

Eco Bulletin



May 2025

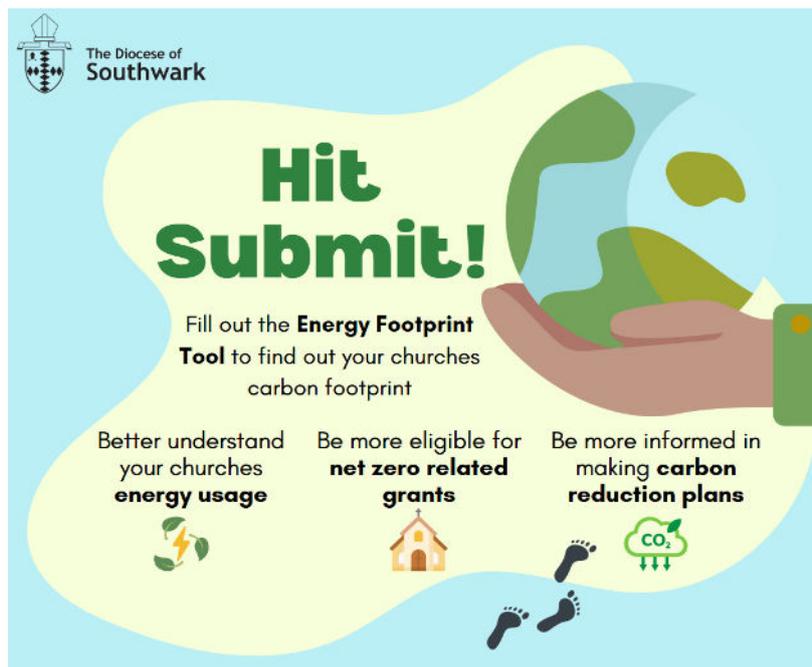
💡 Energy Footprint Tool Reminder & Drop-In Sessions

A big thank you to the 130 churches who have already submitted their energy data for this year's Energy Footprint Tool!

If your church hasn't yet completed this, there's still time. You have until the **30th June** to input information from your 2024 energy bills on the [Parish Returns Online](#) portal. Completing the tool is vital to be more eligible for future grants, and for tracking your energy usage year on year - so get this quick task ticked off your list!

If you need help accessing Parish Returns or have questions, our Diocesan Environment Officer, Sophie Roberts, is happy to help: sophie.roberts@southwark.anglican.org.

As a thank you, the first deanery to achieve 100% submission rate will receive a selection of treats to enjoy at their next deanery synod. Plus, eco hampers will be sent to a few randomly selected churches who submit - a little extra incentive to get your data in!



Need a hand? Join a weekly Energy Footprint Tool drop-in session

Our friends at the Diocese of London have invited anyone in our Southwark churches to join them for weekly drop in support sessions, taking place **every Wednesday 12:00 - 13:30 until 26 June**. For the Zoom link to join, just email JPICadmin@southwark.anglican.org.

More information on the tool and drop-in sessions can be found here: southwark.anglican.org/energy-footprint-tool-now-open-for-2025

St George's Shirley Strikes Gold!



A huge congratulations to St George the Martyr, Shirley, who have been awarded the Eco Church Gold Award! They are the second church in our Diocese and the 85th nationally to achieve gold status.

Their journey has been a wonderful example of creativity, dedication, and collaborative work - from community litter picks, to an environmentally-themed film night with other local churches!

Read more about their inspiring journey to gold in this [blog post](#).

National CofE Environment Conference - Connect 2025



This March more than 120 people working across the Church of England came together at the **British Antarctic Survey Headquarters in Cambridge** for a two-day conference on climate action, creation care theology, and net zero.

The inspiring event brought together all 42 dioceses and ecumenical partners for a time of learning, encouragement, and planning for the future.

📖 Read more about the conference [here](#).

Kew Eco Fair

On 22nd March, St Luke's, Kew hosted the second edition of its award winning **Eco Fair**. The event was officially opened by its patron broadcaster Jeremy Vine, London's Deputy Mayor for the Environment Mete Coban MBE, The Bishop of Kingston, The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, the Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Richard Pyne, and St Luke's Revd Melanie Harrington-Haynes.

