

Caring for Creation Newsletter October 2022

Introduction

First of all, can I introduce myself for those who don't know me. I am Robert Cleave and earlier this year I took on the role of Diocesan Environment Officer as a volunteer. I work as part of the Partnership and Missions Team, headed up by Revd David McCoulough.

Before retirement, I worked as an IT manager for Boots and was Lay Chair of Nottingham South Deanery for 19 years.

I took off on a retirement adventure of cycling solo round the world, 29 countries, 18,500 miles in 18 months returning just before the pandemic struck.

I am a member of Bishop's Council.

I am getting around the deaneries and so far have visited Gedling, Mansfield, West Bingham (Chapter) and Nottingham South. The rest are booked for the autumn.

I have been impressed by the Eco work going on in so many churches and look forward to meeting those I have not met so far and working with you all in Caring for Creation.

I aim to produce a newsletter covering the latest Eco news in the diocese and useful information once a quarter. Do get in touch, deo@southwell.anglican.org, and let me know what you would find useful and of interest. Especially if you have a story for sharing of what you have been doing Caring for Creation in your parish.

Robert Cleave Diocesan Environment Officer (DEO)

Southwell and Nottingham Becomes a Bronze Eco Diocese

We are delighted, as we mark the Season of Creation, to be able to announce that the diocese has achieved Bronze Eco Diocese status from A Rocha, the Christian environmental charity.

The following initiatives all helped us to gain this award;

- Over 10% of our churches registered as Eco churches with over 5% achieving Bronze or Silver status.
- A Caring for Creation Steering Group chaired by +Paul
- A Diocesan Environment Policy
- Jubilee House having a Bronze award (now Silver)
- Ethically managed investments
- Sharing and communicating our success stories
- Included Caring for Creation training in clergy and lay training
- Worked with other groups in furthering environmental awareness and initiatives



This is something that a lot of people, across the diocese, have contributed to. Especially parish Eco Champions. So thank you, all. It is something of which we should be justifiably proud

Eco Church Webinar

This popular webinar will be taking place again on Saturday 8th October 11am-12noon. It includes case studies of how local churches have approached Caring for Creation and become Eco Churches. 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.

Book here to receive a Zoom invitation to the event;

<https://learning.southwell.anglican.org/browse/ecochurch/>

(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)

Growing Number of Eco Churches

The number of Eco Churches across the diocese continues to grow. There are currently 73 of which 7 have Silver and 17 Bronze awards.

Jubilee House Moves from Bronze to Silver

As a result of installing some bird boxes, feeding stations and bug hotels in the grounds Jubilee House, the diocesan office has progressed from Bronze to Silver. Well done Jubilee House!

Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund

A new initiative launched at the October Diocesan Synod is a Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund. Parishes can apply for a one-off grant up to £250 on a match funded basis. Details and form on the website shortly.

Diocesan Environment (Caring for Creation) Policy

The May Diocesan Synod approved our updated [Diocesan Environment \(Caring for Creation\) Policy](#). This policy will affect multiple aspects of mission and ministry throughout the diocese including Churches (including churchyards) , church Schools (which generate over half of diocesan carbon!), Jubilee House, the diocesan office, land management (glebe) and Investments.

General Synod Routemap to Carbon Neutrality

In February 2020, just before the pandemic struck the General Synod of the Church of England, the church's parliament, passed a motion to be carbon neutral by 2030.

In July of this year, General Synod approved a detailed Roadmap of how we as a church can deliver this target.

The detailed Routemap can be found here; [Net zero carbon routemap | The Church of England](#)

Energy

We are all aware of the dramatic rise in energy costs as a result of Putin's invasion of Ukraine and the impact on church finances.

The Archdeacons have recently sent a communication to churches;

"Dear Clergy, Churchwardens and PCC Secretaries (cc Deanery Administrators)

We thought it useful to share with you the energy efficiency measures and guidance on the Church of England website: [Energy efficiency measures | The Church of England](#)

We particularly draw your attention to: "ENERGY: ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL & EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS" which is available here: [ENERGY: \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

Some of this guidance may be obvious but a reminder that most churches should be paying VAT at just 5%, and NO Climate Change Levy (CCL), may be useful.

We hope this email contains useful guidance for you (it is not meant to be a burden!).

Best wishes

Archdeacon Phil & Archdeacon Tors"

Eco Training and Courses

The central Church of England have developed some excellent free webinars covering aspects of Caring for Creation. These include;

- The Season of Creation
- Net Zero Carbon
- Climate Resilience
- How Parish Buying can support parishes

Places on these webinars can be booked directly online following the links below;

- Briefings on the national [Routemap to Net Zero Carbon](#), passed by General Synod last month.
- How [Parish Buying](#) can support parishes towards Net Zero Carbon,
- A range of [Electric Heating](#) options suitable for churches,
- A series of webinars for the [Season of Creation](#), linking environment with theology and worship,
- How to make our church buildings and surrounding communities more [climate resilient](#).

Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

Thank you to everyone who submitted data for the energy toolkit. The toolkits are now closed for this year. 53% of churches entered their data this year which is the highest percentage so far. The data is currently being analysed by the central Church of England Environment Group. The results should be available in the next couple of months.



The toolkits will be ready on January 1st 2023, next year, for entry of data, at the same time as the portal for parish financial returns opens.

Diocesan Website

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

[Policy, Guidance and Documents.](#)

Environment bulletin



From the Church of England Environment Programme



Welcome to the autumn Environmental Bulletin,
Over the summer, I was privileged to spend time with my colleagues from across the Anglican Communion at the Lambeth Conference. Many topics were covered, and the day in London on the Environment was a truly uplifting one, marked by a common sense of purpose that we need to work together to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. I was deeply moved listening to bishops from small island states talking about their countries disappearing under the rising sea, and the devastating impacts on their communities.

This newsletter arrives as churches and church schools worldwide are marking the Season of Creation. I hope that you will be inspired to get involved, to celebrate the gift of creation and to recommit yourself to doing whatever you can to restore what has been lost.

Every blessing.

+Graham

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