

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED!

Practical examples of connecting Christian events with trees.

- To celebrate baby Eleanor's Baptism an apricot tree was planted in her family's garden in Ripon. Eleanor and the tree are growing together.
- To commemorate their Confirmation a group of young people in Reading planted a tree in the churchyard after the service. The Bishop helped to dig the hole.

- Members of Christian Ecology Link planted an oak tree in the grounds of High Leigh after the final Communion Service at that year's Conference.
- In thanksgiving for Jack's life a donation to the Woodland Trust helps to maintain a grove of chestnut trees in Sussex.
- To celebrate Andrew's Ordination Khejri trees were planted in Rajasthan by 'Trees for Life'.

ORGANISATIONS

National Fruit Collection, Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Faversham, Kent ME13 8X. Tel. 01795-535462. Registered Charity No. 328674
www.brogdale.org

Wells for India (Trees for Life Scheme)
The Winchester Centre, 68 St Georges Street, Winchester SO23 8AH. 01962 848043. Registered Charity No. 802135.
www.wellsforindia.org

Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Linc NG31 6LL. Tel. 01476-581111. Registered Charity No. 294344.
www.woodland-trust.org.uk

Forest Stewardship Council, 11-13 Great Oak Street, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BU. 01686 413916.
www.fsc-uk.org

Natural Death Centre, 6 Blackstock Mews, Blackstock Road, London N4 2BT. 0871 288 2098.
www.naturaldeath.org.uk

The Arbory Trust, Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4DX. 01284 749974.
www.arborytrust.org

FRUIT TREE NURSERIES

Traditional fruit tree varieties are obtainable from:-

- Deacon's Nursery, Godshill, Isle of Wight, PO38 3HW. Tel. 01983-840750.
- R.V. Roger, The Nurseries, Whitby Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7HG. Tel. 01751-472226.
- Scotts Nursery, Merriott, Somerset TA16 5PL. Tel. 01460-72306

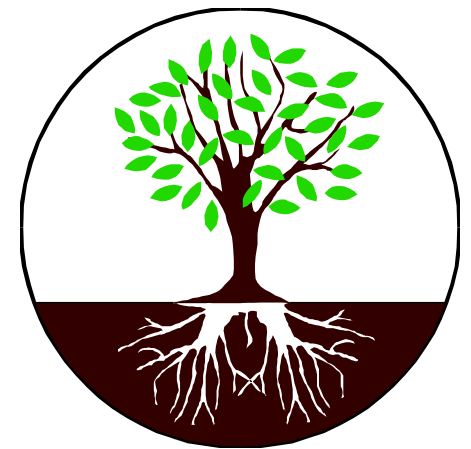
JOIN CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK

Send £18 standard (low income £10) or £28 joint/family/corporate, or a donation for church membership (recommended amount £25), to CEL FREEPOST SE 8672, 9 Nuthatch Drive, Earley, Reading RG6 5ZZ. Cheques payable to CEL. For more information contact CEL, 10 Beech Hall Road, London E4 9NX. Tel: 0845 459 8460. Email. Info@christian-ecology.org.uk

Send for copies of this leaflet to CEL Publications, 40 The Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1JG. Please send a donation to CEL to cover cost of printing and postage, or at least an S.A.E. You are welcome to photocopy it if you acknowledge CEL. April 2006/Jan 2011. CEL Registered Charity No. 328744. (www.christian-ecology.org.uk)



CHRISTIAN
ECOLOGY LINK



PLANTING TREES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination,
Anniversaries, Birthdays,
Birth, Marriage, Death.

*In celebration, thanksgiving or remembrance,
plant a tree.*

Through the planting of baptism, confirmation, ordination, marriage and memorial trees, Christians can help others to reforest a significant area of the damaged surface of this planet with life giving trees. The donation of a tree makes the perfect gift for any special event involving someone close to you. Woodland burials are now possible and create a lasting natural memorial of our lives by encouraging new woodlands. Look inside for more information on why and how we can plant trees in celebration, thanksgiving or remembrance.

Tree Losses



Almost half the forests that once covered the earth are gone. Deforestation is expanding and accelerating. The health of remaining forests is declining. Mechanization of forestry and agriculture permits large areas to be harvested quickly. Globalisation and free trade allow corporations to roam the world seeking more profitable forest opportunities. Huge fires destroy vast areas and pollution blows in from motor vehicles and industries. The build-up of greenhouse gases has ushered in an era of climate change that threatens forests. We can help by only buying wood products with the Forest Stewardship Council logo.



