



15th February 2022

Dear Friends

I was encouraged to see recently that all 42 Dioceses have now registered with A Rocha's Eco Diocese scheme.

I am also aware that for a growing number of parishes and church expressions in Bristol Diocese, Eco Church is part and parcel of their life and ministry. It is so exciting when propelled by their faith, church communities embrace something like Eco Church, making new connections in the wider community and making faith relevant in the world.

For all of those involved in Eco Church, and those who support them by prayer, thank you for your faith, commitment and hard work!

As a Diocese, we have set ourselves a goal of achieving a Silver Eco Diocese award this year.

We are well on the way to achieving this but we still need more churches to register and receive awards. So, if you haven't registered, please do so.
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

If you have got a bronze award, see if you can gain a silver or a gold.

Or, if you have registered for Eco Church but not yet got an award, see if you can get yourself a bronze.

Completing the Eco Church questionnaire will tell what you've got to do but you may find you are closer to an award than you think.

We don't yet have a church that has achieved a gold award – though I hear we are not far off. I am excited to see which church will get there first!

If you have got questions about how to start or would like to learn from the experience of others, there are a number of online seminars coming up. The seminars have a different focus depending where you are on the Eco Church journey.

Getting started – Wednesday 16th Feb, 1-2pm and 7-8pm [Book here.](#)

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

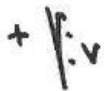
Going for Gold – Wednesday 9th March, 1-2pm and 7-8pm [Book here.](#)

Please sign up and help us achieve our goal of achieving Silver Eco Diocese this year!

If you have any questions, please speak to Clare Fussell:
clare.fussell@bristoldiocese.org

Below are profiles of just three churches that have achieved awards and how it has enriched their common life.

Yours in Christ



Rt Revd Vivienne Faull
Bishop of Bristol

St Andrew's Chippenham was recently awarded a Silver Eco Church award. The process of working towards this goal was a hugely fruitful one for the church, as it prompted them to form an Eco Group that met regularly to review progress and engage the whole church community in working together to become greener. They looked at their energy use, adjusted their heating controls, and are offsetting their gas consumption. They have had particular success integrating creation care into their worship and teaching, and the church now prays for environmental issues every week, hosts guest speakers and holds special Sundays related to the environment throughout the year. Dick Spencer, church Eco Champion, says: "A couple of years ago we wouldn't have qualified for any award at all, so you can see what progress we've made!"

St Martin's Knowle in South Bristol gained a Bronze award last October. They have an active focus on green issues, including posting regular 'eco tips' on their website and social media, holding services outdoors and during the festive season, doing away with a traditional tree and creating an eco Christmas tree from spare chairs!

The Draycot Benefice in Wiltshire has formed an Eco Group with representation across all 5 churches, and all have now received Eco Church awards – 4 Bronze and 2 Silver awards! The churches' activities have included nature walks, churchyard prayer trails, Wild Church services, installing bike racks, reviewing energy use, and developing churchyard management plans.