**Extension Activities 7: Alternatives to Stewardship**

**[http://ex.ac.uk/beyondstewardship](http://ex.ac.uk/beyondstewardship%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

**1. Lovelock's Gaia Hypothesis**

Investigate the scientific basis for Lovelock's Gaia hypothesis.

* How has this idea been received among scientists?
* What has been the public reaction?
* How has it influenced so-called 'new age' spirituality?

**2. Creation Praising God**

The vision of all creation praising God found in Psalm 148 was expanded in later Jewish literature and can also be found in Christian liturgy.

* Look at [*The Prayer of Azariah* 1.35-68](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=200539841)*.* This appears in versions of the Bible that have the Apocrypha, and it originally formed part of the Greek additions to the book of Daniel.
* In Christian liturgy this is known as the [*Benedicite*](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/canticles/canticlesmv1.aspx).
* The influence of this idea can also be found in St Francis of Assisi's [*Canticle of the Creatures*](http://www.appleseeds.org/canticle.htm). This includes the idea that all aspects of creation are brothers and sisters to humans – that there is a kinship among all created things.

**3. Further Reading**

An overview of the different ideas about humanity's relationship to the environment is set out in Christopher Southgate’s 'Stewardship and its Competitors: A Spectrum of Relationships between Humans and the Non-Human Creation'.

You can find a copy of this in in R.J. Berry (ed.), [*Environmental Stewardship: Critical Perspectives, Past and Present*](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Environmental-Stewardship-Critical-Perspectives-Present/dp/0567030180)(London: T&T Clark, 2006), pp. 185-95.