

DIOCESE OF TRURO

CREATION
CARE



LCC

Leaders for Creation Care



Leaders for Creation Care

Do you have a love of creation and an appetite to reach new people in your community through environment activities and projects? Could you help to lead and support others within your community to nurture biodiversity and tackle the climate crisis? If so, then this may be a ministry for you to explore.

The role sits within the Diocese of Truro's ambition to significantly grow lay ministry, recognising and encouraging the gifts and vocations that each person brings to our church. The role also aligns with our commitment to Net Zero 2030 and Creation Care.

In the baptism and confirmation service of the Church of England we are asked, 'Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?' and, 'Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?' We respond by promising, 'With the help of God, I will.'

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands' Psalm 19:1 - will you seek to lead by example in caring for God's world, helping others to see through creation the good news that our Saviour and Creator restores and makes all things new?

Leaders for Creation Care are those who:

- 1. Feel a sense of calling to steward the creation we share**
- 2. help lead and support others within their community to do the same.**

Through this new role we recognise that using the environment to share the gospel can take many different forms from taking part in prayer events for a global shift in climate policy to serving the poor through a community allotment, through creating a churchyard haven for people and nature to working to reduce the carbon footprint of your church.



Mission can be pioneering in the sense that we feel called to tread new territory, try new things that are unproven or even feel difficult to explain. The Leader for Creation Care role may move you out of your comfort zone but always with our Creator by your side.

It is hoped that as you read through this pack you may feel inspired and excited about the prospect of undertaking the training and becoming a Leader for Creation Care. The following details may help with what creation care and net zero work may look like in the context of the role. You'll also find details on how to apply, what the training looks like, and how your church leadership can support you. And finally, you'll find information about how to stay connected with other Leaders for Creation Care across your diocese.

If you have any questions that you or your incumbent feel this guide does not answer, please get in contact with the Diocesan Environment Officer Sharon Willoughby.

Email deo@trurodiocese.org.uk and Sharon will be happy to discuss any questions with you.

Pictured below: Blisland Eco Gold Church



Creation Care

The Church of England is increasingly emphasising the importance of creation care, aligning our mission with the biblical mandate to steward the earth responsibly. This commitment to environmental stewardship is deeply rooted in scripture and theological understanding, reflecting a broader Christian responsibility to protect God's creation. Our mission to the environment is woven through all of the Anglican marks of mission, but in 1990 the 5th Mark of Mission was added in response to the unfolding environmental crisis to make clear our mission to creation.

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.

The concept of stewardship is central to our Christian approach to creation care, and this theme runs throughout the bible. The creation narratives in Genesis 1 and 2 establish humanity's role as caretakers of the Earth. Genesis 1:26-28 describes humanity's creation in God's image, granting us dominion over the Earth. However, this dominion is interpreted not as exploitation but as a call to stewardship, reflecting God's care and love for creation. In Genesis 9, following the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah and all living creatures. This covenant signifies God's enduring commitment to creation, emphasising that humans are part of a broader ecological community.

The Psalms frequently celebrate the beauty and majesty of creation, encouraging believers to recognise nature as a testament to God's glory. Psalm 24:1 states, "The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it," reinforcing the idea that humans are stewards rather than owners of the Earth. This perspective encourages respect and care for the environment as an act of worship.

The incarnation, central to Christian theology, underscores the significance of the material world. By becoming incarnate in Jesus Christ, God affirms the goodness of creation. This theological insight should call us as Christians to view creation care as integral to our faith, highlighting the sacredness of the natural world.

Christian eschatology, study of end times, also influences the Church's approach to creation care. The vision of a renewed creation in Revelation 21-22 inspires hope and responsibility among believers. This future-oriented perspective motivates action to care for the environment, aligning with God's ultimate plan for redemption and renewal.

Church of England's general synod has passed several motions promoting environmental sustainability. These include the commitment to Net Zero 2030 and the Land and Nature Motion. These commitments are expressions of our faith and part of the Church's mission to live out the biblical call to steward creation.

