



Diocese of Bristol
TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.

St Peter Henleaze

Going for Gold

The Impact and Benefits

St Peter Henleaze's journey toward Eco Church Gold status had a significant impact on both the church community and the broader local area:

- **Increased Environmental Awareness:** The church's commitment to environmental justice and climate issues has raised awareness among the congregation and the local community.
- **Community Engagement:** The transformed land outside the church has not only improved the local environment by increasing green space but also fostered a sense of community, with people coming together to care for and enjoy the area.
- **Sustainable Practices Embedded in Church Life:** By integrating sustainable practices into various church activities, such as the toddler group and clothes swap events, St Peter Henleaze has normalised eco-friendly behaviour.
- **Inspiration for Other Churches:** The success of St Peter Henleaze has served as a model for other churches in the region to follow.
- **Educational Opportunities:** The church's efforts have provided educational benefits, particularly for young children in the toddler group.

Challenges

- **Sustaining Momentum:** consistent effort and leadership from the eco committee were needed to maintain the enthusiasm and commitment of the community, needed to achieve the Gold award.
- **External Engagement:** This is the area where St Peter's needed to improve the most to get to the gold award. For example, they had to cancel more than one event due to lack of take up and/or not being able to persuade high-profile speakers to take part.



"Achieving Eco Church Gold status has been a transformative journey for our entire community. It's not just about meeting criteria; it's about embedding environmental stewardship into the very fabric of our church life. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our congregation, from the youngest children to the oldest members, have been truly inspiring. We're proud to be setting a standard for others to follow."

Clare Fussell Eco Champion at St Peter Henleaze



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Background

St Peter Henleaze is a prominent parish church, established in 1926. It has a thriving multi-generational Christian church community, serving Henleaze, Bristol. The church has a commitment to environmental justice, climate issues and caring for God's creation. The Eco Church process was a good way to demonstrate this commitment.

Going for Gold

The Church Eco Committee completed the online application for Eco Church Gold status and was visited by an Eco Church auditor. The church was awarded the Gold, in September, 2023. The auditor was particularly impressed by several key initiatives including;

- **Clothes Swap Event:** The church organises clothes swap events, promoting sustainable fashion practices and reducing waste by encouraging the reuse of clothing.



Eco-Friendly Toddler Group: The church's toddler group incorporates environmentally friendly practices, such as the use of wooden toys, sustainable furniture, and reusable cups, instilling green values from an early age.

- **Regular Exhibitions:** The church hosts regular exhibitions that prominently feature environmental justice and climate change themes, raising awareness and encouraging action within the community.



- **Community Engagement with Church Grounds:** The church grounds have been transformed into a vibrant, green space, with local families and community members actively participating in its maintenance and care.

