

# Eco Church

## How to make your Church more eco-friendly

Speakers:

**Penny Evans** - Chair, Eco Church Planning Group  
Gold Award Eco Church, St. Mary's Church, Ticehurst

**Karen Park** - Eco Church Champion  
Silver Award Eco Church, St. Mark's Church, Holbrook



# Introduction





The time we are in  
IPCC Report: Climate Change



Will Swanson/Tearfund



# Caring for God's world and the Common Good



Climate crisis inflicting huge 'hidden costs' on mental health

"without urgent action the planetary crisis will impact on all aspects of health for generations to come"

Guardian 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021





Finding Common  
Ground:

‘our common home’

‘He saw all  
that He had  
made and it  
was **very  
good**’

# Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Target

- General Synod agreed ambitious 2030 net zero carbon target
- Recognition that climate change is happening and is one of the most urgent issues of our time
- Recognition that this is a social justice issue affecting the poorest soonest and most severely
- Clear statement of intent across the Church and to wider society





# A Rocha UK – a Christian Charity



- Protecting nature caring for God's earth
- Equipping Christians and UK churches to care for the environment
- Supporting Christian environmental leaders
- Partners in Action support network for Christian land managers
- A Rocha UK Nature Reserves
- Wild Christian scheme for families and individuals





Protecting Nature  
Caring For God's Earth



[arochoa.org.uk](http://arochoa.org.uk)

# Join us to enjoy, nurture and defend nature





# Eco Church: an A Rocha UK project

- A learning community of churches open to all denominations
- Free online Eco Survey records what already doing to care for God's earth
- Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Church awards

Free resources for informed decisions on further steps in 5 key areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community & global engagement
- Lifestyle

[ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)



# Denomination Awards

Eco Diocese, Eco Circuit, Eco District and Eco Synod

- **Eco Diocese** is an initiative to encourage diocesan-level engagement with Eco Church and promote local church participation in the scheme.
- All 42 Church of England dioceses have registered intent to become Eco Dioceses as part of their commitment to reaching carbon net zero by 2030.
- 14 are already Bronze Eco Diocese.

[ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/eco-diocese](https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/eco-diocese)



# Eco Church Survey

Find someone to champion Eco Church, watch sign up video and register:

Contact name, email and password

Church name, address and denomination

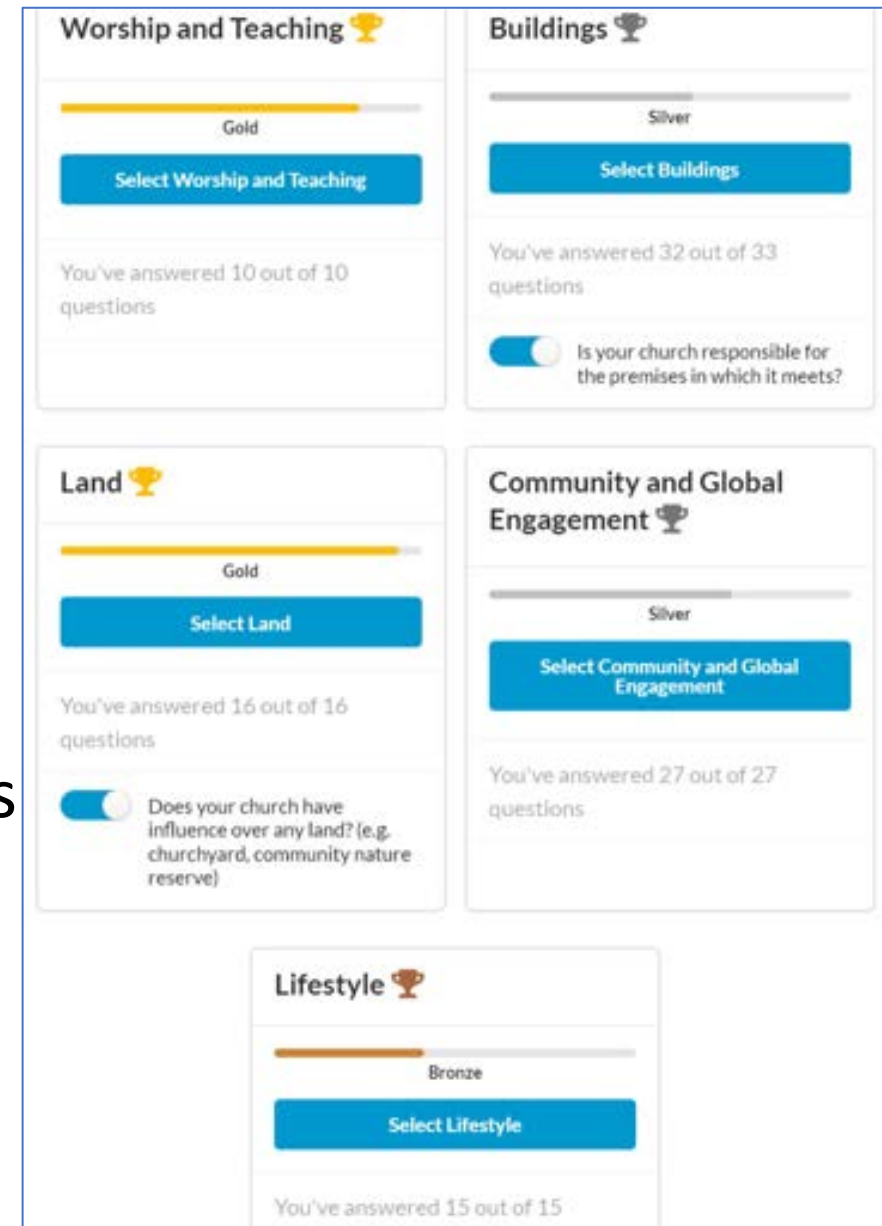
Number of regular worshippers, date church built and if listed building

