

Environment Resources for churches

JULY 2024

Useful online resources to support environmental action by churches

Church of England Environment Programme

- [Landing page](#)
- [Newsletter sign up](#)

Methodist Church Environment Programme - [Environment and Climate Change](#)

St Albans Diocese Environment Policy - <https://resource.stalbansdiocese.org/courses-events-and-resources/environment-policy/>

Net Zero:

- The Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 [Net zero carbon routemap | The Church of England](#) and the individual resources for [Cathedrals](#), [Churches](#), [Dioceses](#), [Schools](#) and [Theology Colleges](#).
- Our new [video Case Studies](#) (and other case studies)
- [The CofE net zero carbon church landing page](#)
- [The CofE practical path to net zero](#) - including links to a two-page summary guidance note and a self-guided checklist any church can use
- [Webinars](#) - including heating, lighting, solar panels, EV car charging, and more (you can also find them as a single YouTube playlist [here](#))
- [Heating](#) – including new case studies
- [Energy efficiency](#) – created by the DEO Energy Group
- Conference video of [Matt Fulford talking about St Michael and all Angels, Britain's first Net Zero Carbon church](#)
- Video on the [Results from the church energy audits](#)
- [Journey to Net Zero](#) - introduction to net zero from The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) (Baptists, Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church)
- Useful [carbon reduction tips](#) from the Methodist Church website
- Church of England [Declaration by General Synod in February](#) and [Update paper to General Synod](#) - the final net zero definition is attached to this as an appendix, and also included in the Routemap, above.

Net Zero St Albans Diocese:

- St Albans Diocese Net Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan – <https://resource.stalbansdiocese.org/courses-events-and-resources/net-zero-carbon-strategy-and-action-plan/>
- Heating case study project – [webinar recordings and case studies](#)
- Advice from St Albans DAC to parishes on how to reduce their carbon emissions in a practical and efficient way – <https://resource.stalbansdiocese.org/courses-events-and-resources/dac-strategy-for-net-zero-carbon/>

Carbon footprint:

- CofE information about the national Energy Footprint Tool and results so far (*N.B. St Albans uses its own version of the Tool, see below*) - [Energy Footprint Tool](#) and the Energy Toolkit for all other buildings [Energy Toolkit | The Church of England](#)
- Is my energy tariff 'green'? Helpful [definitions](#) for renewable energy as used by the CofE
- St Albans Diocese – [Energy Footprint Tool](#) Helpful advice on how and when to complete the EFT for churches in St Albans Diocese: <https://resource.stalbansdiocese.org/courses-events-and-resources/energy-footprint-tool-user-video-guide/>
- Any church - [360Carbon](#) - includes energy, transport, food, procurement, and more
- National report on the [findings of the 2021 Energy Footprint Tool](#)

Buildings advice:

- [Historic England guidance](#) and [webinar programme](#)
- [SPAB](#) - Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings

- St Albans Diocesan Advisory Committee, our expert team on all matters concerning church buildings and churchyards – <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/buildings-and-churchyards/>
- Find a Building Services Engineer, e.g. for heating guidance, from the [CIBSE Directory](#)
- Find an [accredited installer for solar panels or heat pumps on the MCS accredited list](#) and/or those who have signed up for the [Renewable Energy Consumer Code](#)

Information about individual churches and churchyards:

- Find your church on the [Church Heritage Record](#)
- [Historic England listings information](#)
- [Find your churchyard on the NBN Atlas map](#) (if it has been mapped it will appear on this map, and you can link your records to it)
- Find churches with solar panels heat pumps etc. on the [Renewables Map](#)

Church of England buildings resources:

- [Joint statement by the CBC and CFCE](#)
- [Updated QI guidance](#) including more on the environment
- Best practice note for architects and surveyors on [building the environment into Quinquennial Inspections](#)
- Best practice note for architects and surveyors on [building the environment into their project work](#)
- [Faculty rules](#) : List A can be done without faculty in most cases, List B require Archdeacon consultation, if not mentioned then full faculty is needed.

