

# Caring for Creation Newsletter February 2023

Thank you for all that you and your teams are doing as Eco Champions in Caring for Creation.

## Growing Number of Eco Churches

The number of Eco Churches across the diocese continues to grow. There are currently 91 of which 7 have Silver and 20 Bronze awards.



The Silver Eco churches are Holy Trinity, Kimberley, Holy Trinity, Southwell, St Mark, Mansfield, St Mary Magdalene, Newark, St Michael & All Angels, Bramcote, St Patrick, Nuthall, St Wilfrid, Calverton.

Those churches who have not yet started out on their eco journey are encouraged to start a discussion and register with A Rocha.

## Bronze to Silver and Eco Church Registration

Caring for Creation and Eco Church is very much of a journey rather than a particular destination.

Every church is encouraged to progress on their journey;

- Those churches that have already made significant progress and achieved a Bronze award are encouraged to continue on to Silver. As well as Caring for Creation this will help the diocese to progress to becoming a Silver Eco Diocese.
- Those churches that have not yet registered as Eco Churches with ARocha are encouraged to register here; [ARocha Eco Church Registration](#)
- Many of the Silver Eco Churches are working hard to become Gold Eco Churches.



## Eco Church Webinars

There is a recording of [Introduction to Eco Church](#) on the Learning Hub. Led by Rich Bull of Nottingham Trent University and St Pauls' Daybrook. Rich has a professional interest in energy and sustainability in the built environment. It includes case studies of how local churches have approached Caring for Creation and become Eco Churches.

(If you do not already have a sign on to the Southwell and Nottingham Learning Hub you will need to register. This is quick and free and will also provide you with a wealth of training materials and courses)

ARocha have many useful resources. This is a practical webinar about

[Working Towards an Award and Maintaining Momentum](#)

### Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund

For the first time churches were able to apply for grants of up to £250 to develop their responses to the challenges of climate change and environmental injustices.

In December 12 grants were made to churches, All Saints Barnby in the Willows, St Cyprian Sneinton, St Leo's Basford, St Mary's East Leake, St Mary's Edwinstowe, St Paul's Daybrook, St Paul's Wilford Hill, St Peter's Ravenhead, St Peter's and All Saints, Nottingham, St Stephens and St Mathias, Sneinton, St Wilfrid, Calverton and Wiverton in the Vale. One church planned to create a Physick Garden in the church yard with herbs, scented plants and flowers and another to reduce landfill waste by sharing used school uniforms, clothing & essential school items amongst the parish and local communities.



A **new** round of funding from the Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund is taking place with a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Parishes can apply for a one-off grant up to £250 on a match funded basis. Note that churches should be registered as Eco churches to receive funding.

Details and form available shortly on the website;

[CARING FOR CREATION FUND](#)

### Church of England National Carbon Emissions Report 2021

Carbon emissions reduce as Church of England makes progress towards 2030 target.

The Church of England has seen a gradual but steady reduction in carbon in 2021, according to the latest data from its national Energy Footprint Tool (EFT). Meanwhile, more than 400 churches across England are now reporting 'net zero' carbon emissions, an increase of 157 on the previous year, as part of the most comprehensive data collection to date.

The full report is available here;

[Carbon Emissions Report 2021](#)

## Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)



### **Calculate your carbon footprint.**

**Churches and church halls** use the **Energy Footprint Tool**  
Access via [parishreturns.churchofengland.org/](http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/)

**Schools, cathedrals, TEs and offices** use the **Energy Toolkit**  
Access via [eft.parishreturns.info/](http://eft.parishreturns.info/)

**Open 1 Jan - 31 Jul 2023 (for 2022 bills)**

The Energy Footprint Tool allows all churches around the country to enter their utility bills and find out their "carbon footprint". It is a key tool for the Church of England, the diocese and churches to be able to manage their carbon footprint. This year it is open for data entry from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> July for entry of energy data from 2022.

