

# Caring for Creation Newsletter May 2023

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

## From Bronze to Silver Eco Church Webinar - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 11:00am – 12:30pm

We are privileged to be having a webinar run specially for us by **ARocha** itself. This will focus on how churches can progress from Bronze to Silver and even beyond to Gold.

Has your church attained a Bronze eco award and is wondering how it can progress to Silver? Do you need some fresh ideas, insight and motivation? Then this webinar is for you.

There will be an opportunity to question ARocha directly.

Also includes speakers with case studies from churches who have reached Silver and Gold status.

Book here to receive a Zoom invitation to the event;



## [From Bronze to Silver Eco Church Webinar](#)

(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)

The session will be recorded and be available on the Learning Hub shortly afterwards for people unable to make the live event.

## Number of Eco Churches Continues to Grow

The number of Eco Churches across the diocese continues to grow. There are currently 96 of which 8 have Silver and 31 Bronze awards.



In the last couple of months we have had a significant rise in the number of churches receiving their Bronze awards. This is great news,

Could you encourage neighbouring churches who have not yet engaged with Caring for Creation to register with ARocha and start their eco journey?

<b>Silver Eco Churches</b>	<b>Deanery</b>
St Wilfrid, Calverton	Gedling
St Mark, Mansfield	Mansfield
Jubilee House	
Holy Trinity, Southwell	Newark & Southwell
St Mary Magdalene, Newark	Newark & Southwell
St Peters, Ravenshead	Newstead
Holy Trinity, Kimberley	Nottingham North
St Patrick, Nuthall	Nottingham North
St Michael & All Angels, Bramcote	Nottingham South

<b>Bronze Eco Churches</b>	<b>Deanery</b>
Christ Church, Worksop	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
Priory Church of Our Lady & St Cuthbert, Worksop	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St John's, Worksop	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Paul, Worksop	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Peter, Hayton	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Mary, Car Colston	East Bingham
Holy Trinity, Tythby	East Bingham
All Saints, Granby	East Bingham
St Andrews, Langar	East Bingham
St Giles, Cropwell Bishop	East Bingham
St Michael & All Angels Elton	East Bingham
St John the Divine, Colston Basset	East Bingham
St Mary, Radcliffe-on-Trent	East Bingham
St Wilfrid, Screveton	East Bingham
St James, Nottingham	Gedling
St Jude, Mapperley	Gedling
St Mark, Woodthorpe	Gedling
St Mary, Lowdham	Gedling
St Pauls, Daybrook	Gedling
St Swithun, Woodborough	Gedling
St Peter & St Paul, Warsop	Mansfield
All Saints, Barnby in the Willows	Newark & Southwell
Southwell Minster	Newark & Southwell
St Leonard, Newark	Newark & Southwell
St Andrew, Sutton in Ashfield (Skegby)	Newstead
St John, Bilborough	Nottingham North
Christ Church, Chilwell	Nottingham South
St Mary, Attenborough	Nottingham South
St Peter, Nottingham	Nottingham South
St Peter, Toton	Nottingham South
St Paul, Wilford Hill	West Bingham

## 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](#)

### Reducing your Church's Carbon Footprint

The Church of England has committed to becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Has your church started to reduce its' carbon footprint?

Before we get into the "heavy lifting" of solar panels and heat-pumps, significant reductions can frequently be made by simple, common sense improvements. This useful booklet from the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division provides straightforward, low cost advice;

[Practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money](#)

## Upcoming Key Dates

3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 **Churches Count on Nature** is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales. During a week in June, it brings local people together to discover the wildlife in their local church yard, recording the species they find, combining their results with others which will be collated on a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.



A good way to get people out into the churchyard and engage with the local community.

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 **World Environment Day** is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 **Environment Sunday** is on the Sunday nearest to World Environment Day. Therefore this year it is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

10<sup>th</sup> June – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 **Great Big Green Week** encourages communities to take action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and get others to get involved too.



1st Sept – 4th Oct Harvest, Creationtide or the **Season of Creation** is the period in the annual church calendar dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

30<sup>th</sup> Nov – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (**UNFCCC COP 28**), UAE, Dubai.

## Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund

Grants of up to £250 have been made in the 2023 round of funding for churches to develop their responses to the challenges of climate change and environmental injustices.

10 grants were made to, All Saints, Annesley, St Aidan's Church, Basford, St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey, Holy Trinity, Everton, Holy Trinity and The Priory, Lenton, St Mary's, Car Colston, St Marys, Radcliffe on Trent, St Michael and All Angels, Bramcote, and Ollerton with Boughton. Many churches are working hard at improving the biodiversity in their churchyards, increasing community access and reducing their carbon footprints. More ambitious schemes involve creating a community orchard and sensory gardens.



## Woodland Trust

The [Free Trees for Schools and Communities](#) scheme supports Eco-Churches, and indeed any school or community space the church is engaged with. This is a national scheme with no restrictions on the number of times you can apply!

Trinity Nottingham's community allotment plot has already benefitted from this scheme as has St Michael's, Bramcote who planted trees in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II's reign.



## Eco Gardener's Question Time Saturday 24th June, 10.30am – 12 noon

Come and learn about Caring for Creation in churchyards with Southwell Minster's Head Gardener, Claire Connely.

The morning will involve;

- a guided tour of the Minster gardens
- an Eco Question Time to benefit from Claire's knowledge and experience and pick up helpful hints and tips for our parish churchyards
- a Seed Swap. Bring along any surplus seeds that you have to exchange with and share with other Eco Champions



Book here; [Eco Gardener's Question Time](#)

The Palace Gardens are a fantastic place to explore and discover our history through living plants. A beautiful landscape set amongst the magnificent ruins of The Archbishop's Palace is packed with shrubs, flowering plants, mature trees and lawns. Garden sculptures and literature provide links to the famous 'Leaves of Southwell' – the 13th century carved stone leaves in the Minster's Chapter House. The gardens encourage wildlife through the inclusion of bird boxes, insect hotels and log piles, as well as a several areas of wildflower, ensuring that our beautiful gardens are welcome to humans and wildlife alike.

## 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.



Or contact Robert Cleave, DEO, at [robert.cleave@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:robert.cleave@southwell.anglican.org)

# Environment bulletin

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

From the Church of England Environment Programme



*Welcome to the Spring Environmental Bulletin,*

I've been watching the BBC Wild Isles series, narrated by David Attenborough, with its superb photography and storytelling. It should also be a wake up call about the nature depletion in these isles. There are terrifying statistics about the loss - 97% of meadows lost during my life-time struck me in particular. I learnt the word 'puffling' and we certainly affirmed that gulls are the bullies of the seabird playground, as well as trying to nick chips at the seaside.

If the series has inspired you, I hope you find this Bulletin full of resources to take action for nature. You and your church or school can take part in Churches Count on Nature, or get involved in the Eco Church scheme and its section on taking care of church land. There's also ideas from other campaigns, such as Save Our Wild Isles, and the Great Big Green Week. Plus a round-up of other things that are going on.

Our commitment to care for God's creation continues, to cherish its wonder, its diversity, its beauty and to care for everyone and everything that lives within it.

*Every blessing., +Graham*

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