

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

This newsletter provides you with helpful information and updates, including new tools for your church, details for small grants fund, key dates for your diary, and much more.

Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) Open

The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open for all churches to enter their fuel and power use from 2023. 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: [EFT](#)

Guidance and instructions on how to enter data can be found on the diocesan website at [Energy Footprint Tool Instructions](#)

Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund

A **new** round of funding from the Caring for Creation Small Grants Fund is taking place with a deadline of 30th April 2024. 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. Churches that are just starting out on their eco journey or striving to reach the next ARocha award level are particularly encouraged to apply.



Details and form available on the website; [CARING FOR CREATION FUND](#)

Net Zero Carbon - Top 20% of Energy Consuming Churches

Well over half of diocesan church emissions are produced by the top 20% of carbon emitters. One of the first actions in the Diocesan Action Plan is to identify and focus on this group of churches.

From the EFT Report we have identified our top 20% of energy using churches. As would be expected, these are mostly larger buildings with higher attendance and in use during the week as well as at week-ends. These are currently being individually notified.

Now 114 Eco Churches

The number of Eco Churches across the diocese continues to grow. There are currently 114 of which 15 have Silver and 44 Bronze awards. Congratulations to the following churches who have received an Eco Church award since the last Newsletter.



Silver Eco Churches	Deanery
St James' Church, Nottingham	Gedling
St John the Baptist Church, Clarbrough and Welham	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Mary, Edwinstowe	Mansfield

Bronze Eco Churches	Deanery
St Peter's Church, East Bridgford	East Bingham

Silver Eco Diocese

Currently Southwell and Nottingham is a Bronze Eco Diocese. We achieved this award in June 2022 and are working hard to become a Silver Eco Diocese.

To become a Silver Eco Diocese we need 2 more churches to register with ARocha, 11 more Silver and 17 more Bronze churches.

Can your church progress to the next level?

Can you encourage neighbouring churches to register with ARocha and make a start on their eco journey, following your lead?

Let's encourage one another in Caring for God's Creation.

New Caring for Creation Bronze Course

A new Caring for Creation Course is available on our Learning Hub. It's for everyone who would like to reflect on a Christian response to environmental challenges and embed "Creation-Care" in their life of faith. It is a 2-hour online, self-paced course and can be completed individually or as a group [Find out more.](#)



National Engagement

Eco Church encourages us to engage with local and national leaders on Caring for Creation issues.

Last month at St Michael's, Bramcote we had a surprise visit from Rishi Sunak, our Prime Minister.

I managed to get a one to one with him for one minute. Fortunately I had my elevator speech ready and was able to;

- Tell him that the Church of England has committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2030
- Say that St Michael's is an Eco Church and was able to show him our Silver Eco Church plaque
- Encourage him to prioritise the environmental agenda both in government and in the next Conservative Party manifesto



We often think that what we as individuals say won't matter but I'm sure that there is a cumulative impact to such contributions. I felt that I had been presented with an unexpected golden opportunity and was pleased that I had grasped it.

Upcoming Key Dates

8th – 16th June 2024 [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.

5th June 2024 [World Environment Day](#) is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

2nd June 2024 **Environment Sunday** is on the Sunday nearest to World Environment Day. Therefore this year it is on Sunday 2nd June.

8th June – 16th June 2024 [Great Big Green Week](#) encourages communities to take action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and get others to be involved too.

Environment bulletin



From the Church of England Environment Programme

A new-look Church of England Environment Bulletin is out - it's packed full of the latest news from around the country, celebrating churches and schools making a difference in their communities through eco projects.

Read the latest [Environment Bulletin](#).

Sign up here for the monthly newsletter:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/sign-our-environment-newsletter>

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