The day was packed with inspiration and hands-on activities. Highlights included inspiring talks on environmental issues, a repair café, a second-hand clothes sale, free bike health checks, eco-conscious shopping stalls, and even a vegan bake-off!

With something for everyone, the fair brought together people of all ages to learn, share, and take action for a greener future.



New Net Zero Animation & Guide



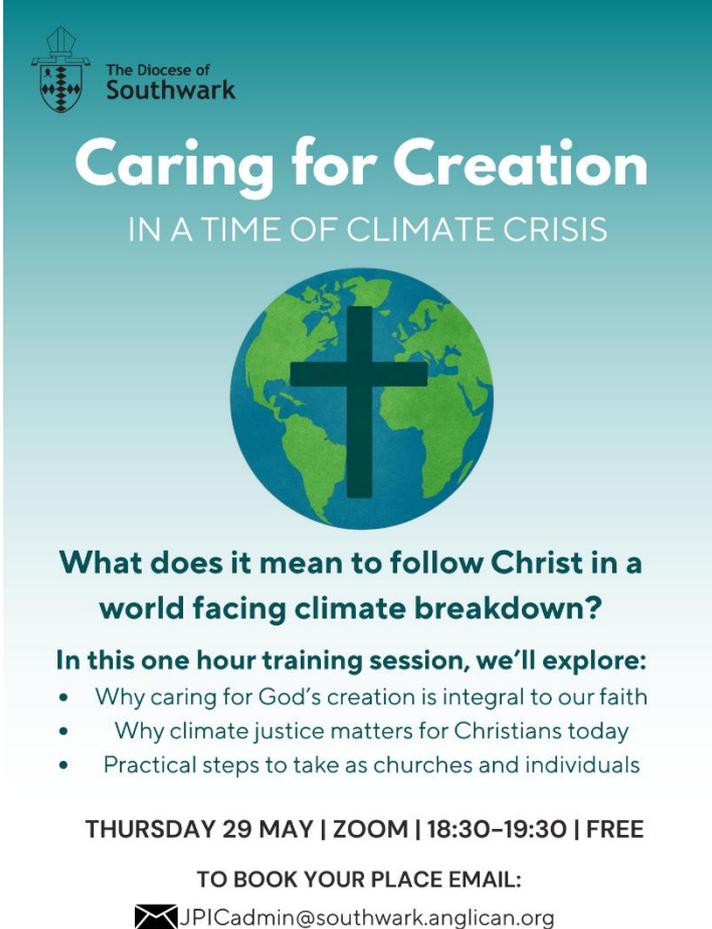
The Church of England has launched a new [digital guide](#) and short [animation](#) with practical tips for churches on reaching net zero carbon.

The short two-minute video highlights simple steps such as insulating pipes, draught-proofing doors and buying heated seat cushions to help churches reduce their carbon emissions. The guide also features a helpful flowchart, a list of heating solutions and a checklist for step-by-step advice.

Check it out and find other advice [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Caring for Creation Online Training - Everyone Welcome!



The Diocese of Southwark

Caring for Creation

IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CRISIS



What does it mean to follow Christ in a world facing climate breakdown?

In this one hour training session, we'll explore:

- Why caring for God's creation is integral to our faith
- Why climate justice matters for Christians today
- Practical steps to take as churches and individuals

THURSDAY 29 MAY | ZOOM | 18:30-19:30 | FREE

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE EMAIL:

 JPICadmin@southwark.anglican.org

Join us for a one-hour online session exploring **why caring for creation is an integral part of Christian discipleship**, and how we can respond practically - both in our churches and everyday lives. The session is open to anyone in churches who wants to deepen their understanding and take action on the climate crisis.