Procurement (Church of England Parish Buying, other denominations have [Church Buying](#)):

- [Landing page](#) for net zero on Parish Buying
- [Green energy basket](#)
- [Energy audits](#)
- [LED lighting](#)
- [Solar panels](#)
- <https://bigcleanswitch.org/> - for good green and ethical energy broking advice

Transport:

- Useful [carbon footprint transport calculator](#) from Climate Stewards - *allows you to compare journeys*
- [LiftShare UK](#)
- [OZEV](#) - grants for EV car charging posts
- EV charging posts [Zap Map](#)
- CofE webinar programme - above - includes a webinar on EV car charging
- For the keen cyclist - [the cathedral cycle route challenge](#)
- [Plant Lock bike rack](#) - as one example of what is possible

Frameworks for church / diocesan action:

- [Eco Church](#), plus their [resources](#), plus [Eco Church case studies and webinars](#) from the CofE.
- The Eco Church app (where you register and track your progress): <https://app.ecochurch.org/dashboard>
- [Eco Dioceses page on A Rocha website](#) and on [CofE website](#)
- The [climate emergency toolkit](#)

Frameworks for individual / household action:

- [Creation Care](#), a framework for households which congregations can follow together
- [Count us in](#) - 16 high impact steps which individuals can take to cut carbon (the same people are also running a [Green Football Weekend](#) in February).
- [WWF Footprint Calculator](#) - simple footprint tool, and an informative process

Frameworks for schools and youth:

- For schools: resources from [Let's Go Zero](#), [Eco Schools](#), [Christian Aid](#), and [PECT](#)
- For youth engagement: resources from [Tearfund](#), [Christian Aid](#), and [ACEN](#)
- The CofE [net zero carbon schools webinars](#)
- [Letters for Creation](#), and joint project with Christian Aid. Resources include an assembly, lesson plans, and resources to help produce creative letters and art.

Funding:

- [Watch the recordings](#) of two CofE webinars on environmental fundraising for environmental projects
- CofE grants [funding guide from Parish Resources](#)
- And a suite for “how to” guides from [Parish Resources](#).
- Community Energy England [funding opportunities](#)
- Diocese of St Albans [Living Lightly grant scheme](#) – small grants
- For local grants, find out whether you have a local CVS (Council for Voluntary Services). If so, they generally have a free searchable grants directory. Also contact the sustainability or community engagement officer at your local authority

Land and nature:

- [Land and nature webinar programme](#) - A great place to start, with lots of videos offering practical advice on a wide range of topics from bats to biodiversity, trees to Forest Church, and managing your grass. (You can also find them as a [single YouTube playlist here](#).)
- The 2024 [Churches Count on Nature](#) partnership project, 8-16th June
- [Caring for God's Acre free resources](#) - including the FREE starter pack which they can post you.
 - [Grass cutting advice sheet](#)
 - [Second advice sheet here, on long grass](#):
 - [Botanical Companion](#) which has a list of the species most often found in churchyards:
 - [Minifilms](#)
 - [information sheet on the Five Steps for good churchyard management](#)
- CofE [Biodiversity page](#) and [Trees page](#)
- St Albans Diocese [Living Churchyards Project](#) – examples of churchyard management plans, lichen library etc
- [Devon Living Churchyard Project](#) - guidance notes / habitat action plan template etc
- Have you been taking records of what is in your churchyards? Please do share them;
 - Option 1 = email your records to wildlife@cfga.org.uk
 - Option 2 = post to address on the [CFGA](#) website
 - Option 3 = upload yourself using [iRecord](#)
- Specific external advice
 - “[Seek](#)” app to help you identify species:
 - Find your local [Wildlife Trust](#), who are often very open to joint working to support community action
 - [Wild About Gardens](#) scroll down for booklets on different species and on ponds
 - Find your [Local Environmental Records Centre](#) for help with species identification and recording
 - [British Lichen Society](#) for advice and lichen surveys
 - [RHS plants for pollinators](#)
 - Local groups from [Swift Conservation](#)
 - Local [badger groups](#) map
- Bats
 - [Bats in Churches](#) project
 - You can take part in this summer's Bats in Churches [volunteer survey](#)
 - You may have a [local bat group](#) with volunteers who may be able to lead a bat walk for you.
 - If you don't have a local group, try the [National Bat Helpline](#)
 - Faculty rules - look for 'churchyard' and 'trees' under List A and List B and consult the DAC: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/1184/made>
- Training
 - The [CRES](#) (Christian Rural & Environmental Studies) courses
 - [Scythe Association](#) to find trainers in scything. Contact [Living Churchyards Officer](#), Judith Evans for details of local courses

Climate Resilience:

- The [Climate Resilient Church](#) landing page

Worship and music:

