

CARING FOR CREATION

with Compassion, Confidence and Courage



WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of the Caring for Creation newsletter. Thank you for all that you and your teams are doing as Eco Champions in Caring for Creation.

IN THIS ISSUE:

ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL - PROGRESS AT DECARBONISED
DEMONSTRATOR CHURCHES - NATIONAL FUNDING UPDATE -
NATIONAL NET ZERO / ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE
- NEW ECO CHURCH AWARDS - CARING FOR CREATION
ONLINE COURSES - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - AND MORE!





ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL (EFT)

The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open for all churches to enter their fuel and power use from 2025. Please enter your data by 30th May 2026.

The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects. This work is an essential part of Caring for God's Creation, by helping us all to combat global heating and climate change.

EFT is part of the Parish Returns system, that can be found [here](#).

PROGRESS AT DECARBONISED DEMONSTRATOR CHURCHES

Work is moving forward at our first Decarbonised Demonstrator Church, St Cyprian's in Nottingham. Our M&E consultants are submitting their report and recommendations for new heating solutions in mid April and the church architect will shortly be surveying the roof to assess its suitability for a solar PV array. Exciting steps toward a more sustainable future!

A second Demonstrator Church, St John's Mansfield, has just been approved.

NATIONAL FUNDING UPDATE

The next round of national grants has been slightly delayed due to the rollout of a new Grants Management System, which will bring together all funding streams (not just NZC funding). We expect the system to open for applications in early May.

This upcoming round will include:

- **NZC “Quick Wins” grants** (up to £10,000)
- **New Decarbonising Churches Grants** for larger phased projects
- **Give to Go Green**, a match-funding option. Enabling your church to double the money raised for projects cutting your carbon footprint (up to £10,000 of matched funding)

Full details on eligibility and application processes will be sent directly to parishes as soon as we have them.

Important: Churches **must** have completed the *Energy Footprint Tool* to apply for any of these grants. If you haven't completed your EFT yet, please do so as soon as possible.

NATIONAL NET ZERO / ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

Last month, the diocesan team—Sally, Robert, and Stephen—attended the annual National Net Zero Carbon/Environment Conference. It was an inspiring opportunity to learn from experts and colleagues across the country, and the insights gained will directly strengthen the support we offer to our parishes.

A highlight of the conference was a video from Archbishop Sarah Mullally, speaking on the eve of her Installation at Canterbury Cathedral.

She passes on her thanks to all those working Caring For Creation: *“Your leadership on environment and net zero carbon is a vital part of the Church's witness today. In caring for God's creation, you are helping the church live out its faith in practical, hopeful, and often challenging ways, offering a vision of responsibility and hope for the future.”*



Archbishop Sarah Mullally



DEANERY ECO SOCIALS - COMING SOON!

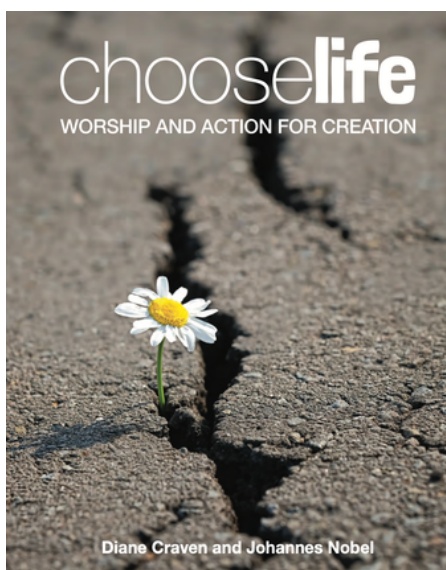


We're excited to introduce Deanery Eco Socials—a chance for eco champions to gather every few months with others in their deanery to share ideas, inspiration, and encouragement in caring for creation. These informal gatherings will, of course, include cake! If you'd like to get involved, please email Sally at sally.dunleavy@southwell.anglican.org

NZC SUPPORT FOR PARISHES

Sally is continuing to visit churches across the diocese to discuss heating queries and has been pleased to provide several energy audits to help inform future decarbonisation plans. If your church would like support or has questions, please get in touch: sally.dunleavy@southwell.anglican.org

CHOOSE LIFE - Worship and Action for Creation



The Diocese of York has produced this very useful booklet. A wealth of resources for use throughout the year.

You can download [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Domestic transport was the largest emitting sector in 2024, responsible for 30% of all emissions.



(UK Government Department of Energy analysis 2024)

The Eco Church categories of Worship & Teaching and Lifestyle are helping to reduce such emissions from our congregation's domestic travel.