In 2022 53% of churches in Southwell & Nottingham entered their energy data. One deanery, Newark & Southwell achieved 78%.

Lord Kelvin, Victorian physicist and founder of thermodynamics said, "If you don't measure it, you cannot improve it".

Let's do even better this year and see how close to 100% we can get for our energy data entry.

[Central Church of England EFT Webpages](#)

### Top 20% of Energy Consuming Churches

"The Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030" provides detailed plans to help dioceses and churches in progressing towards net zero carbon by 2030.

One of the actions in the Routemap is that over the duration of a Quinquennium and from 2022, the top 20% of energy-consuming churches develop net zero carbon action plans for completion by no later than 2027.

From the EFT Report we are currently identifying our top 20% of energy using churches. These will mostly be larger buildings with higher average weekly attendance and in use during the week as well as at week-ends.

### Eco Training and Courses

The central Church of England have developed some excellent free webinars covering many aspects of Caring for Creation and getting to Net Carbon Zero. These include;

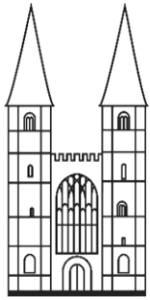
- Measuring your church's carbon footprint with the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)
- Creating a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan
- Becoming a Net Zero Carbon Church
- Church Solar Panels
- Church Heating

Places on these live webinars can be booked directly or recordings watched online following the link below ;

[Webinars on getting to net zero carbon](#)

### Diocesan Website

There is a wealth of information about [Caring for Creation](#) on our Diocesan website. Do regularly look at it for updates.



# Southwell Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Dear Eco-Champion! Southwell Minster is planning to hold a

## Celebrating Fairtrade for Climate Justice Service

We are contacting you as the Eco-Church representative of your Parish, and following up the previous invitation sent to you just before Christmas ( on 11<sup>th</sup> December). As a holder of an A Rocha EcoChurch award, you will also be registered as a Fairtrade Church and so we would love you and others from your Church to join us for the special Service on Saturday morning, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 11a.m. in Southwell Minster, to celebrate and give thanks for Fairtrade and all those striving to achieve Climate Justice.

We would like to showcase what Parishes have been doing to support Fairtrade for Climate Justice during 2022 and there will also be stalls displaying Fairtrade products. There will be refreshments for all attending. We would very much like you and fellow members of your congregation to join us for that special occasion. All worshippers are most welcome, so if you personally cannot attend, would you kindly pass this on to others?

It would be very helpful to have a rough idea of numbers for planning purposes at this point, so please would you make a note of the date in your diary and reply by Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 to Southwell Minster Justice Action Fairtrade Group, using the email address below and Fairtrade Fortnight Service 2023 in the Subject line.

If you have already replied – thank you and please disregard this letter!

Yours sincerely

Liz Rose, Chair

Southwell Minster Justice Action Fairtrade Group.

[alice.snowden@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:alice.snowden@southwellminster.org.uk)

Southwell Minster, Church Street, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0HD

# Environment bulletin



From the Church of England Environment Programme



*Welcome to the Christmas Environmental Bulletin,*  
We have approached the end of the year with two big international conferences about the environment: COP27 on climate change in Egypt in November, and COP15 on biodiversity in Canada in December. A break-through agreement on Loss and Damage was reached at COP27, but much more willpower needs to be found to reduce emissions. COP15 is ahead of us as I write, and organisers and campaigners are hoping for their 'Paris moment' with an international agreement to halt the decline of species.

In Advent, we await the coming kingdom, knowing we have already been given the gift of life in Jesus Christ. It is a time for looking back in repentance so as to turn again to Jesus' ways, as well as a time to have an eye on the future for people and planet, whilst also rejoicing in the times when we see the kingdom breaking through.

*Every blessing., +Graham*

***The Rt Revd Graham Usher, The Bishop of  
Norwich, Chair of the national Environmental  
Working Group***