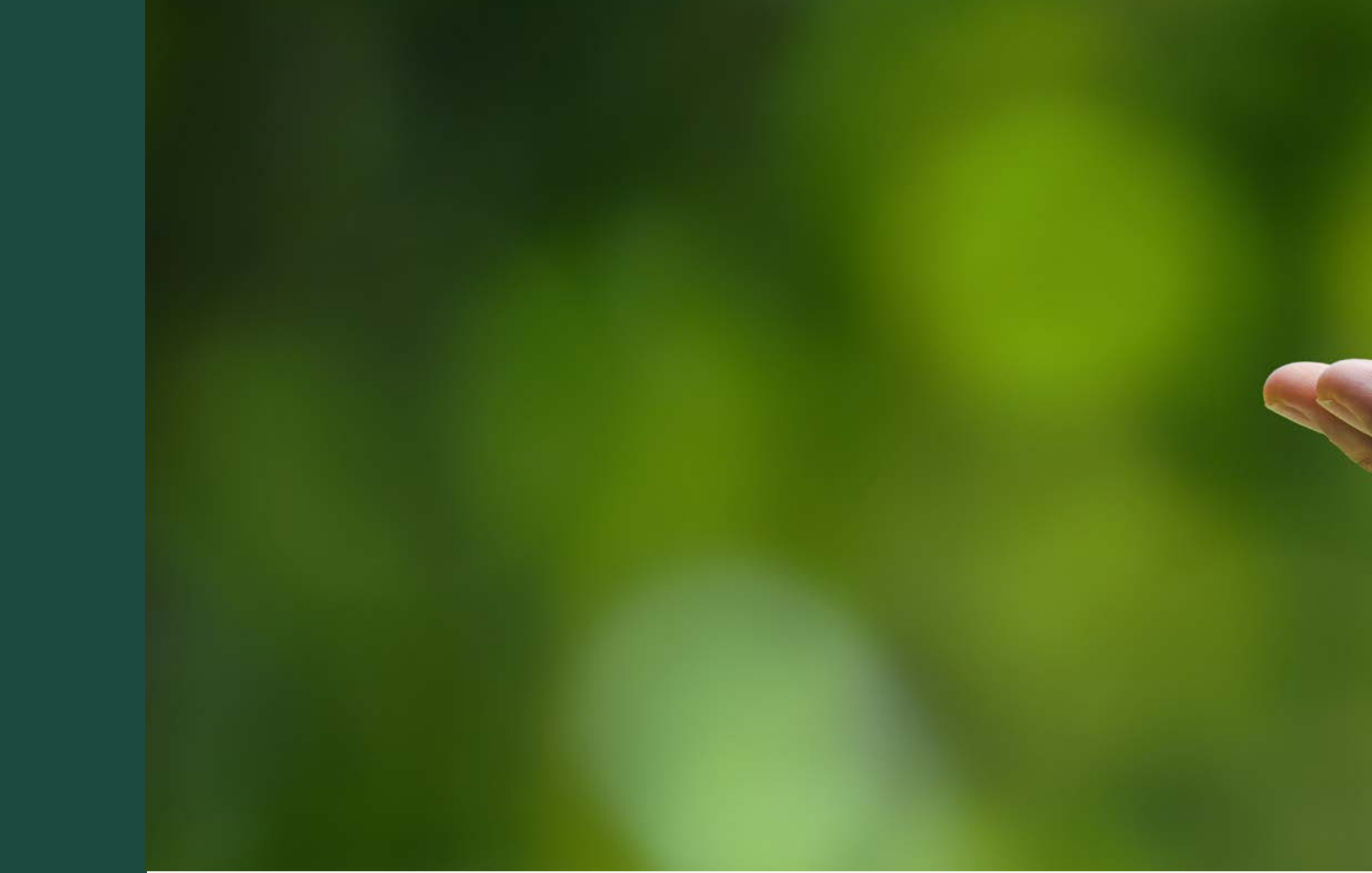
Engaging communities in creation care is vital aspect of the Church's efforts. By educating congregations and fostering partnerships with environmental organisations, we as part of the Church of England seek to inspire collective action towards ecological sustainability.





