint game so that people could work out how many planets would be needed if everyone in the world lived like them. They then had a short presentation from Hambleton District Council on what is happening locally on climate change. They followed this up by playing a version of Pictionary with a difference! They divided into groups. Each group had to work their way through 3 different subjects (home, transport and church & community), which they had to guess from one of their team members modelling, miming or drawing the subject. Once they had guessed the subject, they had to produce a list of ways in which they could reduce energy consumption, and therefore global warming, in that area. At the end of the game everyone came back together to discuss their ideas. Finally, one of the organisers introduced Operation Noah and where that fitted into the picture and gave out the Operation Noah Campaign cards.

### **Reflection: an orb**

An orb of blue swirls, greens swaths, yellows and browns, capped with white  
Babbling with brooks and birds, buzzing with bugs and bees  
Celebrating creation in music and movement

An orb of beauty, cut deep with scars  
Home to warriors and widows, wars and waste  
Criss-crossed with the longitude and latitude of Christ’s love

An orb of unity and division, hope and despair  
Circled by multi-coloured hands  
Joined in love and action to transform God’s world

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## **World Development Movement**

The World Development Movement (WDM) was established in 1970 to combat poverty across the world by tackling its root causes. WDM works by campaigns and targets government and businesses in the richer countries, persuading decision-makers to make key policy changes to support the poor in their struggle against poverty and exploitation.

Context: The three richest men on earth are wealthier than the world's 48 poorest nations combined, while more than 1 billion people live in abject poverty.

WDM has successfully campaigned to:

- convince Del Monte to allow unions on its banana plantations in Costa Rica
- combat, with other organisations, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) treaty which would have guaranteed multi-national companies more power
- secure a High Court victory to stop the squandering of aid on Malaysia's Pergau Dam.

### **Contact:**

WDM, 66 Offley Road, London SW9 0LS. Tel. 020 7820 4900, Fax: 020 7820 4949, Email: [wdm@wdm.org.uk](mailto:wdm@wdm.org.uk), Website: [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

WDM Scotland, 20 Graham Street, Edinburgh EH6 5QR. Tel. 0131 454 3802, Email: [office@wdmscotland.org.uk](mailto:office@wdmscotland.org.uk) Website: [www.wdmscotland.org.uk](http://www.wdmscotland.org.uk)

## **Prayers**

### **Prayer for Sustainable Development**

In 2002, to help churches prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, Eco-Congregation got together with A Rocha, the John Ray Initiative and Christian Ecology Link to produce briefing materials for churches. The Acrostic prayer\* below was written as part of those materials.

**C**reating God, you have given us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth...

**R**esources conserved

**E**arth tended

**A**tmosphere cleansed

**T**rees planted

**I**njustice ended

**O**ceans teeming

**N**ations at peace

**C**reator, Redeemer, Sustainer

**A**lert nations, enthuse churches

**R**ecieve our commitment and so entwine our lives with Your purpose.

**E**arth and heaven will then sing of your glory. Amen.

*\*in an acrostic verse the first letter of each line spell a word or phrase*

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### **Week of Prayer for World Peace**

The Week of Prayer for World Peace is a Christian initiative that quickly became an inter-faith activity and is held each year as a week of prayer leading into One World Week. Their 2000 leaflet included the following prayer:

God of creation,  
help us to realise that it is in your world  
that we live and move and have our being.  
Give us the generosity to respect your world  
and strive continually to recognise you  
in all you have created.

### **The International Prayer for Peace**

Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart,  
our world, our universe.

### **More stories from churches...**

After completing a green audit, **Bethesda Methodist Church in Cheltenham** came up with ten green commitments including a determination to expand the support given by the church to work overseas. They linked up with a locally based charity – the International Centre for Conservation Education (ICCE) – and initiated a project to collect knitting needles and crochet hooks which had been requested by Malawi villagers. This eventually resulted in the donation of 6 sewing machines in good working order and one of the church members travelled to Malawi with ICCE's Director to run a sewing course for ten women chosen by their villages. This was so successful that plans are already being made to collect more sewing machines in order to expand the programme which is now operating under the direction of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi.