- New CofE webpage bringing together [Prayer, Worship and Teaching](#) resources
- [Season of Creation](#), including the theology and worship webinar series
- [Outdoor worship](#) guidance page
- Creation-themed liturgy [A Time for Creation](#)
- Liturgy for the [Agricultural Year](#)
- Sermon resources at [Preaching for God's World](#)
- [Doxecology](#) by Resound worship
- Resource lists compiled by [Climate Sunday](#) and [Christian Concern for One World](#)
- [A Rocha International - YouTube](#) channel - search for Dave Bookless New Wine talks NL 2020
- [Forest Church Grove Booklet](#) - a good introduction
- [Forest Church facebook group](#)
- [Wild church page](#)

Ethical Investment:

- [Church Commissioners](#) including their most recent [Stewardship Report](#)
- [Pensions Board](#) including their recent report on the [fossil fuel industry](#)
- [Transition Pathway Initiative](#) and some of their reports:
 - [State of Transition Report](#) (most recent full report 2022, sector reports available)
 - The launch of the Energy Report is on their website, but not the report itself yet. Look out for it [here](#).
- [CCLA](#) including article on [CCLA fund goes fossil fuel free](#)
- St Albans Diocese divestment from fossil fuels Oct 15th, 2022, [Environment News & Updates - Diocese of St Albans \(anglican.org\)](#)
- [Methodists](#)

Some very useful external resources:

- [The Climate Coalition Declaration](#), [Show the Love](#) campaign, February each year and [Great Big Green Week](#) June 2024.
- [Climate Sunday](#) –The project group is ending, but the website will remain live with all its resources, and we'd love it if churches continued to hold Climate Sunday services
- [Hope for the Future](#) - for engaging with your politicians
- Katharine Hayhoe, a world leading climate communicator, on [how to talk about climate](#)
- Project DrawDown, an excellent overview of [climate issues and workable climate solutions](#)
- Climate Outreach "[Communicating climate change in a crisis](#)" – scroll down to find the video - and "[how to have a climate change conversation](#)"
- Has your council declared a climate emergency? Search the [listings of climate emergency declarations](#) here and [find their climate plans here](#).
- Climate Stewards offsetting - <https://www.climatestewards.org/>
- The [fuel mix of all UK Domestic Energy Providers](#)
- [edie - empowering sustainable business](#) website – good for sustainability news, free webinars and an e-newsletter
- [Ecosia - the search engine that plants trees](#) – if you aren't using a charity search engine this one is a good alternative – it's a B-Corp that uses profits to plant trees
- [Resources | Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment | Imperial College London](#) – Nine things you can do about climate change – leaflet or interactive guide to personal actions
- [MAGIC \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) – interactive map with over 300 datasets including designated sites and priority habitats

Briefings and Newsletters:

- [Carbon Brief](#) will send you a daily or weekly round-up of carbon related articles and papers - science and policy. Also check out Cropped, their new briefing on land, food and nature.
- [ECIU](#) (Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit) also send a daily briefing, a bit more Euro-focused and a bit shorter than Carbon Brief

- The [Anglican Communion Environment Network](#) joins us up with environmental action across the global Anglican church. Sign up to their newsletter [here](#).

Useful/interesting books:

- “There is no Planet B” and “How bad are bananas?” by Mike Berners Lee – easy to read books about the carbon footprint of stuff
- Wild Advent: Discovering God Through Creation by Rachel Summers – practical Advent activities for all ages
- “Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World” by Katharine Hayhoe
- “A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues” by Martin J Hodson and Margot R Hodson
- “The Bigger Picture” by Vanessa Nakate – bringing the voice of Africa to the global climate change arena
- Two recent Grove Booklets:
 - Grace Thomas, DEO for Manchester, “Climate Action as Mission: How to Link the Gospel with Safeguarding Creation”
 - Rachel Mash, Green Anglicans, “Renewing the Life of the Earth: Christian Discipleship and Environmental Action”
- Two books for more personal sustainability changes:
 - “How to save your planet one object at a time” by Tanya Shine – easy sustainable swaps for everyday objects from the well-known (bar soap for liquid soap) to washing dishes with less environmental impact.
 - “The Flightless Traveller” by Emma Gregg– inspirational flight-free travel suggestions

The big picture on the climate and ecological crises, and required action:

- Find the [UKCCC](#) recommendations for required climate action (UK Committee on Climate Change)
- [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5](#) and the [Dasgupta report](#) give perspectives on the biodiversity crisis