



A Mighty River Amos 5: 24

Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

1st September to 4th October



SEASON OF CREATION

Dear Colleagues,

One of the joys of my week is a catch up with my 85-year-old mum. The last time I visited, she presented me with a carefully wrapped present. As I opened it, a golden bronze glow emerged, a smooth velvety surface; the one and only ripe fruit from her apricot tree this year. Rather than keep the bounty for herself, she chose to give it away. Gifting from her 'first fruits' rather than from her surplus is her practice with all her garden crops, always choosing to share the generosity of God with others.

Today is the 1st August, the day in the church year called 'Lammas', a day of thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the season's harvest. On this day the people of God in ancient times presented an offering of first-fruits as a sign of their dependence upon God for their daily bread, which we can read all about in Leviticus 23.9-14.

Tomorrow is the 2nd August, Earth Overshoot Day 2023. This is the day when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. After this date, everything we consume is unsustainability 'over budget'. The UK's national Earth Overshoot Day happened on 19th May this year; our lifestyles are significantly ecologically 'over budget'. Discover your personal Ecological Footprints here: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org> - and learn about the steps we can each take in valuing the good Earth and the lives it sustains.

This Season of Creation is an opportunity to explore the injustice of our overconsumption; to understand more about the impact of our lifestyles on those who have the least; to seek repentance and take action to right our wrongs - a lifetime's journey in faith. Inside this 'Season of Creation' bulletin, I hope you will find resources to help you and your church take your next step on this journey to a more equitable world, where the generosity of God's fruits can be experienced all, *where justice and peace can flow*.

With every blessing,

Sarah Spencer

Sarah Spencer, Mission & Discipleship

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faithful · confident · joyful

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Liturgical materials



A Mighty River
— Amos 5: 24 —

Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

This ecumenical Season of Creation that begins with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1st and culminates on October 4th, celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year the theme is "**Let justice and peace flow**", guided by the prophet Amos who cries out, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (5: 24). We are encouraged to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and biodiversity loss.

[learn more](#)

[resources](#)

"A mighty river" is the symbol chosen to go with this theme, representing biodiversity at risk. The urgency grows and we must make visible **peace** with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to **repentance** and a change of **attitude** and **actions**. When we join the river of justice and peace together with others, it creates **hope** instead of despair.

Planning for the Season of Creation 2023: 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'...

Hazelnut Community Farm 'Growing Course'

A six session course which explores the relationship between creator God, creation itself, and how we live faithfully as people of the land. It is designed for Christian communities to deepen our connection with creation and reimagine ourselves as people of the land in the midst of the climate emergency. Worshipful, prayerful and hands-on.

[resources](#)



Songs for the Season of Creation

Climate Vigil from Porter's Gate

Doxecology from Resound Worship

[Climate Vigil Album](#)

[Doxecology Album](#)

[resources](#)

[resources](#)



Seasonal Service of the Word

These are easy to print 'Services of the Word' designed to be used in conjunction with the [Homilies Project](#). Seasonal variations are added during the year, and there is now one for the Season of Creation, along with accompanying hymn and reading suggestions & homily from Bishop David.

[Service of the Word for Season of Creation](#)



Teaching & Preaching



[Preaching for God's World](#)



Preaching for God's World

Preaching for God's World helps preachers explore the set lectionary readings for each week from the perspective of creation care. It offers thoughts and reflections on each Sunday's Revised Common Lectionary readings viewed through the lens of the Anglican Five Marks of Mission – in particular, caring for people and planet.

There are preaching notes for **all five weeks for the Season of Creation** from contributors from around the world including Revd Rachel Mash, Jo Knight, Revd Shaun Cozett, Bob Kikuyu and Revd Fletcher Harper.

[preaching_1](#)

[preaching_2](#)

[preaching_3](#)

[preaching_4](#)

[preaching_5](#)

A Christian Look at the Environment

This series of five bible studies have been written for the John Ray Initiative in 2023 by Revd. Rich Clarkson, and is based on a popular earlier series of bible studies written by Dena Burne in 2002 (the latter have now been withdrawn). It draws on both theological and scientific insight to help groups and churches think about what a Christian approach to environmental issues might look like. These are an ideal set of group studies for the Season of Creation or for a Lent Course, but could be used at any time.