Start a survey, update and complete any time

- Additional information via the 'More' button in each section
- Automatically saved with every entry, cannot email or download it
- FAQs and contact form for help
- Inform your congregation and recruit an Eco Team
- Link with other churches and organisations
- Your church might already qualify for an award!

# Eco Church Award Points

- Lines change as points accumulate, reflecting the award level achieved
- Churches must reach the required standard in each area that applies
- Start new test surveys eg 'Going for Bronze'
- Fill in current responses then alter to see impacts
- Set goals and share meaningful information
- Keep an eco diary and photos, an Assessor visits for Gold Awards to see and hear all you've done
- Award thresholds: 25% Bronze, 50% Silver, 75% Gold





# ECO CHURCH RESOURCES

AN A Rocha UK PROJECT



- Updated new resources correspond to Eco Church survey questions
- Online links under relevant survey questions and on the Resources webpage
- Quickly explore why and how to undertake recommended actions
- Longer reads and case studies
- New resources for children and young people



## Silver Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

St Mark's Church, Holbrook

has won a Silver Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching  
Management of Buildings and Land  
Community and Global Engagement  
Lifestyle

Signed *Andy Atkins* Date *3rd October 2018*  
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk  
arocha.org.uk

# Eco Church Awards

- Apply online
- Award-winning churches receive a certificate
- Can purchase a plaque fashioned from recycled wood





# Time for Some Action!

If you can please stand up or put your hand up if:

Your church has registered with Eco Church

Stay standing up or with your hand up if:

Your church has achieved an Eco Church Award

Connect with other churches in the break.



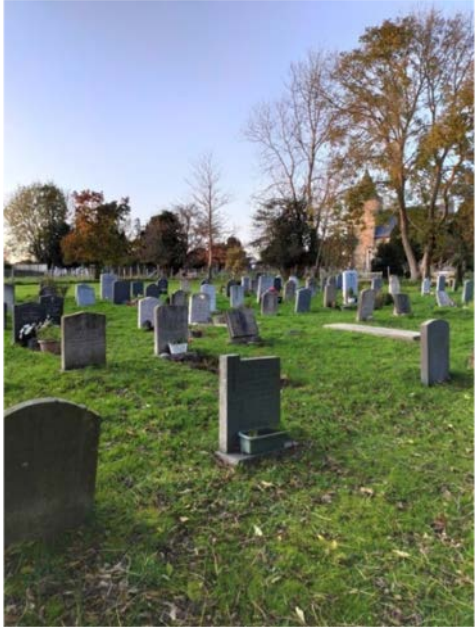
# Rural Example: St Mary's Ticehurst

- PCC unanimously voted in favour
- Registered in January 2019
- Bronze Award in April 2019
- Silver Award in July 2020
- ASWA Animal Friendly Church Award in July 2020, and joint winners of the Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award 2020 (awarded in January 2021)
- PCC agreed Environmental Policy August 2020
- Registered for Tearfund's Climate Emergency Toolkit June 2021
- PCC declared Climate Emergency October 2021
- Gold Award in January 2022





