



In building a holistic mission strategy for the Diocese it is important that all of our parishes at all levels are engaged with it. Caring for God's creation, one of the five Marks of Mission confirmed by

the Anglican Church worldwide, is an important ingredient in 'Living the mission of Jesus'.

The Rt Revd Tim Dakin
Bishop of Winchester

1. Parish Environmental Champions Workshop



Are you an Parish Environmental Champion or would you like to take on this role? I'm running another two hour workshop aimed at equipping and resourcing parishes in this area of mission.

Would you like to come along? It is totally free and offers an opportunity to share ideas, gather resources and become better equipped at helping your parish 'Care for God's Creation'.

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Some comments from others who have previously attended this workshop....

Learn about what it means to be good stewards of God's creation and share ideas with others on how we can put this into practice in our churches - celebrate and care!

- Felicity McElderry, Christ Church, Winchester

A very stimulating workshop, with opportunities to hear from different churches and viewpoints, and full of excellent resources to go away and use.

—Rosie Ward, Lymington

A course well worth attending for all parishes, with lots of new ideas from the course leader and from best practice in other parishes

—Jeff Watkin, North Baddesley

If you'd like to book a space or find out more then please contact me.

Date: Thursday, 12th April

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Old Alresford Place

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2. Creationtide Liturgy

The 'Season of Creation' is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1 September to 4 October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It is a period which encompasses many harvest festivals and builds up to the feast of St Francis of Assisi. As Christians, we acknowledge that the environment is our common home, and we need to tread more gently on the Earth and care for our shared planet. To help with this would you like some liturgy for a suitable Parish Eucharist during Creationtide developed by our Archdeacon, Richard Brand? If you'd like a copy please contact me: gordon.randall@winchester.anglican.org

3. Eco Church—Congratulations

The Venerable Richard Brand, Archdeacon of Winchester, presents St John’s, Hartley Wintney with their Bronze Eco Church Award to some young members of the congregation!



The following have obtained an Eco Church Award:

- Christ Church, Chineham—Bronze & Silver
- St John’s, Rownhams—Bronze & Silver
- St Barnabas, Winchester—Bronze
- All Saints, Odiham— Bronze
- All Saints, North Baddesley— Bronze
- St Christopher’s, Thornhill— Bronze
- St Mary’s, Andover—Bronze
- St John’s, Hartley Wintney—Bronze

Well done to all!

Eco Church (developed by A Rocha UK) offers a free online survey and supporting resources designed to equip your church to express your care for God’s world in your worship and teaching; in how you look after your buildings and land; in how you engage with your local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of your congregation.

Please note the survey has been updated. The categories remain the same but the new survey now takes account of such challenges as:

- churches which have listed building status, which limits them on what they can modify;
- different demographics, including churches which don’t have any children or young people in the congregation;
- a variety of church styles across different denominations.

It’s a subtle change making the survey more flexible to accommodate a broad church of users.

To participate is this excellent resource view: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

4. Operation Noah

The following short commentary is provided by Operation Noah, the leading Christian organisation in the UK working solely on climate change...



Why the church must take a lead on climate change...The reality of climate change raises questions that go to the heart of our Christian faith.

We believe that ‘the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it’ (Psalm 24): God’s creation is a gift that we have a duty to care for and the wellbeing of all creation matters to God. We also believe that climate change is about justice. Acting on climate change is about loving our neighbours, now and for the future.

The Church is uniquely placed to demonstrate moral leadership on key global issues. We are now seeing



political and economic momentum for widespread change on climate action, and the Church must speak out to support this – as well as doing so by its own actions, such as divesting from fossil fuels.

To find out more about the work of Operation Noah and to make use of the many resources they offer view... <http://operationnoah.org/> For example, check out their church resources page... <http://operationnoah.org/category/resources/church-resources/>

5. Church Magazine Articles

Would you like to include an article in your church magazine that encourages your congregation and wider community to ‘Care for God’s Creation’?

Green Christian offer a whole series of articles you can adapt and use. Take a look at...<http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/category/church-magazine-articles/>



6. Parish Buying—Green Energy

Did you know 100% of the electricity in the Parish Buying Energy Basket is green, all from UK-based renewable sources. They have been working with the Basket provider to do this at no extra cost to our members.