[download bible study](#)



Gathering the harvest: ideas for a whole-life harvest festival LICC

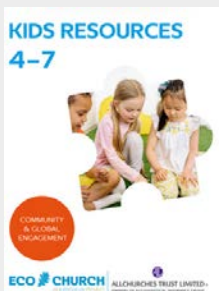
Harvest is an opportunity to recognise the abundant provision of God, both materially and spiritually, and also the ways in which God is working through people up and down the country and across the world to put food on our plates. It's an opportunity to highlight the inherent value of human work – and the way God calls us to join his redemptive purposes day by day. LICC have materials to help you plan

[read more](#)

Children & Youth

Children and Youth Resources from **Eco Church**

A suite of resources for people working with children and young people to help you and your church become good news for God's earth. These free to download resources give guidance and session outlines for working with children, young tng people and families in five key areas of church life: Worship and Teaching, Building Management, Land Management, Community and Global Engagement, and Lifestyle. Could your younger generations lead the church's Eco Church journey?



Ages 4-7



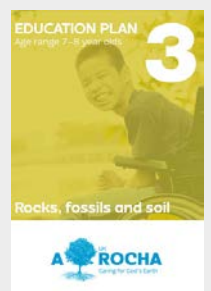
Ages 7-11



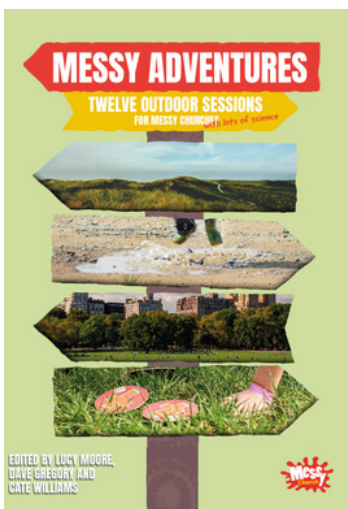
Ages 11-14



Ages 15-17



Education



Messy Adventures

Messy Adventures is a resource consisting of twelve units of materials to give the most unconfident leader the tools and confidence to take their Church outdoors. Each unit includes fun activities with a strong scientific focus, questions to discuss, 'Big Thinking' provided by scientific experts and suggestions for creative ways of responding in Christian worship with awe, wonder and celebration.

This is a collaborative project between Messy Church at BRF, writers, scientists, the diocese of Gloucester and pilot churches across the length and breadth of the UK.

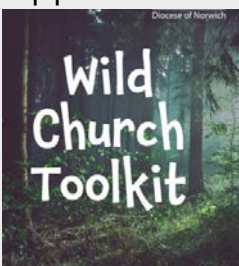
resources for all 12 sessions

Summer Church Activities

Six weeks of Bible sessions for 5-11 year olds, encouraging people to reconnect with God by going outside and connecting with His creation. A useful starting place for those exploring a 'Forest Church' approach.



Free resource



View resource

From the Diocese of Norwich a toolkit to explore the basics of Christian spirituality, church and mission in the natural world. It is a guide to support others in growing their own form of outdoor worship. The toolkit covers practical issues and answers a variety of questions.

Environmental Networking

Join in half-termly environmental networking on Zoom.

Across the diocese there are some amazing Christians, communities and church projects which are responding to God's call to care for His creation, within the challenging reality of climate and ecological crisis.



With guest speakers, local stories, resource sharing and opportunities to connect, ask questions and to pray, these evenings are suitable for all, whether already engaged or just starting out.

Register for each by clicking the links below:

Wednesday 13th Sept 2023 at 07:00 PM on Zoom

[Season of Creation](#)



Wednesday 15th Nov 2023 at 07:00 PM on Zoom

[Simply Live](#)

Wednesday 10th Jan 2024 at 07:00 PM on Zoom

[Net Zero Buildings](#)

Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 07:00 PM on Zoom

[Wildlife & Land](#)

Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 07:00 PM on Zoom

[Outdoor Worship](#)

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 07:00 PM on Zoom

[Connecting Communities](#)



Everyone is invited to join these half-termly zooms and connect with others in your LMP, the Deanery Environment Champions, in the Deanery Partnership and beyond. *Maybe you have a story to share?* Hosted by Sarah Spencer, Mission and Discipleship Officer, with guest speakers from within and across the diocese, national organisations and support from experts in their field.