# Category: Land



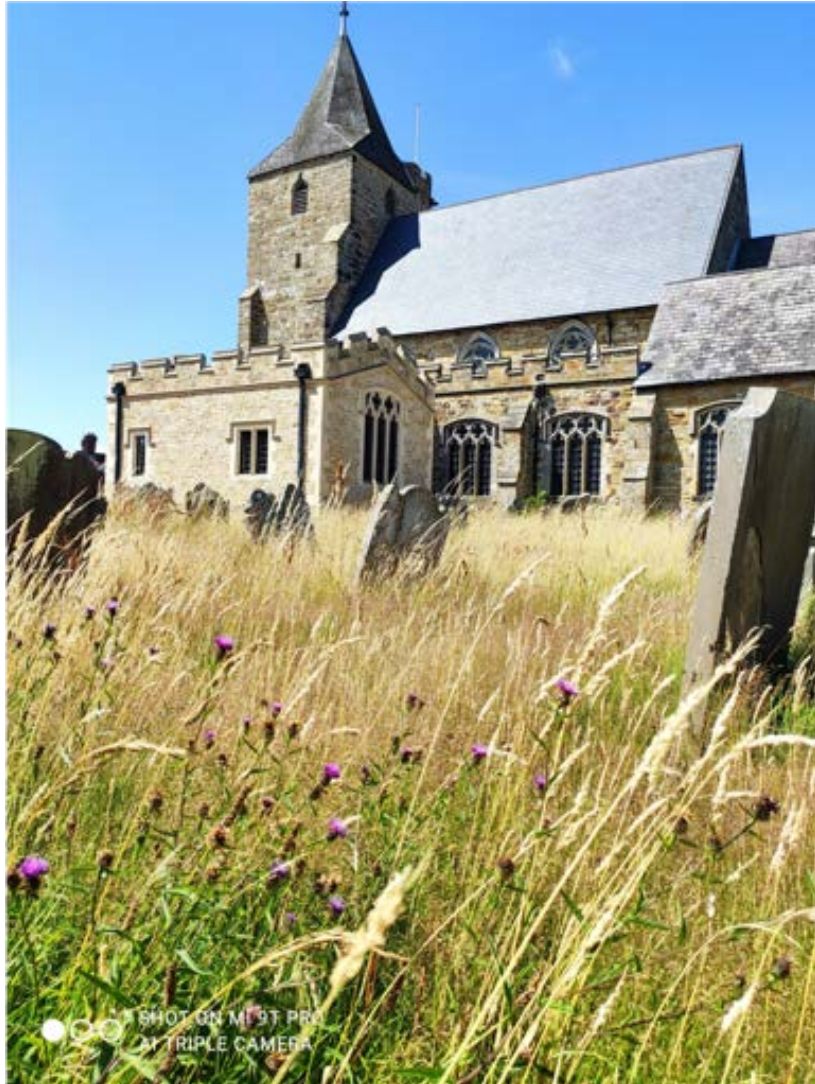
## THE PROCESS

- Sought advice from wildlife experts
- Visited local churchyards
- Commissioned a plant survey
- Formulated a plan
- Produced a Churchyard Management Plan
- Held a public meeting





# Land: Highlights and Challenges



# Category: Community Engagement

## Churches Count on Nature

a joint venture organised by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha, the Church of England and the Church of Wales



## The Great Big Green Week

run by the Climate Coalition





# Community Engagement: Churches Count on Nature

- Aim: citizen science style survey of churchyard flora and fauna
- Outcome: greater community engagement
- Added benefit: kickstarted a conversation about biodiversity loss and climate change with our MP



# Community Engagement: The Great Big Green Week



[The Great Big Green Week](#)

