

## CEL can help

- Contact CEL's Local Groups coordinator who will help and give advice about how to start a group and organise a meeting.
- We can supply posters, leaflets and possibly speakers if required. ChurchLink, a free newsletter for churches, is produced twice a year. We also have videos for sale or to hire: 'Operation Noah: Creating a Climate of Justice' and 'How Green is Your Church?'
- CEL local groups can place a regular order for five FREE copies of each issue of *Green Christian*.

To find out more contact the **Local Groups Coordinator**: Write to CEL Local Groups, c/o 5 Osborne Road South, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7DF. Telephone 01329 319301 or via CEL's Information Officer 01524 33858. Email [esme.percival@ntlworld.com](mailto:esme.percival@ntlworld.com)

## CEL website

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

Visit the website to discover:-

- CEL's monthly prayer guide.
- Green Sermon Notes for the Sunday readings of the Common Lectionary.
- A list of environmental events in churches throughout the year.
- Short monthly articles for use in church magazines.
- Examples of practical actions taken by local churches around the country to inspire others.
- Details of CEL campaigns and conferences.
- But **most importantly**, send us news of your events, activities, successes and stories. Events will be added to the 'What's On?' page. Other items will be added to archive material for future reference and to provide inspiration to groups, old and new.



## CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK exists ....

- to offer insights into ecology and the environment to Christian people and churches
- to offer Christian insights to the Green movement

**For general information on CEL**, our members' email discussion group **CELINK**, and our monthly **email newsletter**, contact:- Laura Deacon, 3 Bond Street, Lancaster LA1 3ER. Tel. 01524 33858.

Email: [info@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:info@christian-ecology.org.uk)

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

### TO JOIN CEL

Please complete your details below, cut along the dotted lines and send to:-

Membership Secretary,  
CEL FREEPOST, SE8672,  
9 Nuthatch Drive, Earley,  
Reading RG6 5ZZ.



- I would like to join CEL (£18 standard; £10 low income; £28 joint/family/corporate).
- My church would like to join CEL (Please send a donation, recommended amount £25).
- I enclose a donation to assist your work. £.....

Tick box as appropriate

Please make cheques payable to: **CEL**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED £** .....

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

.....**Postcode** .....

**Telephone** .....

**Email** .....

LG 4/07

Send for copies of this leaflet to CEL Publications, 40 The Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1JG. Please add a donation to cover costs of printing and postage. You are welcome to photocopy it if you acknowledge CEL.

CEL Registered Charity No. 328744. April 2007.

## CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK



# LOCAL GROUPS



***Look inside for tips on how to start a local CEL group and become a beacon of hope in your local community.***

## How to start a Local Group

Jesus told his disciples to 'preach the good news to all creation' (Mark 16.15) — and Creation certainly needs good news today. Thankfully, more and more Christians are hearing God's call to care for the Earth, and seeking out others who are beginning to hear it too.



Such groups of ordinary people are vital signs of the kingdom for our times. As we know, they can transform the church and change the world. Several towns and churches already have Christian Ecology Link Groups.

This leaflet explains how you can start a local group and plant a sign of hope in your community.

There is no charge for becoming a CEL group, though we would expect some of the organisers to be CEL members.

### First steps

- Have a chat with our Local Groups co-ordinator (see overleaf). He can arrange for you to be sent some free leaflets and magazines.
- Ask people you know who share the same ideas, whether they would be interested in starting a local Christian Ecology Link Group in your church or a group of churches.
- Share your thoughts with your minister, priest or church leader and suggest writing a short article for the weekly church news-sheet or bulletin.
- Leave leaflets and copies of our magazine *Green Christian* at the back of church.

- If you have a suitable opportunity, such as an outreach committee or women's fellowship, tell them about CEL and our campaigns particularly Operation Noah our Climate Change campaign and LOAF, our campaign for food that is **L**ocally produced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal friendly and **F**airly traded.
- Another idea you could share with them is EcoCongregation, the churches environmental programme. This encourages churches and their members to make appropriate practical and spiritual responses and get an Award to show what the church has done.

### Involving others

- Once you have gathered a small group, and you have decided the sort of things you want to do, you could contact other Christian worship communities in your district, tell them about CEL and ask if they would be interested in belonging to a CEL group in your district.
- Contact secular groups like Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, CPRE and various Wildlife trusts. Some of their members are Christians who might be interested in joining a green Christian group. They might also be able to help you arrange talks or field trips.



CEL members and a Churches Together group planting a copse of trees in a local park.

## What a Local Group can do

No two local groups of CEL are the same, but here are some of the things you might consider.

- organise
  - talks and visits
  - communal meals
  - guided walks
  - a litter pick at a local beauty spot
  - a trip to an organic farm
  - tree planting
- promote CEL and other Christian environmental campaigns
- help members make their churches more environmentally friendly
- hold a service with a 'green' theme
- make church grounds wildlife-friendly
- hold a stall at local and regional events
- organise a session for writing letters to local MPs, newspapers etc. Make it special by offering Fairtrade tea and home made cakes to all who participate
- promote discussion on local environmental issues
- give talks to local church groups
- produce a newsletter — keep everyone informed of what is happening.

### Useful websites

These are the websites for the four main Christian environmental organisations in the UK. You will find some useful ideas here. Send for CEL's leaflet 'A Guide to Sources, Publications and Organisations' for postal addresses and a fuller list of useful organisations.

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

[www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)

[www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)

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