



Environment Briefing: January 2022

Happy New Year! Welcome to the first environment briefing of 2022. Over 50 churches have now appointed an Eco Champion and receive these briefings, which is excellent! Thanks to all who've shared events and news with the wider network. If you have anything you'd like to include, [please email me](#).

NEWS

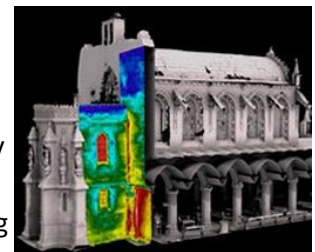
Duke of Edinburgh Award youth project on Eco Church

Aidan Bloomer, a teenager from Draycot Benefice, is completing his Silver DofE award by supporting local churches with their Eco work. Aidan's activities have included producing a land management plan with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, researching possibilities for a new 'green' heating system, setting up a prayer walk for COP26, and supporting 'Wild Church' services. A great idea for young people to take on across the Diocese!



Grant for Thermal Imaging camera and training

Bristol Diocese has received a grant for a state-of-the-art thermal imaging camera and moisture meter for the DAC to use as part of quinquennial visits. The equipment instantly shows where churches are losing heat, and can identify where to focus insulation and draft proofing to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. If you're planning reordering or heating work and would like a thermal imaging visit, please contact [Andrew Wigley](#).



EVENTS

How to achieve carbon net zero by 2030: a webinar for churches

A cluster of rural churches in the Leeds Diocese have undertaken a feasibility study on getting to net zero, with funding from the Rural Community Energy Fund. They are holding a webinar to share their learning with other churches on **Tuesday 27th January 5-6pm**. Details and booking [here](#).



Eco Church networking events

Wonderfully, 28 churches have now gained Eco Church awards across the Diocese. But for the us to gain a Silver Eco Diocese award, 10 more churches need to receive silver awards, and 12 need to receive bronze awards. 2022 is the year we can achieve it together!



3 online webinars are planned to support you over the coming weeks. All are held over the lunch hour, and then repeated that evening. We'd love to see you there.

Getting started – Tuesday 15th Feb, 1-2pm and 7.30-8.30pm [Book here](#).

Going for Silver – Wednesday 2nd March, 1-2pm and 7-8pm [Book here](#).

Going for Gold – Wednesday 9th March, 1-2pm and 7-8pm [Book here](#).

RSPB Big Bird Watch – 29-30 January

Simply count the birds you see in your garden or churchyard for one hour, and help with [this national annual survey](#). A great activity for before or after church, or for the young people to take part in.

What's needed in practice to get to net zero carbon? And what's stopping us?

This session reviews a project to create detailed, costed Net Zero Carbon Action Plans for twelve CofE buildings, and looks at what's needed to get decarbonise & the barriers to action. **Friday 4th March, 12:00-13:00** + optional extended Q&A. [BOOK HERE](#)

Fundraising for Environmental Projects: Tuesday lunchtimes through March

1 - **What opportunities exist** in the environmental funding landscape - 8th March, 12-1:30 [BOOK HERE](#)

2 - **How to start** your environmental fundraising - 15th March, 12:00-1:30 [BOOK HERE](#)

3 - Environmental fundraising **for more experienced fundraisers** - 22nd March, 12:00-1:30 [BOOK HERE](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Queen's Green Canopy

To mark her Platinum Jubilee this year, the Queen is inviting people across the UK to plant as many sustainable trees as possible. [Christ Church Downend's planting day made it onto Songs of Praise this month](#), and St Peter's Henleaze and Hazelnut Community Farm have both received free packs of trees from the Woodland Trust and the Forest of Avon trust. Can you plant any trees this year?



Show the Love with the Climate Coalition

Can your church take part in the [Show The Love](#) campaign in February? Groups are encouraged to make green hearts for Valentine's Day to show their love for our earth, and share these with their MPs

Fairtrade Fortnight: 21 February – 6 March

This year's focus is on the challenges that Fairtrade farmers face due to climate change. The [Choose the World you Want online festival](#) aims to amplify the voices of farmers and workers, the steps they are already taking to fight the climate crisis, and highlight the role of businesses, shoppers, governments and citizens in supporting them to win the fairer future that we all know they deserve.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
21 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH



Hazelnut Community Farm invites churches to join two new projects

[The Potting Shed](#) is a six-month course to equip Christians in creating faith-based growing communities. Groups will meet weekly on Zoom to discuss and learn about topics such as growing plans, connecting with local communities, and leading worship in gardens.

[The Big Harvest](#) aims to connect Church harvest festivals with growing and giving away food. The [website](#) will be updated soon with information, resources, liturgy, recipes and more.



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Lent Guide: 40 Days With God's Creatures.

SARX, a charity that aims to champion the cause of animals in Christian communities, has produced a Lent course called [40 Days With God's Creatures](#). It includes a free app and website.

Bybrook's Sustainability Calendar

Churches in Bybrook Benefice will explore a different sustainability topic each month through 2022, starting in [January with 'Carbon'](#). You can find the [calendar here](#), and monthly sheets will be available to download from their website. Feel free to adapt the resources for your locality, or use Bybrook's version.

'Going for Gold' – a checklist

[Download this excellent resource](#) for churches aiming for a Gold Eco Church award to track your progress.

WWF Carbon Footprint tool

Find out the size of your environmental footprint using [this interactive and quick tool](#). A nice activity for Eco church events.

Webinar 'playlists' from the National Church

The CofE has produced a range of excellent webinar sessions. If you missed them 'live', they're accessible via playlists arranged by topic:

- the [Net Zero Carbon playlist](#) covers: action planning, a vision of a zero carbon church, forming your team, defining & measuring net zero, navigating the faculty system, solar panels, church heating, EV car charging, quick wins, LED lighting, heat pumps, conservation pitfalls, and more.
- the [environmental fundraising playlist](#) covers: funding opportunities and how to start fundraising.
- the [Eco Church playlist](#) covers: getting started, gaining momentum and working towards an award, and Eco Church and net zero carbon.
- the [Land and Nature playlist](#) covers a huge range, from practical churchyard management to Forest Church, via trees, bats, ecology, the crisis for nature, and more.

Christian Aid and Tearfund youth resources

[Letters for Creation](#) is a fantastic pack from Christian Aid for young people, and resources include an assembly, lesson plans, and resources to help produce creative letters and art.

[Crack the Climate Silencer](#) is an innovative virtual escape room adventure from Tearfund, where teams are tasked with cracking a mysterious plot surrounding the climate crisis to save the day.

And finally...

A year's supply of Eco Tips for your church newsletter

Here are 52 snappy little tips for you to post week by week on social media, your website, noticeboard or newsletters. Click here to download [Year 1](#) and [Year 2](#).

Please share this information with your church and deanery, as you see fit.

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