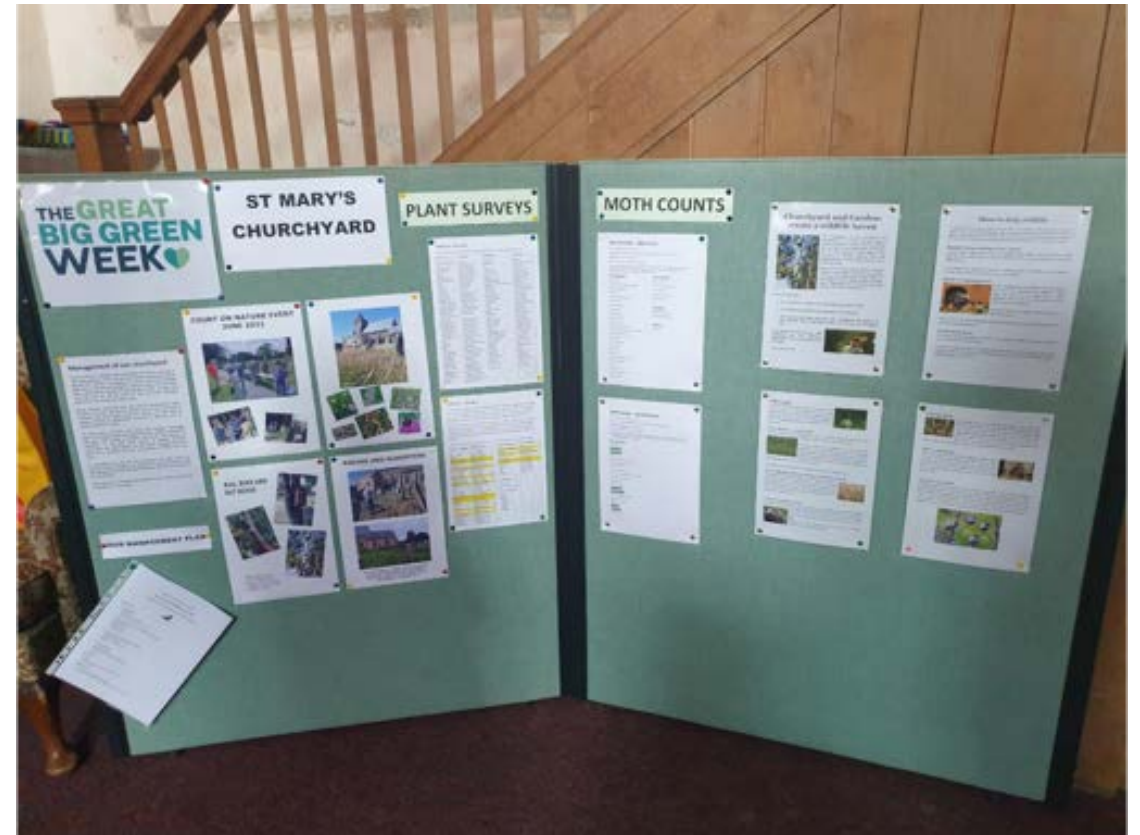
- Our aim: raising awareness about climate change, biodiversity loss, COP26
- Week of activities: community engagement
- Themed worship
- Resulted in significant benefits





# Category: Lifestyle

- Make connections with actions in other categories
- Lent challenges - simple steps
- Publicise campaigns
- Communicate widely
- Lifestyle audit



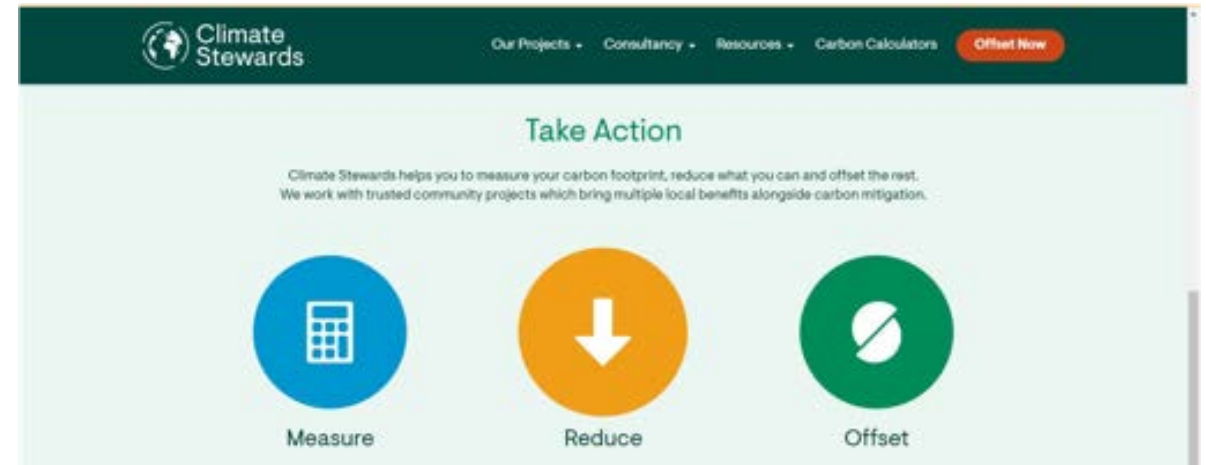


# Category: Buildings

## - getting to net zero carbon

- Energy audit
- Taking simple steps
- Planning for net zero
- Energy Footprint Tool
- 360° Carbon and offsetting
- Church of England resources

