

CREATION CARE AND ON THE WAY

Care for Creation is the defining issue of our times, for both Christians and non-Christians. For Christian disciples Creation Care lies at the heart of the call to work for God's kingdom.

In recognition of that, Care for Creation is one of the 6 essential elements of *fruitfulness* in On The Way and is a calling deaneries are expected to engage with during the process of prayer, discussion and planning for the fruitful and sustainable future.

Since late 2020, a new Diocesan Strategy for Creation Care has been in place (<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/creation-care/>) which invites everyone, from Parish to Deanery to Diocesan level, to get involved. Churches are invited to begin by becoming a 'Kernow Green Church', which involves:

- Passing a PCC resolution to adopt the 'Parish Creation Care Policy' (will be available in the Autumn; parishes do not have to make up their own policy. The policy will include commitments to including Creation Care as a permanent PCC agenda item, making an annual carbon footprint return and holding at least one Creation themed service per year)
- Appointing a Creation Care Champion / Officer (or a team) who are supported by and report to the PCC.
- Registering with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme
- Carrying out the initial Environment Audit via the Eco Church scheme (Support will be available for this via Eco Church, Diocesan Environment Officer and Diocesan Creation Care Group)

Once these first steps have been made, churches are then invited to engage proactively with the eco-church programme (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>), for which help and support is available through the Diocesan team.

We recognise, of course, that many churches are already taking seriously the call to care better for God's creation and we want to especially invite those who are already engaged in this work to join in and inspire others through their good work. In the light of the call by General Synod in Feb 2020 for the whole church to attain Net Zero status by 2030, it is more important than ever for us to work together to spread good practice among us all.

The Diocesan Environment Officer (Revd Ben Lillie) and the Chair of the Creation Care Group (Revd Canon Elly Sheard) are available to visit On The Way gatherings to explain more fully how parishes and benefices can be involved and how caring for God's creation is vital to fruitfulness and sustainability for our church into the future.

