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## GOOD NEWS

### NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY

The world's first ever national tree planting day took place in Kenya on 13 November. It is a bid by the Kenyan government to tackle the climate crisis and deforestation. The aim is that 15bn trees will be planted by 2032.

### NATURE GUARDIAN APPOINTED TO UK FIRM

Interiors firm House of Hackney has become the second UK company to appoint a 'nature guardian' to its board. It follows Faith in Nature in formally giving them a vote on decisions that may impact sustainability.

### CERVICAL CANCER VACCINE PROGRESS

"Significant progress" has been made in the last three years on cervical cancer, says the WHO. 30 nations — including Bangladesh and Nigeria — have introduced the HPV vaccine, boosting coverage for girls globally to 21 %.

### SHARED PARENTAL LEAVE

South Africa has become the first African nation to introduce shared parental leave. After a high court ruling that both parents have the right to time off, couples will be able to divide up four months leave between them.

### ALZHEIMER'S DIAGNOSIS IMPROVEMENTS

An Alzheimer's 'gamechanger' could be five years away, say experts. The Blood Biomarker Challenge will trial ways to identify tell-tale brain proteins that can give Alzheimer's away years before symptoms appear.

### WORLD'S BIGGEST OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Dogger Bank, which is set to be the biggest offshore wind farm in the world when complete in 2026, was fired up for the first time in October. It will eventually produce 3.6 gigawatts of power — enough for 6m homes a year.

Read more at  
<https://www.facebook.com/positive.news.uk>

## FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

### COP 28

The UN's climate change talks continue in Dubai. Pope Francis has written a new message calling for world leaders to tackle the climate crisis and make the most of the COP28 climate summit. CAFOD and other agencies will be bringing the Pope's message to the streets of London on Saturday 9 December when they join a short march to call for action at COP28. At the same time marches will take place in other UK cities including Plymouth. Please pray that these marches may be both peaceful and effective.

*Daily prayers at 8am on Zoom are being held by Green Christian throughout COP28 until 12 Dec.*

Visit <https://greenchristian.org.uk/prayer-for-cop28-2/> for details of how to join in the live prayers or to watch the recordings afterwards.

### ISRAEL/GAZA

69 international Christian church leaders and aid agencies have written to the Prime Minister calling for a permanent cease-fire. They say "Without an agreed upon end to violence from all parties – there is no path forward. We call on all governments to show support for the protection of all human life, advocating for a just and durable resolution to this crisis in which all Israelis and Palestinians might realize a vision of a just peace, illuminating human dignity, advancing security and self-determination for all." Read the full letter at <https://www.ctcinfohub.org/church-leaders-call-for-an-end-to-fighting-in-gaza/>.

### "TORN IN TWO" – RESPONDING TO ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The violence that we have witnessed in Israel and Gaza over the last two months has been very distressing. How should we respond as Christians and Churches who are committed to dialogue, reconciliation, justice and peace?

The Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Inter Faith Theological Advisory Group has produced a very helpful short resource that offers reflection and pointers for discussion out of a context of ecumenical and inter faith relations. Read it at <https://www.ctcinfohub.org/torn-in-two-responding-to-israel-palestine-conflict/>.