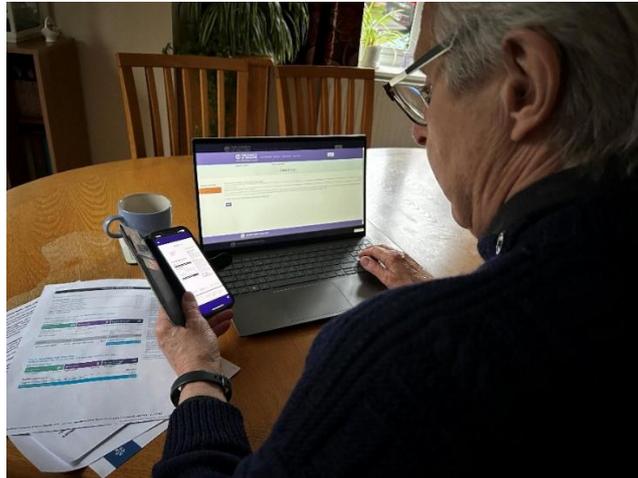




January 2025

The Energy Footprint Tool is back!



The Energy Footprint is now open for churches to submit their 2024 energy bill data via the [Parish Returns website](#), until the tool closes on the 30th June. The EFT is easy to use, should take less than an hour to complete and provides vital baseline information for work towards Net Zero Carbon.

With 2024 being the hottest year on record, our work towards safeguarding creation and cutting our carbon is more urgent than ever. Completing the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects.

It's simpler than you think - visit the [guidance page](#) and reach out to [Sophie Roberts](#), our Diocesan Environmental Officer with any questions. We recommend sitting down with a hot drink and completing the tool soon, while you still have last year's bills to hand.

Energy Footprint Tool Training Sessions

If you would like extra support filling out the EFT - join an easy-to-follow training session. You can choose between a lunchtime or evening session, hosted by our Diocesan Environment Officer on **Wednesday 12th March**.

The slots are:

- 12:00-13:00 (lunchtime - join whilst on your break!)
- 18:30-19:30

These sessions are a chance for churches to learn about the Energy Footprint Tool and its purpose, have a walk-through explaining how to fill it out, and ask any burning questions.

Email jpicadmin@southwark.anglican.org to book.

Eco Church Updates



Congratulations to the churches who have received awards since November!

Bronze:

- St Francis Church, Monks Hill

Silver:

- St Barnabas' Church, Clapham Common
- Saint Mary the Virgin, Horne
- All Saints Church, South Merstham
- St Mary's Church, Wimbledon

The Eco Church Scheme provides a fantastic framework for churches, breaking down care for creation into manageable, achievable steps wherever you are in your journey. Churches are encouraged to register for Eco Church as part of the Church of England's Routemap to achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

To learn more and for a wealth of resources, head to the A Rocha website: [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#).

Reminder - Get Last Minute Eco Church Award Applications in by end of January!



If you have already started an Eco Church application using the old survey criteria on the A Rocha platform, you have until the end of **January 2025 to submit**. Applications submitted after that date will need to use the new survey criteria.

If you want to start working on the new survey data which seeks to have an even greater impact towards safeguarding creation, access the updated criteria [here](#).

COP29 Reflections - Bishops Call for Bolder Action

Following COP29, the Bishop of Norwich Graham Usher and Archbishop Julio Murray called on leaders to be bolder in working for climate finance that offers hope.

The Anglican Communion delegation, which included Archbishop Julio Murray from Panama, called for negotiations at COP29 in Azerbaijan to prioritise peace, to listen to the wisdom of indigenous communities, and to work for justice, in particular for climate finance.

[Read the statements here](#).



Final Chance to Contact Your MP for the Climate & Nature Bill



Here is your **final reminder** to urge your MP to back the Climate & Nature Bill on 24th January!

The Church of England is supporting the CAN Bill, which will need the support of at least 102 MP's to progress to the next stage.

The campaign group behind the bill, Zero Hour, need your help. Head to www.zerohour.uk for simple guidance on writing to your MP. As we start the new year, let's look towards the future and urge our MP's to do the same!

Give to Go Green Success



Give to Go Green is a match-funding project from the Church of England, which doubles local donations to carbon-cutting projects. We were one of seven dioceses selected to take part in the first round - and were delighted that twelve of our churches that applied had funding approved!

Each church successfully raised money through a range of community fundraising efforts - including walks, quizzes, shared lunches and breakfasts, concerts, recycling books and clothes, reducing landfill and donating the money raised to the campaign. All of the churches successfully met their targets, showing the enormous impact we can have through collective action. Congratulations to all who took part and thank you for your hard work!

To read more about some of these projects, head to [our website](#). **The next round of applications are currently happening**, so if you feel inspired to take part head to [this page](#) to learn more about the process.



Immanuel and St Andrews, Streatham who decided to lower their environmental impact by switching to LED's.

Environment Calendar 2025



The Church of England have released their 2025 Environment Calendar! This is the go-to resource for key environmental awareness dates, and great for displaying.

Don't miss out on days to celebrate and care for creation this year - [download your free copy here](#).

January Awareness - RSPB's Bird Garden Birdwatch

The [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) is taking place this January from 24th-26th. This is a great opportunity to join the world's largest garden wildlife survey and support conservationists in protecting local bird populations. To take part, just sign up on [RSPB's website](#) and spend one hour counting the birds you see. Don't be put off if you don't have a garden- this can be done from a local park, a balcony or even a window!



How to cut your church's energy costs this winter

Discover ten tips for reducing your church's energy use and cutting your bills this winter, in [a new article](#) from the National Church. Whether it be through quick wins like unplugging

unused devices, or larger changes like LED bulbs or changing your heating system - these changes can help make the difference this winter.