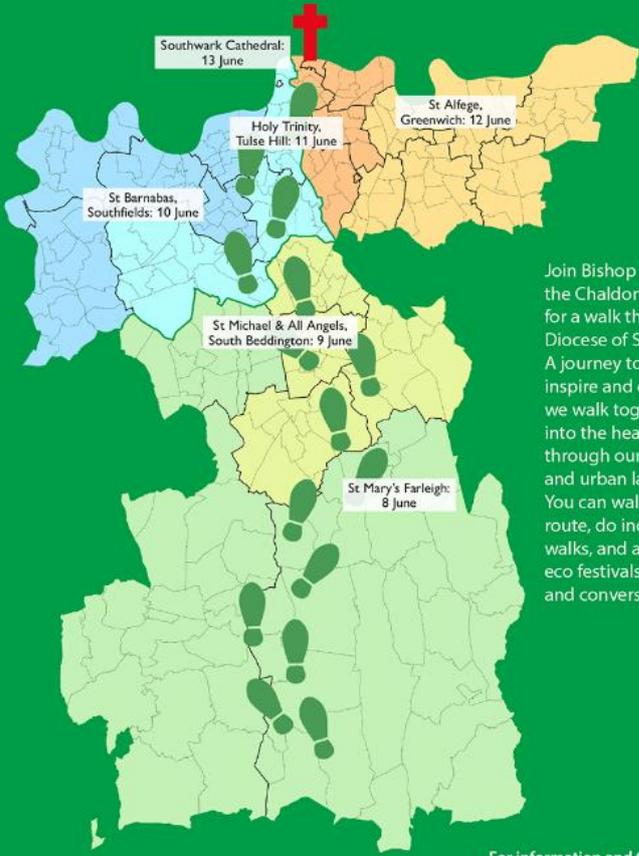
 The session will take place at **18:30 - 19:30 on Thursday, 29th May**. To book your place, email JPICadmin@southwark.anglican.org for the Zoom link.

Green Week Eco Pilgrimage

Join Bishop Martin and the Chaldon Pilgrims for a Green Week pilgrimage through the Diocese of Southwark, from **8 - 13 June**. Each day will include prayer, sharing stories, and community action focused on climate and nature. There'll also be an evening outreach event at the churches where they're stopping overnight.

You can find more details and book for the whole week, a day, or just a morning, afternoon, or evening [here](#).

 **Green Week Eco Pilgrimage**
‘Walking into the heart of creation’



Join Bishop Martin and the Chaldon Pilgrims for a walk through the Diocese of Southwark. A journey to connect, inspire and change us as we walk together, deeper into the heart of creation, through our suburban and urban landscapes. You can walk the whole route, do individual day walks, and attend evening eco festivals of story, song and conversation.

For information and to register for walks visit: tinyurl.com/2bxs8cjp



Join in with Churches Count on Nature Week 2025



Discover the wildlife in your churchyard this summer during **Churches Count on Nature Week (7 - 15 June)**! Join Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales in celebrating the rich biodiversity of churchyards, cemeteries, and burial grounds across the UK.

Churches nationwide will host events and log the wildlife they spot. The popular lunchtime webinar series will also be returning throughout the week - find out more and register [here](#).

Hope for the Future - Engaging with your MP



Want to influence your local politicians on climate action? Charity **Hope for the Future** is offering a series of [free online training sessions](#) to help you build the skills to speak up effectively. Join them to learn how to have constructive conversations that make a real impact on environmental decision-making.

Could your church offer a cool space this summer?

As temperatures rise, this summer churches can provide cool spaces for people in London by registering their space to be part of the **Cool Off in Culture Campaign**.

The campaign aims to signpost people to venues where they can go on hot days to cool off, sit down, and have access to free drinking water. Cool spaces will appear on a map, live from **1 June - 30 September** - the time when those most vulnerable to heat related health risks are most likely to be affected.

Why not open your venue for the public to cool off in and enjoy? Check the criteria and register your space [here](#) to take part.

Blogs & Resources

Caring for Creation on a Budget Resource



When we think of caring for the environment, we often picture big projects like installing solar panels or upgrading heating systems. But, there are many ways we can care for the planet that are low-cost, no-cost, or even save money. In fact, living a green lifestyle often involves spending less and only taking our fair share of resources.

Check out our new 'Caring for Creation on a Budget' poster for 15 simple, budget-friendly ways to protect God's planet and people. Download a [pdf copy](#) here with links for newsletters, and why not print a full size poster to put on your church noticeboard?

Earth Day Blog - A Call to Action for Justice & Hope



If you missed Earth Day this year or just want to reflect on the day, you can catch up by reading our Earth Day [blog](#). Find out more about the event's origins, and how it came to be a call for justice and collective action.

Sustainable Church Flowers Blog

Church flowers are beautiful - but often come at a high environmental price due to the use of plastic containers and floral foam. Read [this blog](#) by the Church of England Environment team to discover how you can create lovely displays that don't cost the earth.