Some of the activities in leading your church in it's ministry of creation care might be:

- Listening and discerning who in your community has a passion for biodiversity and could become a Creation Care Champion.
- Identifying nature projects that would be appropriate for your land.
- Helping your church to reflect theologically on their call to good stewardship of creation.
- Taking a lead in environment projects as a vehicle for mission and outreach.
- Enrolling your church in the Eco Church scheme by A Rocha UK and working towards increasing award levels.
- Developing links with like minded environmental organisations both locally and globally.
- Helping the church to link with creation care throughout the church year.
- Working closely with any local church school leadership on its environmental goals.
- Influencing your church community to take personal responsibility in their own lives based on biblical teachings (stewardship, loving our neighbours etc).
- Managing your churchyard as a Living Churchyard boosting biodiversity and community access.



Net Zero 2030

The Church of England has embarked on a significant journey towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, a commitment that has profound implications for parishes and congregations within the church community. In February 2020 general synod voted through the motion for net zero by 2030, the vote recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.

Synod asked for a plan to be made, setting out how to get to net zero carbon. That plan of action, called the Routemap, was approved by General Synod in July 2022 in a Motion that asked for the Routemap to be endorsed and requested every Diocesan Synod to debate the Routemap as it applies to them.

This ambitious target reflects the Church's dedication to addressing the urgent global challenge of climate change and our moral responsibility to care for creation. For individuals, this journey encourages a shift in lifestyle choices, such as reducing energy consumption, embracing sustainable practices, and engaging in environmental advocacy. Parishes, on the other hand, are prompted to conduct energy audits, retrofit buildings with eco-friendly technologies, and foster a culture of sustainability within their communities.

This movement not only aims to reduce the Church's carbon footprint but also serves as a beacon of leadership, inspiring others to take action. Ultimately, the Church of England's net zero journey is an invitation to all members to actively participate in creating a more sustainable and just world.



Some of the activities in leading your churches journey to net zero might be:

- Oversee a change in your energy procurement and banking to renewable and low carbon options.
- Arranging for an energy audit and using this to guide you in creating a Net Zero Action Plan for your building(s)
- Helping others reflect theologically on the global impact of the climate crisis and how we are treating our global neighbours.
- Taking a lead in applying for relevant funding and driving forward practical decarbonisation projects.
- Help facilitate wider community engagement on low carbon lifestyles as a key part of our Christian witness.
- Developing links with local and global carbon cutting organisations
- Working closely with any local church school leadership to achieve carbon reductions.

What next?

If you are: prayerful and love God, and passionate about stewarding and caring for God's creation, and are willing to help lead and support others within your community to do the same, then this may be a ministry for you to explore.

Working out your calling is about listening attentively to God and reflecting with others. If you feel called to this ministry, talk to your vicar, or church leader. In order to be commissioned as a lay Leader for Creation Care in the Diocese of Truro you will need the support and recommendation of your PCC, so talk it through.

We would expect the LCC to be a voluntary role. LCC's are expected to commit regular time to the role, whilst acknowledging that there are many different ways that the role could be lived out. This is a ministry on behalf of the Church and so you will operate under the guidance of your incumbent and under the care of the PCC that has sponsored you. This may involve shaping your activities around the Mission Action Plan (or equivalent) for your community, and your ministry to be set within the agreed missional direction of the church. This means the role is collaborative and cooperative in its service within the ministry of the whole community.

Not everyone who does the course may want to be commissioned. You and your incumbent will need to agree at the end of the course, that this ministry is right for you.

Working out your calling is about listening attentively to God and reflecting with others. If you feel called to this ministry, talk to your vicar, or church leader.

Pictured below: Bishop David joins eco award winners during the annual Creation Care service



What training is provided?