Please consider using Parish Buying to obtain the energy supplier for your church. Watch the 2 min film they offer and takes things from there. Take a look at...

<https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy/energy-basket>

This is a wonderful opportunity to help save the environment—100% green energy at no extra cost, mostly sourced from UK solar panels.

7. Tenants of the King

Tenants of the King is a new Bible-based, Jesus-centred resource from Operation Noah to help you and your church respond with hope to today's environmental crisis. This interactive four-part study resource features video interviews with leading Christian thinkers, plus group activities, insightful Bible commentary, and plenty of practical ideas for you and your church. Explore God’s purpose for creation, and how Christians can respond with hope to some of today's greatest challenges.



Available for Spring 2018. Find out more or order today at www.operationnoah.org/tenants

8. Calling all Deanery Synods

DEANERY SYNOD

The Diocese is set on the route towards becoming an Eco Diocese and has also made it a matter of policy to encourage all parishes to engage with creation care as a part of normal Christian Discipleship as well as a Mark of Mission.

Would you like someone from the Diocesan Environmental Group to come to your Deanery Synod meeting or Deanery Chapter and talk about Eco Church and the wider diocesan policy of caring for God’s creation?

In the first place perhaps you would contact Gordon Randall who will arrange a suitable visitor.

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9. An Archbishop's view...

The following is a letter about faith and climate change published by Archbishop Justin Welby last November.

As a global family of churches, the Anglican Communion has stood alongside other faiths in prayerful solidarity and compassion with victims and survivors of the recent extreme weather in many places around the world.

In Bangladesh and India, over 1,000 people died in an outsize monsoon flood. In the Caribbean and the United States, a succession of devastating hurricanes killed hundreds of people and cost thousands more their homes and businesses. In Hong Kong and southern China, over a dozen people were killed by a powerful typhoon.

Of course, hurricanes, monsoons and other types of extreme weather are a part of life on earth for many. The trouble is that climate change is loading the dice by intensifying storms and making rain patterns less predictable. Climate change is the human thumb on the scale, pushing us toward disaster. It is not a distant danger — it is already with us. As we continue to burn fossil fuels, its effects will only grow.

Some years ago I worked in Nigeria, helping to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. Its capital city, Lagos — one of the world's megacities, with a population estimated at 14 million to 21 million — will most likely experience a sea-level rise of around 35 inches in the next few decades if current warming trends continue. Even in this best-case scenario, which depends on the global community's sticking to the Paris climate change agreement, many of the shops I visited and homes I passed during my years in the country will be flooded. The rising waters are already changing ways of life and pressuring people to leave their homes. In the coming years, experts predict that millions of people in Lagos will be forced to move.

Contact information

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Living the Mission of Jesus



Providing a welcoming home for these migrants will challenge all of us. Unfortunately, Nigeria is just one example of a highly populated, highly exposed coastal area facing rising sea levels and storm surges. Bangladesh, the Philippines and other South Asian countries join them. New York City, Rio de Janeiro and London are at risk as well.

As people of faith, we don't just state our beliefs — we live them out. One belief is that we find purpose and joy in loving our neighbors. Another is that we are charged by our creator with taking good care of his creation.

The moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose and joy, and to respond to our creator's charge. Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbor and to steward the gift of creation. Indeed, even amid the hurricane-caused devastation and despair of recent weeks, I have seen seeds of hope. Different expressions of the Christian faith are freshly united around the need to care for our common home. The Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox Churches just came together with the World Council of Churches to celebrate a month long Season of Creation. During this season, people all around the globe prayed and acted to address climate change and to protect the earth.

The Anglican Communion is responding in many ways. Young Anglicans from across Africa have united with ecumenical neighbors to study local effects of climate change and work on developing local solutions. In Cape Town, a diocesan environmental working group held a Eucharist for creation on Table Mountain. In Canada, the national indigenous Anglican bishop participated in an online prayer service and led an interfaith walk to protect the Great Lakes.

However we choose to respond, a response is necessary. People of faith have a unique call to address the causes of climate change. As we stand together in our support for the survivors of extreme weather, let us act together in ways that will safeguard our shared gift of creation — and the lives of those who will inherit it from us.