

## Environment Briefing: March 2022

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Huge thanks to all who've shared events and news with the wider network. We've also been blessed with some fantastic resources from Bristol Diocese churches this month! If you have anything you'd like to include in the next briefing, [please email me](#).

### NEWS

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#### Energy Footprint Tool now OPEN

This is now open for churches to enter your 2021 energy data. It's so important to gather this information, so we can each track our carbon emissions year-on-year, as well as monitor the wider trends across the Diocese. This year there's a **hard deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July** to allow us to analyse the data, and reopen the tool on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023. [Check out this new guidance](#) to help you complete the tool.



#### New Eco Church awards for our churches

Congratulations to Holy Trinity Westbury-on-Trym who has been awarded an Silver Eco Church award this month, and to Redland Parish Church and St Mary's Marshfield who both received Bronze awards – bringing the total number of awards across the Diocese to 30. This is wonderful news, and testament to some impressive work in recent months. If your parish hasn't yet started your Eco Church journey, you can register [here](#).



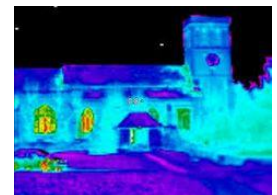
#### Wild churches – seed blessings for the Big Harvest

[Wild Churches in Wiltshire](#) gathered for a seed blessing service this month, to ask for God's blessing on the food they will grow together for the Big Harvest in the Autumn, where churches grow food to give away to those in need. [Find out how your church can join in here](#).



#### Grant for thermal imaging in churches

The Diocese of Bristol has been awarded a grant from the National Church to purchase two sets of thermal imaging cameras and moisture metres for use in church visits. In April the DAC will receive training in thermography, following which the devices will be available for use in churches. If you're interested in a visit to your church, please contact [Andrew Wigley](#).



### EVENTS

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#### CofE Environment Programme webinars

There is a growing bank of recorded webinars, and details of upcoming 'live' sessions [here](#); including:

- **Finding the balance : Assessing embodied carbon in retrofit projects on church buildings** - 19th April, 12 noon [BOOK HERE](#)
- Briefing on the **net zero church faculty changes** - 24th May, 12 noon-1pm [BOOK HERE](#)

#### Earth Hour – 26<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm

Every year on the last Saturday of March, people across over 190 countries unite to take action on and raise awareness of the issues facing our shared home. Your church can take part in this [moment of witness](#) by switching off lights and holding a prayer vigil, or joining [one of many online events](#) to mark the occasion. Or if you're near St John's Gastard in North Wilts, join in their [candle-lit Earth Hour Vigil](#).

## Earth Vigils through Lent

Interfaith vigils will take place every Saturday morning through Lent from 11am–1pm on College Green, Bristol. All are welcome to join for as little or as much as you like, to “sit in silence, witnessing to the suffering of our earth, with compassion and hope for her healing.” Find out more [here](#).

EARTH VIGIL  
...with love & grief for our sacred planet

## Eco Church webinars in April

If you missed the recent webinar series on Eco Church, you can join one of these three sessions to help you, whatever your starting point:

Topic 1 : **An introduction to Eco Church and getting started**, 25th April, noon, [BOOK HERE](#)

Topic 2 : **Gaining momentum and working towards an award**, 26th April, noon, [BOOK HERE](#)

Topic 3 - **Eco Church and Net Zero Carbon**, 28th April, noon, [BOOK HERE](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

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### Will your church divest from fossil fuels?

Since Bristol and Oxford Dioceses became the first to divest from fossil fuels in April last year, others have followed and now seven CofE dioceses have taken this prophetic step. Individual churches are encouraged to do likewise, and commit to switching your bank account and/or savings and investments to green alternatives.

Contact [Bokani Tshidzu](#) from Operation Noah’s [Bright Now campaign](#) for more information or to register your interest; and take a look at their [church divestment guide here](#).



### Host the Creation Project art exhibition

The Creation Project is a year-long pop-up art gallery that will be hosted by churches across Bristol Diocese. It’s designed to be an easy way to engage your church and community in conversation around the climate emergency, as well as a space to welcome new people into church and connect on issues that will affect each and every one of us. [Find out more and sign up to host the exhibition here](#).



### Christian Climate Action – ways to involve your church

Find out about how you can support this group of Christian activists [here](#), as they launch their *Just Stop Oil* campaign. Bristol Diocese’s Revd Sue Parfitt, a Christian Climate Action member, is also the subject of [this new film of her life and activism](#).



### Churches Count on Nature week: 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June

This June sees the return of [Churches Count on Nature](#), a week where churches are encouraged to undertake wildlife surveys of your churchyards which are then collated on the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\)](#), a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK. All churches and church schools are also invited to take part in a range of webinars on caring for creation. Registration will open from late March on the [Caring for Gods Acre](#) website.



## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

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### NEW Open Access to key environmental theology resources

Oxford University’s [Laudato Si’ Integral Ecology Collection](#) is now open to anyone to access. The resources could be used for sermons and talks, small group courses or personal study.



### [Latest IPCC report calls for greater urgency](#)

[The Sixth Assessment Report](#) on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability was recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and calls for greater urgency in tackling the climate crisis.

### [St Martin's Knowle's monthly eco articles, tips and intercessions](#)

Martin, the Eco Champion at **St Martin's Knowle**, creates monthly 'green theme' newsletter articles, eco tips and prayer points for intercessors at his church. He's shared these with this network, and if you'd like them please [email me](#) and I can send you over the zip folder of the latest 16 months' notes.

### [Could you use Draycot's Eco Church Plan template?](#)

In the last briefing, I shared the [Going for Gold tracker](#) to aid churches aiming for a Gold Eco Church award. This month, we owe a big thank you to **Draycot benefice** for sharing their [Eco Church Plan template](#) and ['easy tips' document](#) for other churches to benefit from. Download these to support your Eco Church journey.

### [Bybrook's Sustainability Calendar](#)

Churches in Bybrook benefice will explore a different sustainability topic each month through 2022. In March they're looking at Fairtrade and Fairness. You can find the [calendar here](#), and monthly sheets available to [download from their website](#). Feel free to adapt the resources for your locality.

### [Plenty! New small group course from Green Christian](#)

Imagine a society where every person can flourish and everyone has enough. Where the climate is stabilising and animals and plants have a home. This free 6-session course explores what role your church could play in creating this society. Download the materials [here](#).



### [Christian Aid Week 2022 focus on climate justice](#)

This year's Christian Aid week focuses on climate justice. Download the materials, including sermon notes, prayers, service outlines and children's materials, [here](#).



## [And finally...](#)

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### [A year's supply of Eco Tips for your church newsletter](#)

In case you missed it last time, here are 52 snappy 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.*