

# SageDiary

- Friday 28 September:** *An Inconvenient Truth* film showing, 8.00pm, St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford.
- Saturday 29 September:** *Living Green* exhibition, 10.30am – 3.30pm, St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford. See article inside.
- Saturday 29 September:** Sage work party, 2.00 – 5.00pm, Boundary Brook Nature Park. Tools, good company, fresh air & refreshments provided. Contact Clare Newgass on 01865 242588 or [can@freenet.co.uk](mailto:can@freenet.co.uk).
- Sunday 30 September:** Environmental Eucharist Service, 10.30am, St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford. Sage member Margot Hodson will be speaking.
- Tuesday 2 October:** Sage prayer meeting, 2.00 - 3.30pm, 150 Leiden Road, Headington. Contact Caroline Steel on 01865 432600 or [caroline.steel@ntlworld.com](mailto:caroline.steel@ntlworld.com).
- Saturday 6 October:** *Walk with the Creator*, Pang Valley, Berkshire. Meet at 2.00pm at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm, off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. Take the gravel track north off Back Lane to the west of Scratchface Lane. OS grid reference SU583 723. Car sharing advised. £2 per person. Will finish with a cup of tea at the Black Barn. Contact Caroline Steel on 01865 432600 or [caroline.steel@ntlworld.com](mailto:caroline.steel@ntlworld.com).
- Monday 8 – Thursday 11 October:** *Global Challenges, Global Solutions*, CIWEM annual conference, London. Includes a session on *Faiths, Culture and the Environment* at which Sage member, Martin Hodson, will be speaking. See [www.ciwem.org/events/annual\\_conference](http://www.ciwem.org/events/annual_conference).
- Sunday 14 October:** LOAF fayre, 2.00-4.00pm. St Margaret's Church, Lewknor.
- Tuesday 6 November:** Sage prayer meeting, 2.00 - 3.30pm, 14A Osler Road, Headington. Contact Jennifer Gunraj on 01865 768436 or [richardgunraj@onetel.com](mailto:richardgunraj@onetel.com).
- Friday 9 November:** Shared meal and discussion on lifestyle issues, 7.00pm, 150 Leiden Road, Headington. Contact Caroline Steel on 01865 432600 or [caroline.steel@ntlworld.com](mailto:caroline.steel@ntlworld.com).
- Saturday 17 November:** Miranda Harris of A Rocha is leading a women's breakfast at St Aldate's Church, Oxford. Details TBC.
- Sunday 18 November:** 10.30am, Peter Harris of A Rocha is preaching on *Holistic Mission* in the morning service at St Aldate's Church, Oxford.
- Sunday 25 November:** Memorial service for Dave Steel, one of the founders of Sage, 10.30am, Cornerstone Christian Centre, Quarry High Street, Headington. Light refreshments will follow. Contact [info@sageoxford.org.uk](mailto:info@sageoxford.org.uk).
- Tuesday 4 December:** Sage prayer meeting, 2.00 - 3.30pm, 42 Morrell Avenue. Contact Clare Newgass on 01865 242588 or [can@freenet.co.uk](mailto:can@freenet.co.uk).
- Saturday 8 December:** Green Fair, Oxford Town Hall. Volunteers needed for the Sage stall. Contact [jane.pendlenton@arocha.org](mailto:jane.pendlenton@arocha.org).
- Saturday 8 December:** National Climate March, London. Part of the international protests to coincide with the COP13 climate change talks in Indonesia. Coaches will be going to from Oxford.
- Sunday 30 December:** Averil Stedeford's ecohouse is due to feature on *Songs of Praise* on BBC1.
- Tuesday 1 January 2008:** Sage New Year walk. Martin and Margot are in charge, details TBC. Contact [info@sageoxford.org.uk](mailto:info@sageoxford.org.uk).
- Tuesday 8 January:** Sage prayer meeting, 2.00 - 3.30pm, 70 St Leonard's Road, Headington. Contact Averil Stedeford on 01865 762383.

# SageWords

The newsletter of Sage, a Christian environmental group in Oxford

September 2007

[www.sageoxford.org.uk](http://www.sageoxford.org.uk)

## New Creation to tackle Peruvian pollution

Earlier this year we were contacted by a new group, Nueva Creación, from Lima in Peru. We have gathered together some of the material from their newsletters and website ([www.nuevacreacion.info](http://www.nuevacreacion.info)) to give a flavour of the environmental issues in Peru.

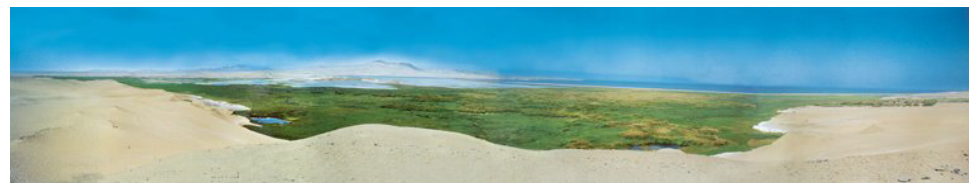
For several weeks in June 2007, the workers of the Casapalca mining enterprise, situated in the central mountain region of Peru, had a strike, closing the route joining Lima to the cities of the central highlands. Riots resulted in the death of five people, including a policeman. The striking workers complained that the company running the mine paid low salaries, and did not combat pollution, and that this affected the health of the workers. Mrs Susana Pinilla, the Peruvian labour minister, said that the Casapalca company broke many environmental regulations and working practices.