[Church of England Net Zero Resources](#)



# Category: Worship and Teaching

- Shared reflection
- Going deeper – studying together
- Worship
  - Seasonal opportunities
  - Climate Sunday
  - Forest Church
  - Pet Service
- Cultural change: an ecological conversion of hearts and minds



Share with your neighbour one idea you want to follow up with your church





# Suburban Example: St Mark's, Holbrook

- Registered with Eco Church in June 2018
- Silver Eco Church Award in October 2018
- September 2020 PCC unanimously agreed to take St. Mark's to net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- Using Climate Emergency Toolkit step by step to guide our response to the climate emergency
- Eco Church is a PCC standard agenda item
- In September 2021 PCC unanimously recognised the current Climate and Ecological Emergency
- Working towards a Gold Award in 2022 / 2023



# Climate and Ecological Emergency



Climate Sunday Harvest Service 2021

“We the Parochial Church Council of St. Mark’s, Holbrook, recognise the current Climate and Ecological Emergency.

We pledge to work with and support our congregations and government, at local and national levels, in tackling this Emergency, and we call on others to do the same.”

# Show the Love

Kinder Living Home Show - Hearts and a letter for our MP, Jeremy Quin, calling for leadership and real rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crisis





# Worship and Teaching

## THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

TELL: Share the Good News  
of Jesus Christ

TREASURE:  
Safeguard &  
Care for  
Creation

TEACH:  
Nurture new  
Believers in  
the Faith

TRANSFORM: Address  
Injustice & Promote  
Reconciliation

TEND: Offer  
Loving Service



- Climate Sunday
- Resources for Small Groups
- Five Marks of Mission
- Outdoor Church
- Forest Church
- Muddy Church



# Management of Church Buildings

- Stepping stones - PCC agreed to net zero carbon by 2030 and recognised the Climate and Ecological Emergency
- Resources - Eco Church and Church of England Environment Programme
- Net Zero Carbon, 2 Eco Team members working together
- Annually calculate carbon footprint and set sufficient reduction targets to achieve year on-year improvements
- Climate Stewards to offset carbon footprint for things we can't reduce
- Give due consideration to the possibilities of generating renewable energy





# Management of Church Land

- Platinum Jubilee hedge
- Boundary dead hedge
- Wildflower meadows
- Nest boxes
- Hedgehog hotels
- Bug Church
- Wildlife surveys





# Management of Church Land



- Woodland path
- Seating areas
- Wildlife pond
- Psalm 23 Nature Trail
- Fruit and vegetables
- Holbrook Community Orchard
- Community Climate Fund Grant





# Community Engagement: Recycling

- Recycle candles, ink cartridges, pens, stamps, postcards, greeting cards and milk bottle tops
- Recycle single use plastics - collection site
- Recycle food waste - Community Hotbin Trial



# Global Engagement : Petitioning

To bring about climate justice, we need change at all levels, as individuals, churches and societies.

## Christian Aid - Loss and Damage Petition

Calling on the UK Prime Minister to fully back the creation of an international loss and damage fund.  
[christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/loss-and-damage-petition](https://christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/loss-and-damage-petition)



## Tearfund - Time to Deliver Petition

Calling on UK government to use its COP presidency to influence other wealthy nations to deliver climate finance to frontline communities.  
[tearfund.org/forms/climate-petition](https://tearfund.org/forms/climate-petition)





# Horsham Eco Churches

Horsham Churches Together set up Horsham Eco Churches, to encourage and inspire others caring for God's world.



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s

stand last Saturday month  
10 - 4 at [Sussex Green Hub](#)  
in United Reformed Church  
Horsham

Get together,

Horsham  
Monthly Eco  
Eco Churches



# Work in Partnership To Make a Difference

Churches, groups, schools, councils, businesses and individuals.

