



**Newsletter 6 from the Environment Officer
Diocese in Europe
January 2012**

To Chaplains, Assistant Chaplains, Environment Officers and Readers,

A Blessed and hope filled New Year to you all!

Despite the gloom and chaos, which surrounds us, in our world, we have to have hope and that hope is grounded in our Lord Jesus Christ. Despite all, we continue to remember The Fifth Mark of Mission, which is:

'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth', and to strive in this Mission.

In the Season of Christ the King, I shared with our Environment Officers and Readers, a piece of work completed by one of the Diocese Readers-in-Training regarding caring for our World. This can still be found on the Diocesan Website, or if you have difficulties locating, on www.churchinaquitaine.org under Environment. It is a powerful piece of work and must certainly make us recharge our batteries and move forward in this Mission.

This year water is going to be a big issue – the preserving of water and the possible lack, again, in many areas. I am laying out some ideas that we might like to think about towards the end of this missive.

If you have an account with Facebook, and many of our churches do, you may be interested to look at Green Anglicans and share what you are doing in this field, together with churches from as far afield as Cape Town and York.

Should you desire a Lent Course on the Environment then can I refer you to a sample www.aco.org/ministry/theological/bible/docs/pdf/lent_sample_week_one.pdf .

When I wrote to Stephen Lyons regarding this course, he replied – *'it is really encouraging to feel that the Course is actually scratching where those across the Communion are either itching or should at least be itching.'*

I hope this will be of interest to you and your discussion groups.

Could I also remind you to mark your Creationtide Service in your schedules for 2012, as I know many of you found that there was no room in last year's schedule, when I sent out the reminder in June.

Prayers needed continually for the work of our Governments, please bear in mind the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11), 8 - 19 October 2012, Hyderabad, India

Two of the areas to be looked at in particular are:

Inland waters biodiversity

Marine and coastal biodiversity

Water saving

It would be good for us to turn our thoughts to how we use and misuse our water supplies and here are just a few pointers:

Do check regularly that you have **no leaks**, especially if you have a garden outlet.

Sing in the shower! – The simplest step you can take to reduce your water use is to shorten the time you spend in the shower to just four minutes. Sing a song lasting four minutes!!

For those who would rather listen to a song than sing one, try the world's first water-powered radio. Fitted directly onto your water pipe, the radio is powered entirely by the water flow. To see a video of how it works and find out more, visit

<http://shop.tangogroup.net/detailsT.asp?productid=572>

Or, try the four-minute shower timer from **Showerbob**. Easy to install and easy to see in the shower, the timer could save £300 in water and energy bills over a year. Visit ShowerBob's online **calculator** to find out how much water, energy, CO2 and money you use, as well as the savings you could make.

Other inspired gadgets that will help you create the perfect eco-friendly shower include a single spray showerhead, which could save 63 litres of water per shower. An eco-friendly showerhead, available from **Nigel's Eco Store**, doesn't mean compromising on the strength of your shower: they are designed with a mechanism that reduces the flow but maintains the power.

Or go to **www.givemetap.co.uk** for further ideas or contact me with any discoveries of sources of supplies to help in your country and share!!!

Next time, I will be looking at parabans in our toiletries, are they a good thing or not..... if you have any feedback or thoughts please contact me on **madeleine@peladis.plus.com**

Untill we are able to use our own Environment Page when information and sites can remain on our page for reference and we can speak to one another more freely, the Communications Team in London are sending this out for me. Changes of staffing and emails make communicating to you all extremely difficult.

I send blessings to you all for 2012

Madeleine