The pollution in the La Oroya mine has made international headlines. In 2006, La Oroya was named as one of ten most polluted places in the world. Doe Run, a US company, owns the smelter which provides jobs for the inhabitants, but its emissions are said to be stunting children's development. The children of the city have more lead in their blood (an average of 33.6 µg/dl) than the maximum

allowed by the World Health Organization (10 µg/dl). In both these cases, Nueva Creación called on the evangelical church in Peru to join the fight against the pollution and the depredation of protected nature areas.

On a global scale the Tyndall Centre, a UK research institution, has suggested that Peru will be the third riskiest country worldwide with respect to climate change impacts, after Honduras and Bangladesh. These countries are vulnerable to extreme weather events, causing flooding and drought. Peru is not a highly industrialized country, it has not succumbed to consumer culture, and is not overpopulated, but it will suffer for the pollution produced in other countries around the world. Greenhouse gas emissions are increasing in the United States and China and are certainly not falling in Europe. Meanwhile the glaciers of the Peruvian Andes have decreased in surface area by 22% during the last 25 years as a result of global warming.

As we were putting this article together news came in of the Peruvian earthquake of 15 August in which over 500 people are thought to have died. The Nueva Creación team are all safe, but do pray for both them and the people of Peru at this time.



*Humedal Paraíso, Huacho, Lima*

## St Margaret's encourages green living in local community

The next few years are likely to be a hugely significant period in the history of mankind. There has to be a major change in our manner of living if we are to have any hope of handing on life on this planet in a recognisable form to future generations. The Living Green Experience at St Margaret's is the latest in a series of events that we have planned to help alert people in this area of Oxford to the problems of climate change. There are three aspects to this event:

- 1 Help people recognise the size of their current carbon footprint.
- 2 Provide information on how their carbon footprint can be reduced.
- 3 Ask all people to make their own commitment to change their lifestyle to reduce their carbon footprint.

There will be a series of displays at the Living Green Experience to help people explore the issues of living more in harmony

with their environment. We want to help people see what practical steps they can take to change the situation. If you are in the area, please come and join us. You will find the event going on in St Margaret's Church, on the corner of St Margaret's Road and Kingston Road from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Saturday 29 September. If you come early, you may even meet Evan Harris MP or Hugo Brunner, the Lord Lieutenant, so that you can express your views to them on how we can help to change things more quickly on the national stage.

*Andrew Bunch*

St Margaret's Church is also running a number of other events around this time, and some are on our Calendar on the back page. More details at [www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/oxford-stmargaret/livinggreen](http://www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/oxford-stmargaret/livinggreen)

## Use your LOAF at Lewknor fayre

Thinking in terms of our ecological footprint is a useful way of measuring our impact on the planet. Across Europe we use up very different amounts of natural resources to maintain our lifestyles. The average Polish citizen requires 3.7 hectares, a UK citizen needs 4.8 hectares, and a Finn 8.4 hectares. To put that into perspective, if the world's resources were equally shared out each human being would have 1.8 hectares available to them. In other words the Poles require 2 planets, the British need 3 planets, while the Finns use nearly 5 planets. Developing a sustainable lifestyle is not just an environmental issue, but an issue of justice for all the world's living creatures.

Christian Ecology Link has suggested that we use our LOAF. Using Local, Organic,

Animal friendly, and Fairly traded products is one possible way of living a more sustainable lifestyle. The Chiltern Gateway Project based at St Margaret's church, Lewknor, is holding a LOAF fayre on Sunday 14 October from 2.00 - 4.00pm. The fayre is followed by a service at which Brother Samuel, director of the Hilfield 'Peace and reconciliation' project will be preaching on the theme *Living lightly on the planet*.

*Simon Brignall*

For those on Facebook, Dave Bookless of A Rocha recently created a new group, Living Lightly 24:1, which deals with many of the issues raised by Andrew and Simon.

## Sage participates in climate alliance

Sage is an active member of the Oxfordshire Climate Alliance (OCA), a new coalition of local groups who campaign on and raise awareness about climate change. The alliance was formed earlier this year when a number of groups wrote a joint letter to The Oxford Times to encourage readers to take part in the government's consultation about the draft Climate Change Bill.

As well as Sage, the alliance also includes environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Campaign Against Climate Change, groups whose focus is on poverty, such as the World Development Movement, and organisations involved in educational work, such as COIN and Climate XChange. Another faith-based group, Christian Concern for One World, is also a member. The hope is that by working together we will have a stronger voice in the local community, and so be more effective.



The alliance has produced a leaflet listing various climate change related events in the County over the next couple of months, which will be available on various stalls, as well as through the Sage web site. Another focus is to persuade lots of people from Oxfordshire to take part in the national Climate March in London on 8 December. Unfortunately, that happens to be the same day as the Oxford Green Fair, but we hope there will be a substantial OCA presence at both events.

## Bishop visits floods

At the peak of the July floods, the Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard, visited the Botley Road in Oxford, one of the worst affected areas. His visit included St Frideswide's Church, which was surrounded by water, where Sage celebrated Environment Sunday in 2006. Fortunately, the water did not get inside. Bishop John subsequently set up a relief fund for those who were more seriously affected,



which has already benefitted a number of people in the parish. We can't say

whether climate change directly caused these particular floods, but it is likely to cause such events to become more frequent in the future.

## Barbeque defies rain

Despite the weather, and flooding in Clare's back garden, sixteen Sage members and friends gathered for what turned out to be the most memorable barbecue on 21 July. Clare had erected a large gazebo in her garden, under which the two barbecues and half a dozen people were able to shelter. It was a simply great evening with almost all of the Sage core members present. Thanks ever so much to Clare for hosting.

