



Focal Ministry

Eco Church Starter Pack



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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Eco Church as Focal Ministers. You are well placed to take a lead in this important part of our Christian ministry to our parishes and the world and to our vocation to care for creation.

There are many ways in which we can contribute to ensuring a better future for the next generation. We hope that this booklet will provide an overview and incentive for you to get your church involved.

Remember, you don't have to do it all yourself. Get others involved. We have included some questions against each category to get you thinking!

All of the booklets mentioned can be found at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/





Worship & Teaching

A Rocha booklets

- Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth
- Sharing our story: Salisbury Diocese resource for Lent
- Sharing our story: Salisbury Diocese resource for Easter
- Worship
- Prayer
- Preaching
- Guest Speakers
- Resources for small groups
- Church Communications

Useful websites

CofE, Season of creation - <https://sheffdio.org/season-creation>

CofE, Environment in prayer, worship and teaching - <https://sheffdio.org/environment-prayer>

Cof E, Creationtide resources - <https://sheffdio.org/creationtide-resources>

Climate and Creation, Methodist Church - <https://sheffdio.org/methodist-climate-resources>



Questions & Notes

- How might you help the communities you are part of respond to the climate crisis? How might you give space for lament and promise to try and do better?
- How might you celebrate creation and the earth's seasons?
- Is there a space for an outside service of hymns and praise?
- Who might you get involved?



Buildings

A Rocha booklets

- Church flowers and sustainability
- Church flowers and sustainability: case studies
- Building Overview
- Carbon Footprint measurement and offset
- Buying greener energy
- Boilers
- Insulation, Double Glazing and Draft Proofing
- Lighting
- Water usage and capture
- Sharing our story: a rain garden planter at Trinity Church, Southover, Lewes
- Toilets
- Sharing our story; Rainwater harvesting system for flourishing toilets at Stratford Methodist Church
- Quick wins and consumables
- Printing and laminating
- Sustainable building projects
- Recycling
- Lower carbon and renewable energy options
- Some considerations for low carbon heating
- Air source heat pumps
- Ground source heat pumps
- Sharing our story: Installing a ground source heat pump at St Catherine and St Peter, Burbage
- Biomass boilers
- Solar Photovoltaic Panels (PVs)
- Hydro-electricity
- Electrical Heating Options



Questions & Notes

- How might you include the climate in calculations when work needs doing?
- How might you help members of your congregation and community make greener choices?
- Are there any 'big' projects possible, solar panels, different heating etc?
- Who might you get involved?



Land

A Rocha booklets

- Managing closed churchyards
- Managing closed churchyards: Case Studies
- Land Overview
- Does your church have influence over any land?
- Encouraging Native Wildlife
- Sharing our story: Useful plants for wildlife
- Encouraging birds
- Living with Bats
- Encouraging Hedgehogs
- Encouraging Moths and Butterflies
- Encouraging Bees
- Sharing our story: St Cuthbert's Lorton Wildlife Report
- Ponds
- Plants for pollinators
- Native Wild-Flowers and Grassland
- Example of a Simple Wildflower Survey
- Importance of Grassland and Mowing Regimes
- Sharing our Story: St James Ludgershall – Meet Iggy and Jeri!
- Avoiding Harmful Chemicals – Organic Solutions
- Sharing our Story: Importance of Biodiversity
- Trees and Hedgerows
- Sharing our Story: Tree Planting with St Lawrence Hungerford
- Wildlife and Wildflower Surveys
- Nature Discovery Days
- Growing Fruit and Vegetables
- Sharing our Story: Bolton Lighthouse
- Composting
- Encouraging use of the Church Land
- Sharing our Story: Holy Trinity Margate Community Garden
- Creating a Management Plan

Websites

Caring for God's Acre - caringforgodsacre.org.uk



Questions & Notes

- How can you use your church yards to promote wildlife?
- Is there a local school that might like to visit or be involved?
- How about a community garden or orchard?
- Who might you get involved?



Community & Global

A Rocha booklets

- Engaging with your MP or Other Elected Representatives
- Sustainability movements and initiatives
- Sharing our Story: Trinity Church Lewes work with the local community on sustainability initiatives
- Engaging with the local community
- Local Conservation Work
- Community Clean up
- Car-Sharing schemes
- Promoting Eco Church to other locals
- Campaigning
- Engaging with International Environmental and climate change issues
- Fairtrade
- Sustainable Food provision in church



Questions & Notes

- Is there someone in the congregation who might be an eco-champion for the parish?
- What might be done in your local community to improve green spaces?
- Are there campaigns the church could get involved with?
- Who might you get involved?



Lifestyle

A Rocha booklets

- Championing Environmental Sustainability
- Sharing our Story: Holy Trinity Richmond – Starting a Creation Care Team
- You and Your local Travel
- You and Your Car
- Auditing your lifestyle
- You and your energy
- You and your 'stuff'
- Sustainable fashion
- Fairtrade
- Events to help recycle and reuse goods
- Communal card schemes
- You and your food
- Food co-operatives
- Sharing our Story: A Food co-operative at St Barnabas church, Oldham
- You and your money
- Social investment – using your money for Kingdom Purposes
- Ethical investment for churches
- Church communications

Useful Websites

WWF carbon footprint tool - <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>



Questions & Notes

- How might you ensure the life and work of your parish is ethical and sustainable?
- Could children and youth be involved in an ?? or project?
- Could you form a community bank to recycle and use or share goods?
- Who might you get involved?



Children & Youth

A Rocha booklets

There are a selection of resources for children and youth separated into Kids and Youth resource pages on the A Rocha Eco Church website.

For each age group (4-7, 7-11, 11-14 and 15-18) the following booklets are available:

- Session guide
- Worship and Teaching
- Land
- Buildings
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle



Questions & Notes

- How might you encourage children and youth in leading your eco-work?
- Might they lead a project?
- Could you work with local schools?
- Who might you get involved?

Key Contacts



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A Rocha Eco Church

“A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people. We aim to inspire individuals and families, equip churches and church leaders, build partnerships and manage land for nature and people.

In the face of accelerating climate change and species loss, we need more than ever to take action to protect and care for nature today.”

They work regularly with churches and run the Eco Church Award. As A church you can work towards three different awards; bronze, silver and gold. The Diocese of Sheffield were awarded the bronze award in 2023.

This pack includes information on what resources can be found on the A Rocha eco church website. For each category you can find a list of the packs that are online. Take a look and see what interests you and find the pack online at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources

I also recommend the CofE environment team pages re Eco Church which include very helpful wide ranging webinars/videos/case studies and links to other relevant pages at the end. This can be found at <https://sheffdio.org/eco-church>





Notes











