



November 2024

New Diocesan Environmental Officer



Last month our Diocese welcomed Sophie Roberts as the new Diocesan Environmental Officer!

Sophie will be working within the JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation) team in the Mission & Evangelism Department to support the Dioceses work in safeguarding creation.

She will be committed to supporting churches in their journeys to becoming better stewards of God's world, particularly through encouragement of A Rocha's Eco Church Scheme. At Diocesan level, she will be leading the charge towards achieving Eco Diocese Silver by 2027.

For support on environmental matters or with the Eco Church scheme, you can reach Sophie at: sophie.roberts@southwark.anglican.org

Eco Church Updates

Congratulations to these churches who have been awarded **bronze** Eco Church status since the beginning of summer!

- St Peter's Church, Norbiton
- All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames
- St Barnabas with Christ's Chapel, Dulwich
- St John the Divine, Merton
- Christ Church, Colliers Wood
- Springfield Church, Wallington
- St John the Divine, New Malden

A special congratulations to St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common for achieving their **silver award**!

The Eco Church Scheme provides a fantastic framework for churches, breaking down care for creation into manageable, achievable steps. Interesting in learning more? Visit the A Rocha website for more information and helpful resources: [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](https://www.a-rocha.org.uk).



The new Eco Church Survey criteria has officially launched!



If you have already started an Eco Church application using the old survey criteria on the A Rocha platform, please remember to submit it by the end of **January 2024**. Applications submitted after that date will need to use the new survey criteria.

For those not ready to submit, or if you haven't accessed the old survey - don't fret! You can begin working on the new questions, designed to have an even greater impact in safeguarding God's creation. Access the new survey criteria [here](#).

You have until
the end of
January 2025
to complete an
existing survey

Climate & Nature Bill Vote



The second reading of the climate and nature bill is coming up on 24th January, when it will need the support of at least 100 MP's to progress to the next stage.

The CAN bill is a crunch moment for climate legislation in the UK; if passed, it will protect and restore forests, require the government to take rapid action to reduce our carbon footprint, and stop delays in climate action.

While it can feel hopeless pressing officials to act when it comes to the climate crisis, writing to MP's can genuinely make the difference by showing them what their constituents care about.

Head to www.zerohour.uk for easy to follow guidance on urging your MP to attend the vote. If there's one action to take for the environment this month, **make it this!**

UN Climate Conferences - what can we do?



As the UN's Biodiversity Conference (COP16) in Colombia has drawn to a close, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan is set to begin on 11th November. This is a crucial time for climate action on an international scale, and it is important for us to consider ways we can contribute.

Jo Chamberlain, National Environment Officer at the Church of England, said: "Climate change and big international conferences like this can be hard for any of us to get our heads round. People can also feel slightly helpless and unsure of how they can contribute from home but there are many ways we can all do our bit".

The Church of England have released a [short guide](#) to help Christians understand the conferences better and find out what they can do to help.

"As Christians we can pray, and we can share our concerns with our local MP and also raise awareness through our churches. This handy guide offers lots of useful tips on the best ways to ensure your voice is heard at this international climate event."



Green Christian have also released a [prayer guide](#) for November which includes prayers for COP29, and are hosting prayer sessions each morning of the conference at 8am (11th Nov-22nd Nov). Sign up via this link: [Pray with us for COP29 - Green Christian](#).

Nature Recovery in Norfolk - Short Film from the Diocese of Norwich



With a backdrop of the UN Biodiversity conference, the Diocese of Norwich's environment team has released a short film on an inspiring biodiversity initiative in Harleston, which has a local church at its centre.

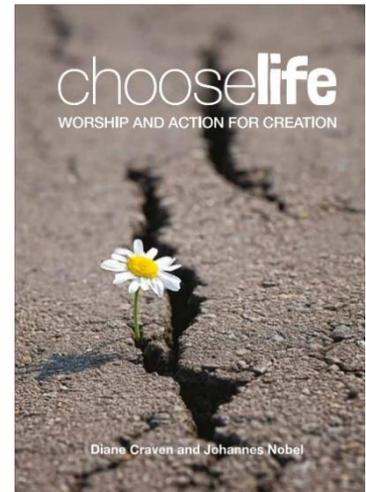
Click [here](#) to watch the short film and gain inspiration for ways to involve the wider community in your own environmental initiatives.

New Resource for Worship

'Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live.'
(Deuteronomy 30.19)

Creation isn't just for Creationtide! Diane Craven and Johannes Nobel have released a creation-focused e-book free to all dioceses in the Church of England, encouraging churches to pray for creation during each liturgical season.

Head to the [website](#) to download the e-book in PDF format, and for accompanying resources.



Greener, Fairer Banking Guide for 2024

Have you ever wondered what your bank does with your money, and the impact it makes?

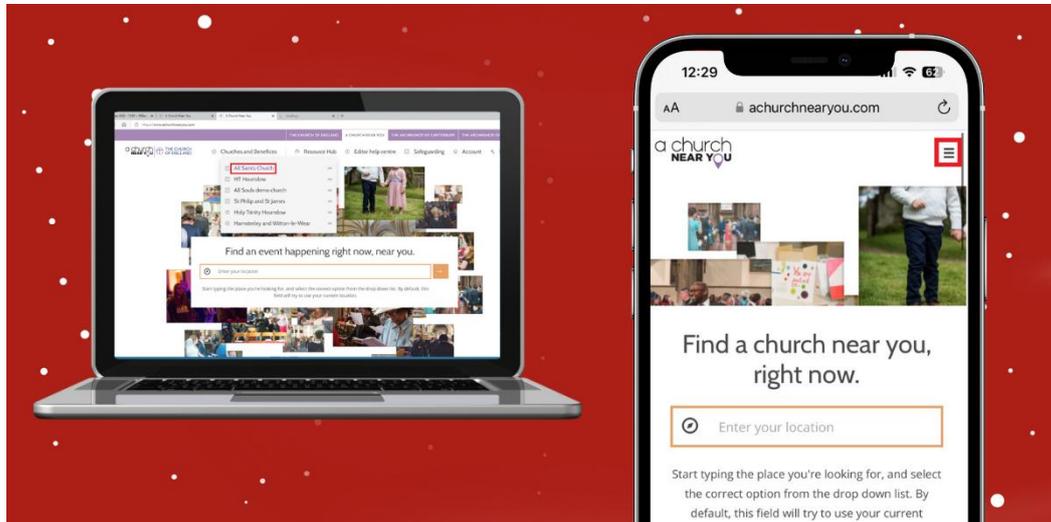
As Christians, it can be easy to live out our faith on a Sunday but more challenging to apply it to different areas of our lives throughout the rest of the week. Many of us have never thought in great depth about how our money affects God's planet and his people.

To address this, JustMoney Movement have released an updated *Greener, Fairer Banking Guide* that gives churches advice on banking ethically and avoiding banks that invest in fossil fuel projects. Click [here](#) to learn more and download the guide, and check out their [Big Bank Switch](#) campaign for personal finances.



Displaying your Eco Church Status on a Church Near You Website

Want those searching for a church to know about your commitment to safeguarding God's creation? You can use the 'facilities and gestures' feature on a Church Near You website to let people know you are a registered Eco Church! See this [short video](#) for helpful step by step advice on how to add the tag.



The Diocese of
Southwark