Ancient woodland in Britain remains under threat of destruction. Over the last 50 years almost half has been lost. Development pressure for roads, housing, grazing and arable farming, as well as mismanagement and wanton destruction continue to take their toll.

Religion and Trees

Christian teaching is inter-connected with trees, the tree of life, the cross, the olive, fig and vine. Jesus' homeland was 'a land of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey' (Deut. 8.8).

The olive was the most important tree in Palestine. In his church near the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane and Golgotha, Bishop Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386) preached sermons using the fresh new growth of olive trees in spring as symbols of resurrection.

Here in Britain we have apple orchards and native broadleaved trees instead of olive groves. Yew trees are especially associated with churchyards. Thousands of yew trees were planted in

churchyards through the 'Yew Trees for the Millennium' project.

Our deep Christian heritage of trees speaks to our hearts urging us to break out of our asphalt culture and reforest the earth with life giving trees. Trees planted locally, nationally and globally help reconnect Christian life and worship with all of God's creation.

Local Trees

Plant a tree in your garden or churchyard or wherever one is welcome. Why not replace some asphalt with a tree? Encourage your local Churches Together to plant a copse or avenue of 20 trees, one tree for each Christian century.

Choose native, indigenous species which provide habitats for birds, insects, fungi and other life. Forest trees, however, need plenty of space and are not suitable for the average garden.

Forest Trees

Oaks, Ash, White Willow, Wild Cherry, Small-leaved Lime, Beech and Hornbeam.

Garden Trees

Silver Birch (likes well-drained soil), Downy Birch (likes damper soil), Alder (likes wet soil), Hawthorn, Aspen, Crab-apple, Rowan, Holly, Field Maple and Hazel or Guelder Rose (shrubs).

Fruit Trees

You can get old varieties of fruit trees from some nurseries. At certain times of the year you can choose from any of Brogdale Horticultural Trust's 2,500 varieties of apple trees. They will graft a variety onto a small rootstock for you. Cherry Plums make ideal trees for urban areas. They are wind and aphid resistant and give fruit for birds, insects and people.

A helpful book to consult when choosing suitable native trees is Chris Baines, *How to Make a Wildlife Garden*, Elm Tree Books, 1985.



If you have no room in your local area to plant a tree yourself the following charities will plant one for you.

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust manages existing woodland and plants new woods in Britain. They are working to create woods large enough to give habitats the space they and their wildlife need to adapt and evolve to climate change. They dedicate trees, in a wood of your choice, in your name or that of a loved one. For £10 you can dedicate one tree. For £25 you can dedicate three trees. With both gift levels you will receive a certificate with your personal dedication and details of your chosen wood. Individual trees are not marked in order to retain a natural environment but you are welcome to visit the woods at any time.



Trees for Life (Wells for India)

The Trees for Life scheme aims to raise funds for tree planting in India. It is part of Wells for India and works with its Indian NGO partners and villagers in the Thar Desert and Aravali Hills of the drought-stricken state of Rajasthan.

Trees are important in Rajasthan: providing sources of food, timber, fuel and fodder; stabilising sand dunes; providing some shade and a natural site for village meetings. Of special value is the desert tree *Prosopis cineraria*, known locally as 'Khejri', which provides fuel, fodder and timber as well as helping to stabilise soils.



Saplings are grown in plastic sleeves. When they are one year old they are planted out into pits — usually in August after the first rains, and are watered again in October or December — depending on whether there has been good rains that year — and then again in March and May or June. This process continues over the second, third and fourth years.

For £10 (cheques made payable to Wells for India) a tree will be planted and dedicated to a relative or friend or to mark some special event. A certificate will be issued showing the name of the person and the event.

Woodland Burials

Opting for a woodland burial is a way of expressing our relationship with the natural world even in death. There are over 200 woodland burial sites in the UK. The Arbory Trust site in Cambridgeshire was the first one to be consecrated. The sites vary from small areas set aside in existing cemeteries to new sites.

Some sites plant a tree by every grave, some group six or eight burials around a single tree. Problems arise from planting trees on top of graves. It can be distressing for the family if the tree becomes diseased, blown over in a storm or has to be thinned. The Arbory Trust site prefers indigenous trees surrounding grassy glades, with burials taking place in the central glades.

Woodland burial sites are designed as places for people to revisit often — to remember family and friends, share meals on the grass, and sow wildflower seeds while children play amongst the trees.

See overleaf for addresses of the organisations mentioned in this leaflet. Send for CEL's 'Biodiversity' leaflet for reflection on why healing and restoring all life on earth matters to Christians.