This is a summary of some of the training provided within the Diocese of Truro. You may already be aware of the Foundations in Christian Ministry programme and might decide to undertake this training first. This is an option rather than mandatory requirement.



Foundations in Christian Ministry is a one-year part-time programme of formational study that provides space for you to explore vocation and grow in Christ. You'll learn about the Bible, theology, spirituality, mission, vocation, group skills and pastoral care. You'll enjoy the fellowship of other Christians at eight study days and share in worship and hospitality as you walk together with the Lord.

This is a journey of discovery and learning that will deepen your Christian discipleship, develop your gifts and help you to discern God's call for your future ministry.



Carbon Literacy® is an accredited six hour course that leads to positivity and action towards reducing carbon emissions. The specific course that you will undertake has been jointly developed with the Church of England to reflect on faith as a motivator for tackling climate change, on completion you will become certified as Carbon Literate.

The project's definition of Carbon Literacy is: "An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis."



We are partnering with Spiritus Theological College to provide training in Eco Theology. This training will build in you the foundations of the theological and biblical basis for environmentalism and how our call to creation care is core element of our faith in Creator God. These theological studies will give people space to explore and reflect on what they think about environmental issues from a Christian perspective. The theology training provided will help to equip you with the knowledge and skills to teach confidently on the subject in your setting. Whether you are keen to speak at events or Sunday services or have a heart for partnering with your local school to assist with RE curriculum or collective worship, or if you just want to feel confident in conversation with your community you will find that this part of the course will equip you with confidence in the theology of creation care.

What ongoing support is provided?

Creation Care Network

Leaders for Creation Care will network with the Creation Care Champions in the Creation Care Network and support the Diocesan Environment Officer in the role of leading this group.

National Funding

There are already several funding schemes that have been launched by the Church of England to help churches reduce emissions. We expect these to increase in number, scale and pace as we draw closer to 2030. Advice and support in accessing these and other relevant grants is available from the Creation Care team (deo@trurodiocese.org.uk)

Your PCC and incumbent

Your PCC should decide how it will resource and support your ministry locally. This is normally done by way of a 'working agreement' and/or 'mission action plan'.

Your incumbent should arrange to meet with you on a regular basis to discuss and review how things are going. The emphasis put squarely on reflecting together, and ascertaining how your role should be supported.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training will need to be completed prior to your application being accepted. All LCC's will be required to complete 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation' safeguarding training. You will be required to complete the 'Leadership Pathway' training and undergo a DBS safeguarding check prior to your commissioning service (this is undertaken by your sponsoring PCC at the start of the process).

The application process is as follows:

- Discernment – meet with you vicar or church leader and pray together. This will help discern whether this is your calling.
- Ask your PCC to sponsor your application to become an LCC.
- Your PCC should then review your application following Safer Recruitment guidelines.
- You should then undertake safeguarding training at 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation' levels.
- Complete the application form and forward to deo@trurodiocese.org.uk
- With the above steps complete you will then receive a letter of acceptance with instructions on how to enroll on the LCC course.

The Church of England is committed to promoting a safe environment and culture for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

You will be expected to work within the policy and procedures of the relevant safeguarding policies and attend all required safeguarding training. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the following safeguarding policy documents before completing your application:

1. Promoting a Safer Church Policy Document 2017
2. A summary of the Church of England's Safeguarding Principles
3. Safer Environment and Activities 2019

If you should need to contact someone about the Church of England's safeguarding requirements and best practice, or if you have a concern regarding safeguarding in relation to your role you may wish to speak to a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding team at safeguardingqueries@truro.diocese.org.uk.

Before you can continue with your application you should complete the Basic Awareness and Foundation Safeguarding Training. If you have already completed this for another role in your church or parish, then please send a copy of your certificate to deo@trurodiocese.org.uk.

RECOGNISE

RESPOND

RECORD

REPORT

Application Form

Please complete the form linked here and return it to deo@trurodiocese.org.uk

Application Form - Leader for Creation Care:

trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/creation-care/leaders-for-creation/

“ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

”

Genesis 2:15



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