

Eco Champions Briefing: March 2021

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. These briefings, sent every other month, aim to provide you with the latest information as you take action to protect God's creation and reduce your environmental footprint.

If you are an Eco Champion, please do share these headlines with your church and/or deanery. If you have anything you'd like to include in the next briefing, [please email me](#).

NEWS

Young Christians challenge church leaders to address climate change

Tearfund has published "[Burning Down the House](#)", a survey of young Christians' views on climate change. It found that 9 out of 10 are concerned about the climate crisis, however only 1 in 10 think their churches are doing enough about it. Most Rev Justin Welby said, "*This is an urgent and important challenge from Christian teenagers, calling on church leaders and worshippers to listen, learn alongside them and act with integrity on Climate Change*".



New Net Zero Carbon Church website from the CofE

The CofE has launched a new website to support churches in reaching net zero carbon. The website, based around illustrations of church buildings, links to the latest guidance on everything from draught proofing to heat pumps. [Click here to find out more](#).



New awards for Bristol and Wiltshire churches

Huge congratulations to St Peter's Kington Langley who've earned a Silver Eco Church award, and to St Stephen's City, and Holy Trinity Westbury-on-Trym who've both earned Bronze awards. Find out more about the scheme [here](#), and if you're in need of some inspiration, take a peek at some recently awarded Gold churches: [St Mary's Beaminster](#) and [St Helen's, Isle of Wight](#).



Bishop Viv welcomes an electric car

Bishop Viv has taken delivery of a new electric car today, as part of the wider diocesan commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030. She's the second Bishop in the UK to take this step, and all of her journeys will now be zero emissions.



OPPORTUNITIES and EVENTS

Eco Church workshops

There are two upcoming national webinars to support your church's Eco Church Journey:

1. [Pilgrimage to Net Zero, April 24](#): Hear from Andy Atkins, CEO of A Rocha, and Maria Alejandra Andrade Vinuesa, Ecuadorian sociologist and theologian. Plus breakout workshops.
2. [Going beyond Bronze, May 8](#): Worship, workshops and more, as you explore how to move towards your Silver award.

Plus a webinar **this Thursday** (25 March at 7pm) from the [Anglican Communion on COP26, divestment & investment for climate justice](#).

Climate Intercessors Prayer Evening, 30 March at 1pm

This global prayer network meets to pray for the climate crisis. All welcome, and [details here](#).

Take part in "Churches Count on Nature", 5– 13 June 2021

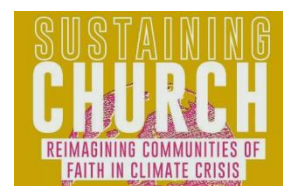
Churches Count on Nature is all about local people recording the wonderful wildlife in your churchyard. Could you organise a wildlife spotting event? Covid-safe, inclusive to the wider community and great for mental health!

- [Register your interest here](#) and you'll receive an information pack. Perhaps your local school or wildlife trust would like to lead a count too?
- **Do you have a story to share about how your churchyard is used to protect nature and the environment?** If so, please do let me know as I'm seeking examples for an upcoming workshop.



Online conference: Sustaining Church, 21-22 July

This free online conference, led by Bristol's Hazelnut Community Farm Church in partnership with Trinity College and A Rocha, will explore issues the church will face as a result of the climate emergency, as well as how to take action to mitigate them. [Find out more here](#).



Solar Pilot Scheme for Churches

This solar panel scheme for churches is now up-and-running, led by Parish Buying. A number of churches across the diocese have already registered their interest. To find out more, see the Net Zero Carbon category [here](#).



RESOURCES

Hold a Climate Sunday before 5 September

[Climate Sunday](#) asks churches nationwide to **worship** (dedicate a Sunday to the environment), **commit** (to climate action) and **speak up** (with others). Check out the website for lots of materials.



Climate Emergency Toolkit for Churches

This new resource, developed by a coalition of Christian agencies, guides your church through the process of declaring a climate emergency and connecting with others to speak up for change. [Details here](#).



Getting to net zero carbon churches: webinar recordings

If you missed the recent webinar series from the CofE Environment Programme to support churches to reach the "net zero carbon" emissions target, don't worry – you can access recordings of the sessions [here](#). And some are being repeated in the Autumn, with the chance to pre-book now.



Some inspiration...

Revd Mark Siddall, who is Curate in Charge of the Draycot Benefice, combined service to the community with service to the environment when he turned church grounds into a bike fixing workshop as part of the church's eco activities.



Thanks for reading, and I pray for every blessing as you continue to work to protect God's earth.