

Eco Champions Briefing: September 2021

This is a longer update than usual, as both the new term and the upcoming COP26 talks mean that there's a huge amount going on. Please do share these headlines with your church and/or deanery.

Thanks to all who've sent over events and news to share with the wider network. If you have anything you'd like to include in the next briefing, [please email me](#).

NEWS

30 Sept Deadline for Energy Footprint Tool

Churches have until next Thursday to enter energy data into the [Parish Returns system](#), for your church's – and the wider diocese's – carbon footprint to be calculated. Please dig out your church's 2020 energy bills and log on asap.



Climate Sunday: Church of England service

This month, thousands of churches around the country have held Climate Sunday services focusing on creation care and the climate emergency. You can view the CofE's service [here](#). If you haven't yet held a Climate Sunday service, [there's still time!](#) If you have, is it [logged as part of the national campaign?](#)



Hazelnut Community Farm selected for Green Church Showcase

The Bristol church is one of seven nationwide selected to be the subject of a short film highlighting church action for creation. This film, created following hundreds of entries to the Church Time's competition, will be launched at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow this November. Congratulations, Hazelnut!



New awards for Swindon & North Wiltshire churches

Congratulations to Christ Church Swindon and All Saints Christian Malford who've earned Bronze Eco Church awards this month, joining 23 award-winning churches across the Diocese. If your church gained an award recently, please let me know. You can find out more and register for the scheme [here](#).



EVENTS

St Giles' Living Churchyard Day – this Saturday from 10am

St Giles Stanton St Quinton, in North Wilts, are hosting a day of talks, presentations and interest about what can be done to help wildlife thrive in churchyards and cemeteries. [Find out more](#).

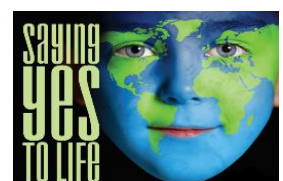
Great Big Green Week this week

The [Great Big Green Week](#), coordinated by the Climate Coalition, of which the Church of England is a member, is a national week of events celebrating action on climate change. [Look on the map](#) to see what's taking place near you, or search for 'church' to get a flavour of the faith-based activity.



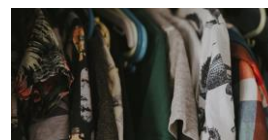
Saying Yes to Life Conference - 9 October

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](#).



Sustainable Fashion - What's Faith got to do with it?

Woodlands Church People & Planet group invite you to an online introduction to sustainable fashion and how our faith plays a part in our response. Monday 11th October, 19:30. [Book tickets here.](#)



Net Zero Carbon schools webinar, 14 October 4pm

This session is for anyone interested in decarbonising schools, and includes an exploration of net zero project case studies, a demonstration of the new energy footprint tool for schools, and how to host a 'mini COP'. [Register here.](#)



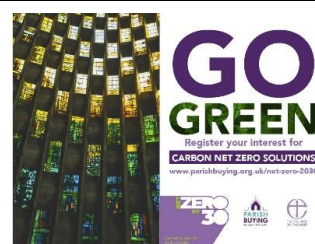
COP26 Coalition: Mass mobilisation on Sat 6 Nov

Groups around the world will be gathering to mark the climate summit. You can find local events [here](#), and there will be a gathering at [Bristol's College Green](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

Subsidised Church Energy Audits reopen: Save £200

An Energy Audit helps your church to see where you can make energy savings and reduce your carbon footprint. Dozens of churches across the diocese have already received these audits in the last round. There are 100 available now – so be quick! Qualifying churches will receive a subsidy of £200, making the price £245 + VAT. [Details here.](#)



Calling all bell ringers – ring out for the climate

Churches across the country are being asked to ring out their bells as a collective warning on 30 October, the eve of the COP26 talks. It will only have an impact if people know why the bells are ringing – so please use this press release to spread the message.



Green Your Money campaign

[Green Your Money](#) is a new campaign from the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) [Money Makes Change programme](#), helping Christians take action with their finances in response to the climate crisis. Choose a step to take via the [ECCR website](#).



“We’re in the same storm, but different boats”

Christian Aid's 'Rise to the Moment' campaign states that the climate crisis is a storm we all face, but we're not all in the same boat. For some, the storm is stronger and the waves are already breaking. Churches are invited to make paper prayer boats to engage your congregation around COP26, and then send them to the climate summit to form a prayer installation. [Take part here.](#)



Together for our Planet – New National Lottery grant

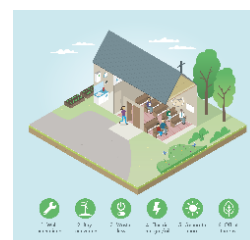
'Together for our Planet' launched on 1st September and closes 18th November. Grants are £1,000 to £10,000 for community led climate action projects. Further details [here](#).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Net Zero Carbon Church – new guidance launched

You can find the latest guidance on the interactive [net zero carbon landing page](#), or link direct:

- [heating guidance](#), including a heating checklist, options appraisal guidance, and case studies



- [renewables](#), including a new guide to solar PV & faculty
- [EV car charging](#)

I highly recommend exploring the [recordings of past webinars](#) on all these topics, and more – including two new sessions on fundraising for environmental projects.

Biblical reflections on creation care

Many thanks to David Gould, Eco Champion for Redland Parish Church in Bristol, for sharing these wonderful booklets he's produced that reflect on care for creation. The first two in the series can be [downloaded here](#), and the third booklet (on creation care and mission) will come later this year. You can also order hard copies from the website.



Green Christian: Why Faith Matters at COP26

Green Christian has produced a lively visual presentation [Why Faith Matters at COP26](#). It contains insights from leading Christian theologians and climate activists. You might find this a helpful resource for a Harvest or Climate Sunday service.

It's the Season of Creation until 5 October

[Find inspiration and resources](#) to celebrate this global season of prayer and action for our common home.



Two pre-written articles for your church magazines

A colleague in Leeds diocese has shared two magazine articles for anyone to steal:

[Code Red for Humanity](#): a reflection on the IPCC climate change report and three actions we can all take
[Good COP, bad COP](#): an explanation of what COP is and why the outcome of COP26 matters to all of us.

And finally...

Thank you to everyone who's shared news about your church's activities over the past month.

Unfortunately there's too much to share here, but look out for next month's Diocesan Newsletter which will be a Climate Action special. Do send any photos and stories you'd like included.

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