**Contact:** International Centre for Conservation Education, Brocklebank, Butts Lane, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9QH. Tel: 01242 674839, Fax: 01242 674839, Email: [enquiries@icce.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@icce.org.uk), Web: [www.icce.org.uk](http://www.icce.org.uk)

# Module 12 - **global neighbours**

## A directory of **useful organisations**

### **Amnesty International UK**

The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA  
Tel 020 7033 1500 Fax 020 7033 1503  
Email [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk) Website [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

Amnesty International (Scotland)  
9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ  
Tel 0844 800 9088 Fax 0131 303 7000

### **Friends of the Earth**

26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ  
Tel 020 7490 1555 Fax 020 7490 0881  
Email [info@foe.co.uk](mailto:info@foe.co.uk) Website [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

Friends of the Earth Scotland,  
72 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh EH6 5QG  
Tel 0131 554 9977 Fax 0131 554 8656  
Email [info@foe-scotland.org.uk](mailto:info@foe-scotland.org.uk) Website [www.foe-scotland.org.uk](http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk)

Friends of the Earth Cymru,  
33 Castle Arcade Balcony, Cardiff CF10 2BY  
Tel 029 2022 9577 Fax 029 2022 8775 Email [cymru@foe.co.uk](mailto:cymru@foe.co.uk)

### **IDEAS** (International Development Education Association of Scotland)

5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG Tel 0131 656 0453  
Web: [www.ideas-forum.org.uk](http://www.ideas-forum.org.uk) Email: [ideas@ideas-forum.org.uk](mailto:ideas@ideas-forum.org.uk)

### **New Economics Foundation,**

3 Jonathan Street, London SE11 5NH  
Tel 020 7820 6300 Fax 020 7820 6301  
Email [info@neweconomics.org](mailto:info@neweconomics.org) Website [www.neweconomics.org](http://www.neweconomics.org)

### **Oxfam GB**

Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2JY  
Tel 0970 333 2700  
Email [oxfam@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:oxfam@oxfam.org.uk) Website [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk)

Oxfam Scotland  
207 Bath Street Glasgow G2 4HZ  
Tel 0845 900 5678 Fax 0845 900 2233  
Email [scotland@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:scotland@oxfam.org.uk)

Oxfam Wales  
Marmet Buildings, 5-7 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF10 1AT  
Tel 0870 010 9007  
Email [oxfamcymru@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:oxfamcymru@oxfam.org.uk)

# Module 12 - **global neighbours**

A directory of **useful organisations** (cont.)

## **Voluntary Service Overseas**

317 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PN  
Tel 020 8780 7200 Fax 020 8780 7300  
Email [infoservices@vso.org.uk](mailto:infoservices@vso.org.uk) Website [www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)

## **World Wildlife Fund:**

WWF UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming Surrey GU7 1XR  
Tel 01483 426444 Fax 01483 426409 Website [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk)  
Email [supporterrelations@wwf.org.uk](mailto:supporterrelations@wwf.org.uk)

WWF Scotland, Little Dunkeld, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0AD  
Tel 01350 728200 Fax 01350 728201 Email [Scotland@wwf.org.uk](mailto:Scotland@wwf.org.uk)

WWF Cymru, Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5FN  
Tel 029 2045 4970 Fax 029 2045 1306 Email [cymru@wwf.org.uk](mailto:cymru@wwf.org.uk)

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## About **Eco-Congregation**

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical environmental project for churches in Britain and Ireland. It provides free resources, support and an Award scheme to help churches to consider environmental issues in the context of their Christian life and mission and to take positive action. Eco-Congregation was originally developed by the environmental charity ENCAMS on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). It is now overseen by CTBI and delivered by a partnership of organisations.

In England, Eco-Congregation is managed by A Rocha UK and supported by a grant from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The office base is at Groundworks Sheffield, The Innovation Centre, 217 Portobello, Sheffield, S1 4DP

Tel: 0114 263 6421  
Email: [ecocongregation@arocha.org](mailto:ecocongregation@arocha.org)  
Web: [www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales](http://www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales)

In Scotland, Eco-Congregation is managed and delivered through a partnership between Keep Scotland Beautiful (an Associated company of ENCAMS) and the Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT) of the Church of Scotland. It is endorsed by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and is supported financially by the Scottish Executive's Sustainable Action Fund. Contact

Tel: +44 (0)131 556 2953  
Email: [ecocongregation@srtp.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@srtp.org.uk)  
Web: [www.ecocongregation.org/scotland](http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland)

Churches in Wales are supported by Eco-Congregation based at Groundworks Sheffield