RECONNECT • REPAIR • REFILL • RECYCLE • REUSE • REGROW • REFRESHMENTS

SUSSEX GreenLiving

Horsham Repair Cafe

SUSSEX GreenHub

Spring into SPRING

Saturday 26th March 2022, 10-4pm

United Reformed Church, 45 Springfield Road, Horsham, RH12 1PT

ALSO here:

- Horsham Repair Cafe
- Carbon Clinic
- Community Energy
- Horsham Community Fridge
- Recycling drop and donate
- Horsham Eco Churches
- Transition Horsham
- Community cafe

A chance to bring along the family to come and make a sustainable, free Mothers Day or Easter present

www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk/sussex-green-hub



SOUTH EAST CLIMATE ALLIANCE



HORSHAM COMMUNITY FRIDGE

HELPING STOP FOOD WASTE FOR EVERYONE

TUESDAY 10AM-11AM  
THURSDAY 1PM-2PM

THE WELLBEING HUB  
THE FORUM-HORSHAM  
RH12 1PQ

POPS UP @

OPEN SATURDAYS  
10AM - 11AM

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH	ROFFEY	ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CRAWLEY ROAD-ROFFEY RH12 4DX
2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH	SOUTHWATER	HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH CHURCH LANE-SOUTHWATER RH13 9BT
3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH	ST JOHN'S	ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL SPRINGFIELD RD-HORSHAM RH12 2PJ
LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH	GREEN HUB	UNITED REFORMED CHURCH SPRINGFIELD RD-HORSHAM RH12 2RG
23RD APRIL 23RD JULY 22ND OCTOBER	HOLBROOK	ST MARK'S CHURCH ST MARK'S LANE-HORSHAM RH12 5PU

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

HORSHAM@FAREDIVIDE.ORG.UK

WWW.FAREDIVIDE.ORG.UK/HORSHAM

PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE FAREDIVIDE COMMUNITY FRIDGE NETWORK

#HORSHAMCOMMUNITYFRIDGE

# Lifestyle - It's a Challenge!

Household and personal actions do make a difference.

## Wild Christian

Monthly emails, something to think about and practical actions to enjoy, nurture and protect nature.

## Creation Care

Free online questionnaire and resources.

Register your church and award Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates. [creationcare.org.uk](http://creationcare.org.uk)





# Group Interaction



- Turn to a neighbour who is not from your church.
- Take turns to share:

**One thing that has inspired you from these church stories?**

**How can you get started on your Eco Church journey?**

**How to overcome some of the challenges you've faced.**

- Pray for each other's church.
- Maybe you could keep in contact for updates?

# Church of England Environment Programme

Eco Church is an ecumenical programme, webinars are hosted by the Church of England Environment Programme for all churches to attend.

- Sign up to receive Environment Bulletins with Webinar dates
- Playlists of webinars on a host of topics  
eg Eco Church, Net Zero, Environmental Fundraising.

[churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change)

Environment  
bulletin



From the Church of England Environment Programme

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# Sustaining God's Creation Eco Churches Zoom Event

Saturday 18 June 10am – 1pm



 Sustaining God's Creation

**Sustaining God's Creation | Eco Churches**  
**Zoom event**  
**Saturday 18 June 10:00 - 13:00**

Guest Speakers include:  
**Andy Atkins**, CEO of A Rocha UK  
**Caroline Pomeroy**, Director of Climate Stewards  
**Nigel Walter**, Conservation Architect

For registration and further details visit  
[www.sustaininggodscreeation.org](http://www.sustaininggodscreeation.org)  
Sustaining God's Creation is a digital resource for sustainable living

 EXETER CATHEDRAL  ELY CATHEDRAL  NORWICH CATHEDRAL  PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL  ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL  St Edmundsbury Cathedral



# Sustaining Church Conference

- Free online July 13 - July 14
- A Rocha UK's Partner In Action Hazelnut Community Farm.
- Bringing together academics and practitioners to reimagine how we can live in a time of climate breakdown

## Act for Nature Days - new for 2022

A Rocha UK Nature Reserves demonstrations and training to churches, individuals and others on conservation techniques.

- 25 June at Wolf Fields in West London
- 23 July at Hugh's Meadow in Northern Ireland
- 3 September at Foxearth Meadows in North Essex
- November at Hilfield Friary in Dorset

# Eco Church: A Community of Action



Demonstrating that the gospel is  
good news for God's earth

