

Creation Care Programme

A programme to equip Christians in this important area.

Many people within the church, and within our communities, are deeply concerned about the environmental damage humanity is unleashing on the world today. Many Christians are keen to act but lack the knowledge or confidence to do so.

This Creation Care Programme is designed to introduce you to environmental theology, provide you with ideas to make a difference in your locality and explore how creation care can also be a mission opportunity to connect with your community.

Session 1: God's Wonderful World

We will explore why we believe in a God-created universe, look at whether a scientific approach can be compatible with Christian belief, see how ecological communities are structured and summarise the ecological crises we face. The Eco Church programme will be introduced.

Session 2: Made in God's Image to Care

We will consider what it means to be made in the image of Christ and what dominion might mean in this context. We will explore the way ecosystems work and introduce the idea of linear and circular economies. We will consider ways we might share resources better and reduce pollution.

Session 3: The Problem

We will consider how things have gone wrong because of us and look at the impact humans have had on the planet. We will look at the carbon cycle and explore the 'greenhouse effect' and its role in climate change. We will introduce the concept of net zero carbon and discuss what the church is doing in this area.

Session 4: A Future and a Hope

We will consider God's plan for the future, looking at resurrection and the renewal of the world. We will discuss whether, and how, God is actively involved in His world today. We will look at good news stories, talk about food issues and introduce Living Lightly.

Session 5: Telling the Truth in Love.

Communicating climate change and creation care is vital, so we will explore ways of doing this. We will consider the view that creation care is irrelevant to the gospel, look at common questions and the way people approach climate change. By the end of the session, you should understand and be able to justify that creation care is an imperative for all Christians.

Session 6: Action Stations

As the sessions draw to a close, we will look forward, exploring our possible next steps. We will look at the national and diocesan context, Eco Church and what it might look like for you to become an Eco Champion in your parish/benefice.

The six sessions will be held online over Zoom and last c.105 minutes, including a short break. Prior to each online session there is some pre-work to do in preparation. This is done through an online training platform, Moodle. The pre-work should take about an hour to do each time.