

Diocese of Lichfield Overview on Eco Church, Summer 2025

The following biannual report gives an overview of the progress made this year so far on the number of eco churches in the diocese. The data has been taken from the recent A Rocha eco church national map as presented on their website and updated quarterly. The data was extracted at the end of June 2025.

There is still some way to go but the news is positive when comparing the data from last year. We had a positive response to a recent communication sent to Rural Deans. We also recently achieved another gold eco church with Oxon Parish Church in early June. This gives us two eco gold churches in the Diocese with Oxon being the 99th gold eco church in the UK. The percentages shown are based on 547 churches in the Diocese, as taken from the current database. The number also include our eco silver Cathedral and St Mary's House. We can say with certainty that over a third (33.5%) of our churches are registered with eco church, meaning 181 churches are on the A Rocha database, where 111 Churches are registered with A Rocha (20%) but do not have an award. Churches with awards total 69 (12.6%). There are 47 bronze churches (9%), 21 silver churches (4%), and 2 gold churches.

As highlighted in the previous report last November there are several unknown factors yet to be interrogated from the data, such as: how many of the unregistered churches will find it impossible to gain an award and therefore will not take up eco church? How many of the registered churches are about to apply for an award? How many churches with awards are about to progress to the next level? Other factors to consider are the new standards, and whether this will make it more difficult for churches to achieve and therefore will be a demotivating element.

Comparing the data to that of the previous year of 2024, and given we are only halfway through the year there is an improvement in the number of achievements, albeit slow, with registrations improving by 15. At the end of 2023 there were no gold churches, since then we have gained one each year.

	2023	2024 Nov	2025 June
Total eco church registrations	85	162	181
Registered only, no award	35	96	111
Bronze Church	36	46	47
Silver	14	19	21
Gold	0	1	2

We need to remember that the eco church award encompasses an assessment of the EFT for all buildings within the remit of that church i.e. vicarages and halls too, and the awards are based on the results of taking them all into consideration on the survey.

Finally, there are big challenges ahead to achieve the target of NZC by 2030. A Rocha UK's Eco Church and Diocese scheme is a great tool which enables local churches at every level of their climate justice journey to engage with environmental issues and is one vehicle to achieving NZC. Deanery have been offered advice and guidance and presentations have been made to several of these. Finances are an inhibiting factor in churches progressing, but grants are available, and this is mentioned in the presentations and communications sent out.

11	St John the Baptist Church, Kingstone
12	St Mary the Virgin Church, Uttoxeter
13	St Michael & All Angels Pelsall Parish Church
14	St Peter's Church and Community Centre, Hawksworth
15	St Peter's Church, Norbury
16	St Peter's Church, Telford
17	St Peter's, Alton EFT
18	St Philip and St James, Oswestry
19	St Thomas Church, Wednesfield
20	Lichfield Cathedral
21	St Mary's House

Bronze Churches

1	Aldridge Parish Church
2	All Saints Church, Burton upon Trent
3	All Saints Parish Church Streetly
4	Christ Church Tettenhall Wood
5	Christ Church, Bayston Hill
6	Christ Church, Burntwood
7	Christ Church, Knightley
8	Christ Church Tettenhall Wood
9	Christchurch, Upper Tean
10	Holy Trinity Churches, Shrewsbury
11	St Alkmunds Church, Whitchurch
12	St Andrew's Church, Aston
13	St Augustine's Church, Rugeley
14	St Bartholomew's Church, Penn
15	St Benedict Biscop Church, Wombourne, Wolverhampton
16	St Chad's, Lichfield
17	St Giles Church, Whittington
18	St Francis of Assisi Church, Meir Heath
19	St James, Hill Top
20	St John the Baptist Church, Ruyton
21	St John the Baptist, Church Lane, Mayfield
22	St John's Church, Walsall
23	St John's, Heath Hayes
24	St Lawrence Church, Gnosall
25	St Lawrence Church, Bramshall
26	St Lawrence Church, Darlaston
27	St Leonard's Church, Wigginton
28	St Luke's, Tittensor
29	St Margarets (Betley)
30	St Mark's Church, Shelfield & High Heath

31 St Mary's and All Saints' Church, Checkley
32 St Mary's Church, High Offley
33. St Mary's Church, Selattyn
34. St Mary's Church, Moreton
35. Mary the Virgin & St. Chad CE Church, Brewood
36. St Matthew's Church, Walsall
37. St Michael and All Angels Church, Adbaston
38. St Michael's Church, Lichfield
39. Nicholas Church, Codsall
40. St Peter's Church, Edgmond
41. St Peter's Church, Yoxall
42. St Peters, Little Aston
43. St Peters Church, Uttoxeter
44. St Stephen's Church, Willenhall
45. St Thomas and St Andrew's (Doxey Parish Church), Stafford
46. St. Matthew's, Donnington Wood
47. Tynings Lane Church

Actions

In an attempt to increase the number of churches achieving awards the DEO will be working closely with Rural Deans to hit targets.

An application for a bronze eco diocese award will be sent off within the next week. This is imminent to ensure we hit the CofE route map milestone of all Dioceses having an award by the end of the year.

Jan Firth (July 25)