



# Eco Bulletin



July 2025

## Updates

### Meet our Eco Champions

We are delighted to introduce our new team of Eco Champions - people championing the environment in their own churches, who are eager to help others too.

Our champions care deeply about looking after God's creation, and have journeyed with [Eco Church](#) to take practical, hopeful action in their churches. Each Archdeaconry has at least one champion - someone who understands your local context and is willing to give advice and encouragement.

Feel free to reach out to them with questions, have a phone call, or invite them for a coffee and chat. You can learn more, and find your local Eco Champion and their contact details [here](#).



### Creationtide is Near - Resources Blog



**PEACE  
WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Garden of Peace  
Isaiah 32:14-18

Join Christians worldwide in celebrating **Creationtide (1 Sept - 4 Oct)** - a season to honour God as Creator and renew our commitment to care for the Earth. This year's theme,

'Garden of Peace' calls us to live peacefully with creation through prayer, worship, and action.

Explore a wide range of resources for services, small groups, young people, and personal discipleship - including eco-themed prayers, songs, outdoor worship ideas, and training opportunities in this [blog](#). More resources will also be available in due course, so keep an eye out!

However you want to celebrate, there's something for everyone. Why not use the time to spotlight creation care in your church?

### 🎉 Energy Footprint Tool - Thank You!



A huge thank you to everyone who completed the Energy Footprint Tool this year. Thanks to your collective efforts, we had **75% of our churches complete the tool this year** - a significant jump from 58% last year!

Although the online portal is now closed, churches **can still send in their data** using paper forms. You can use [this form for church buildings](#) and [this one for other buildings](#). Once filled in, these can be sent to [sophie.roberts@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:sophie.roberts@southwark.anglican.org).

### 🏡🌍 New Eco Church Awards & Registrations

Congratulations to Holy Trinity Tulse Hill, for recently achieving their bronze award, and to St Luke's Eltham Park for reaching the silver milestone! 🏆

A further well done to St Paul's Thornton Heath and St Hilda's Crofton Park for taking the leap to become Eco Churches.

**50%** of churches in our Diocese are now registered as Eco Churches. For more information and to sign up, head to the [Eco Church website](#) - it only takes a couple of minutes and is completely free!



📍 Wild garden area and planter beds at St Luke's Eltham

## Green Week Eco Pilgrimage



This Green Week, people from all across our Diocese journeyed between parishes on an eco-pilgrimage, connecting people and places.

Bishop Martin and the Chaldon Pilgrims walked into the heart of creation, travelling for 6 days and over 60 miles, inspiring local climate action along the way and connecting with different areas of God's diverse and wonderful creation.

👥 Watch this [video](#) to find out how they got on.

## Net Zero Report 2024 - Out Now



Be inspired by a new report from the Church of England Net Zero programme, highlighting progress and stories from 2024.

Read the [report](#), or watch the [video](#) to learn how churches across the country are taking meaningful steps to cut emissions and care for creation in their communities.

### **Celebrate all creatures great & small this summer**

You might remember the Church of England's previous summer social media campaigns, #ChurchDoorChallenge and #StainedGlassSummer. This year, they'd love to see your photos of animals in churches or within your church grounds. Whether it's local wildlife, pets who've visited, or animals depicted in stained glass, paintings or carvings - they want to hear from you.

 Simply share your photo or videos on social media using the hashtag #GreatAndSmall.

Find out more and get involved [here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Foundations to Creation Care - Online Session**

 **Zoom, 18:30 - 20:00 on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September**

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

In this 90-minute foundational training session led by our Diocesan Environmental Officer, we'll explore what it means to love God and our neighbour in the context of the climate crisis, and how creation care can be woven into different areas of church life and our everyday discipleship.

We'll consider why caring for the planet is an integral part of our faith, why climate justice matters for Christians today, and how we can respond with practical, hopeful action.



Open to anyone from our churches who want to deepen their understanding and take action on the climate crisis. To book, just email [JPICadmin@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:JPICadmin@southwark.anglican.org) for the Zoom link.

### 🔔 **Thousands Gathered in Westminster- What's Next?**



On 9<sup>th</sup> July, over 5000 people came together in Westminster for a powerful mass lobby, calling on MPs to act now for a healthier, fairer, safer future.

📖 Read about how the day went in this [blog](#) from Green Christian.

👥 Hear directly from Christians who took part in this [video](#) from JPIT.

### **The next step - Lobby Week**

From 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a Lobby Week. This is a chance to meet your local decision maker in your own community, on your own terms. You'll have the chance to build on conversations started in July and keep up the momentum, whether you were in Westminster or not.

### **Summer Training Workshops**

The Climate Coalition are running a series of training sessions over summer to support you - whether it's in building a local group, growing your impact or keeping the conversation going with your MP. Find out more and book a session [here](#).

### 🦋 **Big Butterfly Count**



Become a citizen scientist between 18<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August by taking part in the Big Butterfly Count. Your sightings help track species trends, support conservation, and monitor climate change impacts on species.

To take part, simply download a butterfly chart from the [website](#) or use the app, choose a spot to spend 15 minutes in nature, and record the butterflies you see. Submit your count online or via the app and explore the map to see how your findings contribute to nationwide conservation efforts.

### St Augustine's Courses



Are you, or your congregation, unsure about what the environmental crisis means for faith and discipleship? Would you like to be better equipped to integrate creation literacy into your worship and theology?

St Augustine's College of Theology, Kent, is launching two new courses in Autumn 2025 to help Christians understand and respond to the damage and inequality that are unfolding in our world. One is an MA suitable for committed learners: [Theology for a Planet in Crisis](#), with an option to take only the core module as a taster course. The other is a short, online course suitable for everybody: [God, the Planet & Us](#).

Queries welcome to Revd Prof Charlotte Sleigh: [c.sleigh@staugustinescollege.ac.uk](mailto:c.sleigh@staugustinescollege.ac.uk).

## An evening of eco conversation

 **Date:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

 **Venue:** St Lawrence's Church, Caterham 7.30pm

Join the team from St Mary's Caterham for an evening of eco conversation, guest speakers, and refreshments this October. All are welcome.

To RSVP, email [stmaryscaterham@googlemail.com](mailto:stmaryscaterham@googlemail.com).

## Blogs & Resources

### Heatwaves Blog & Poster



After several heatwaves already this year, we have all been feeling the heat. Whilst some of us enjoy the hot weather, others are particularly vulnerable during the intense temperatures.

As we face increasingly hot summers, it's important for churches and individuals to stay informed. Check out our [blog](#) and a [poster](#) for guidance - and don't forget you can [register your church as a Cool Space](#) where people can find relief.

Let's check in with each other and act out Christ's call to love our neighbours this summer.

## Caring for God's Acre - Children's Summer Activity Pack



During the school holidays, churchyards offer a wonderful setting for family-friendly activities that help children connect with God's creation.

Explore this children's [activity pack](#) from Caring for God's Acre for creative and engaging ideas tailored to primary school-aged children - perfect for making the most of churchyards this summer.

### Churches Count on Nature 2025 Webinar Catchup



Did you miss the series of lunchtime webinars for Churches Count on Nature 2025?

The Church of England and Caring for God's Acre hosted another popular webinar series on a range of topics - from burial ground management, to amphibians and reptiles in churchyards, to the challenges and opportunities that accessibility in churchyards can raise.

 You can catch up anytime by watching the recordings [here](#).