ASK ROBERT

Have any questions on Eco Church? How to get started, how to reach the next level or to share and pass on some insights, join Robert online at **10.00 am Saturday 16th May**.

[Join meeting](#)



NEW ECO CHURCH AWARDS

Congratulations to the following churches who have received an Eco Church award since the last Newsletter!

Silver Eco Churches	Deanery
St Cyprian's, Sneinton	Nottingham South
St Peter's, Awsworth	Nottingham North

Bronze Eco Churches	Deanery
All Saints, Annesley	Newstead
St George's in the Meadows, Nottingham	Nottingham South
St Helen's, Trowell	Nottingham North
St James, Normanton on Soar	West Bingham

NEW ECO CHURCH AWARDS



Bronze Eco Churches	Deanery
St Martins of Tours, Bole	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Mary Magdalene, Sutton-in-Ashfield	Nottingham South

We now have 140 Eco Churches, 57 Bronze, 32 Silver and 1 Gold.

SAVE THE DATE Caring for Creation Celebration Service

12th September 2026 | Southwell Minster | 11am

A special service of celebration, thanksgiving and encouragement for all Eco Churches and those working on Net Zero Carbon across the diocese. All are welcome.



Guest Preacher

Canon Dr Ruth Valerio
Environmentalism & Theologian



CLIMATE AMBASSADOR RECRUITMENT

The Climate Ambassadors scheme, run by the Department of Education, connects Eco Champions with schools and colleges to raise awareness and help them take practical action on climate change.

Whether you are a parish Eco Champion, youth worker or have existing connections with education settings, this is a great opportunity, open to all, to make links with and support your local schools to care for the planet. Haven't worked in an education setting (early years, school or college) before? Not to worry, all volunteers will receive training on climate action plans and advice on applying their knowledge and skills in an education setting.

Why become a Climate Ambassador?

- Tackle real-world sustainability and climate challenges.
- Inspire meaningful change in your community.
- Develop your own your own skills and knowledge.
- Share your passion to inspire the next generation.



**CLIMATE
AMBASSADORS**

In association with EAUC, STEM Learning
and the University of Reading

Funded by



Department
for Education

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR RECRUITMENT

Here's what our Ambassadors have to say:

"Working with the Climate Ambassadors Scheme has given us the opportunity to connect with so many diverse and inspiring schools. Collaboration is key to addressing the climate crisis, and initiatives like Climate Ambassadors allow us to come together to support schools in deepening their understanding and taking meaningful action on environmental education and climate goals." – Climate Ambassador, East Midlands

"I have been working with the Year 5 pupils at a local primary school to imagine a greener future which has been both inspiring and insightful. Their creativity and enthusiasm in our imagination workshop is shaping the foundation of the school's climate action plan, and I'm excited to continue working alongside them to creating real, lasting change!"
Climate Ambassador, East Midlands

Get involved!

We ask that Climate Ambassadors volunteer a minimum of a 7-8 hours of time per year. All Climate Ambassadors will complete a DBS check and training on climate action plans. If you are interested or want to find out more, please complete the [expression of interest form](#), or email the East Midlands Regional Hub directly via ca-eastmids@nottingham.ac.uk.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

CARING FOR CREATION ONLINE COURSES

Caring for Creation courses are available on our Learning Hub. You don't have to reinvent the wheel, others have prepared a path for you to follow and learn from.

For everyone who would like to reflect on a Christian response to environmental challenges and embed "Creation-Care" in their life of faith. A 2-hour online, self-paced course and can be completed individually or as a group.

Book here: [Caring For Creation.](#)

Helping your church progress to the next award level.
1 hour.

Book here: [From Bronze to Silver](#)

Getting started with Eco Church. 1 hour.

Book here: [Introduction to Eco Church](#)

Book here: [Carbon Confidence in Half an Hour](#)

DIOCESAN WEBSITE

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

UPCOMING KEY DATES

10th – 16th May 2026

[Christian Aid Week](#)

5th June 2026

[World Environment Day](#)

6th - 14th June 2026

[Great Big Green Week](#)

4th - 10th July 2026

[Net Zero Week](#)

1st September 2026

[Ecumenical Feast of God the Creator](#)

21st September - 4th October 2026

[Fairtrade Fortnight](#)

1st - 4th October 2026

[Creationtide](#)

22nd – 30th Nov 2026

[National Tree Week](#)

9th - 20th November 2026

[UN Climate Change Conference, COP31 Antalya, Turkey](#)