

Eco Champions Briefing: July 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the Diocesan environment briefing - there's so much happening at the moment that this has crept onto 3 pages! These will be sent approximately every other month, and aim to provide you with the latest information as you take action to protect God's creation.

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

Bristol Diocese hosts Young Christian Climate Network

This year, the Young Christian Climate Network is walking over 1,000 miles from the G7 summit in Cornwall up to COP26 climate talks in Glasgow. Along the way the pilgrimage will stop in 10 cities to raise awareness of the need for climate action. The relay was in Bristol from 12 - 17 July where they engaged with over 100 people to pray, reflect and act on the climate crisis. [Read more.](#)



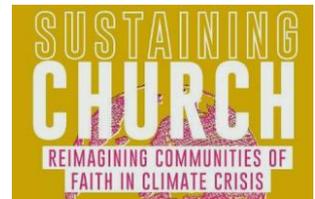
Energy Footprint Tool is now live

To reach 'net zero carbon', it's important to know how much we're reducing our emissions year-on-year. The Energy Footprint Tool aims to capture just that, so please dig out your 2020 energy bills and submit your church's information. Last year a majority of churches used the tool, which formed a carbon footprint baseline for the Diocese. You can access the tool through your church's [Parish Returns page](#). If you don't have a login for this site, please contact your churchwarden (or, failing that, me).



450 attend Sustaining Church conference

Bristol Diocese's Hazelnut Community Farm teamed up with A Rocha and Trinity College this month to run an international conference on 'reimagining communities of faith in climate crisis'. Over 450 people attended across the two days. If you missed it, all sessions will be [available to view here](#) shortly.



Four churches gain new awards

Huge congratulations to **St Martin's Knowle**, **All Saints, Sutton Benger**, **St Michael's Church Winterbourne** and **Frenchay Parish Church** who've all earned Bronze Eco Church awards this month. You can find out more about the scheme [here](#).



EVENTS

Green Christian Summer Workshops

28 July - *How Should we Balance Trusting in God's Sovereignty Versus Personally Taking Action on the Climate?* With our very own Deborah Tomkins. [Register here.](#)



11 August - *Labyrinths: Spirituality, Place and the Environment.* With Annabel Barber. [Register here.](#)

27 July - Climate Intercessors Prayer Evening

You're welcome to join this global network of people whose prayers are as real and urgent as the climate crisis. [Details here.](#)



9 October - Saying Yes to Life Conference

A day of inspiration, encouragement and challenge through online talks and workshops focussed on creation care. Keynote speaker Ruth Valerio, and hosted by York Diocese. [Details here.](#)



Finding dates for the diary – Eco Champions networking evenings

Over 50 churches and 6 out of 7 deaneries across the Diocese now have Eco Champions, which is excellent news. Thank you! It would be great to find a time to come together to share, learn and explore how we can best work together to help our churches to tread more lightly and champion creation care.

[Please fill out this short survey to help find some time in October to get together.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Picture This, Postcards for Change

Make COP Count is a campaign asking the UK government to champion additional money for the most climate vulnerable countries, to help deal with the climate crisis. You can send PM Boris Johnson a postcard that represents where you live to show the breadth of support for action on climate justice. [Read more](#)



Fundraising for environment projects

A big issue around decarbonising our churches is the cost involved. These two workshops cover both what funding is available to help you, and how best to access it.

Opportunities for fundraising - Tuesday 7th September, 12:00-13:30. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

How to start fundraising - Thursday 9th September, 12:00-13:30. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Projecting climate messages onto your church / hall / loo?

The UK will host the UN climate talks this November, and it's a key opportunity for churches to get involved in calling for greater ambition. In November, we hope to team up with partners to project climate messages onto churches – and other local buildings. If your church would like to be involved, and/or has a projector that could be used, please contact [Clare Fussell](#).



Seed-bombing the churchyard?

Thanks to Rev Mark Siddall from Draycot benefice for sharing this great idea for (very) Messy Church or schools: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56784074>



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Assessment of UK's Climate Risk

Thanks to Duncan, Eco Champion at Holy Trinity Stapleton, for sharing the recent Climate Change Committee report that outlines the risks we face in the UK from climate change & the action required. [Read more here.](#)

Make COP Count Coalition

Make COP Count Coalition have produced a series of briefing documents for faith groups outlining key demands for the international decision makers at COP 26 in November. These papers can be used to upskill your congregation, to equip you with letter writing or conversations with your MP and more.



- [Summary Paper](#)
- [Ending financial support for fossil fuels](#)
- ["Loss and Damage" finance](#)

Eco Church Style Award for Households

The Creation Care scheme aims to lead households step-by-step to make changes to care for God's earth. It covers seven areas of household activity from food and travel to gardening and possessions. Could your congregation participate? [More details](#)



Hold a Climate Sunday service

[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.



On 5 September, Rev Jonnie Parkin will be preaching at Bristol Cathedral for Climate Sunday; this will be live streamed & the video will be available afterwards. Your church is welcome to use this in a service, in lieu of a guest speaker!

'Plenty': 6 session course on a new way of living

Green Christian has launched "Plenty", 6 sessions freely available to churches to guide people in exploring how to live within the limits of the Earth so that everyone has enough:

www.joyinenough.org/resources/plenty

Some inspiration...

Read this month's roundup of your positive stories [here](#).

Thanks for reading, and I hope you're enjoying a bit of a break over the summer. I pray for every blessing as you continue to work to protect God's earth.