Contact: sarah.spencer@lincoln.anglican.org



Toolkits for Churches

54 Churches Registered

9 Bronze

8 Silver

Churches complete the unique, free online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work. The answers your church provides will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more your church does, the more points you get!



Sign up today!

worship : buildings : land : community : lifestyle

Climate Emergency Toolkit

As the climate crisis accelerates, millions of lives are at risk. Christians around the world are taking urgent action, to love our neighbours, tackle the climate emergency and save lives.

The Climate Emergency Toolkit provides a route map to help all members of your church or Christian organisation respond to the climate emergency. Step by step, it contains simple but powerful actions that will equip every member to have an impact far beyond your own walls, and to influence the decisions of those in power.



- Prepare.**
Start the conversation about the climate emergency and begin planning your response.
- Declare.**
Recognise, declare or acknowledge an emergency in a way that engages your community and amplifies the need for leaders everywhere to act.
- Impact.**
Support and empower everyone in your church family to champion climate action wherever they already are, and to pray for change.

This **Gods Acre Action Pack** has a wealth of information to help with the sensitive management of your local churchyard. There are guidelines on the management of wildlife habitats such as grassland and trees, and features such as lychgates, boundary walls and old stonework. You will find information on how to involve others and how to make use of these places for learning and community activity.



Resource Bank



Introduction: Five Steps to Churchyard Management

Measure your impact

**THIS YEAR'S EARTH
OVERSHOOT DAY
FALLS ON AUGUST 2**

Measure what you Treasure

What is your personal ecological footprint? Use the app to discover your many worlds your lifestyle requires, determine your personal Earth Overshoot Day, and learn about solutions so we can all tread more lightly on the Earth.



[take the test](#)



FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR

The WWF's Footprint Calculator helps to measure your carbon footprint, and explore what you might do lower it. It converts all the different greenhouse gases into an equivalent impact from carbon dioxide, the most common human-caused greenhouse gas. Your footprint value is an annual figure in "tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent – or tCO₂e" and you can see how your footprint compares to average UK and global carbon footprints.

[take the test](#)



Creation Care

Encouraging households to care for God's world

The **Creation Care** scheme aims to encourage households to make changes to care for God's earth.

Wherever households are on their creation care journey, we want to provide ideas for their next steps, and recognise the progress they've made. [Find out more](#) about the scheme. The scheme covers 7 areas of household life:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Worship and prayer | Home |
| Garden | Travel |
| Food | Possessions |
| Community | Global engagement |

Webinars from C of E

GETTING STARTED WITH ECO CHURCH

Thursday 14 September 12-1pm, [BOOK HERE](#)

This webinar will tell you everything you need to know to get started. Come along if you've heard of Eco Church but haven't started yet, and want to know a little more before you take the plunge.

The webinar will answer questions like: "What is Eco Church? Why take part? How does the award scheme work? What does it cost? Where should we start?" it will be filled with practical examples of churches around the country who have made changes, using Eco Church as a framework.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND** A Christian presence in every community



WORKING TOWARDS AN AWARD AND MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

Tuesday 19 September, 12 noon-1pm, [BOOK HERE](#)

This webinar is aimed at people in churches who have registered for Eco Church and taken their first steps, but need a little help to get things going and work towards their Bronze or Silver award.

The webinar will cover typical barriers, and give you tips on how to get around them and maintain your momentum. The webinar will contain practical examples of churches who have achieved an award and how they got there.



WORKING TOWARDS NET ZERO CARBON

Tuesday 26 September, 4-5pm, [BOOK HERE](#)

This webinar looks at the links between Eco Church and Net Zero Carbon; how they are different and how they inter-connect.

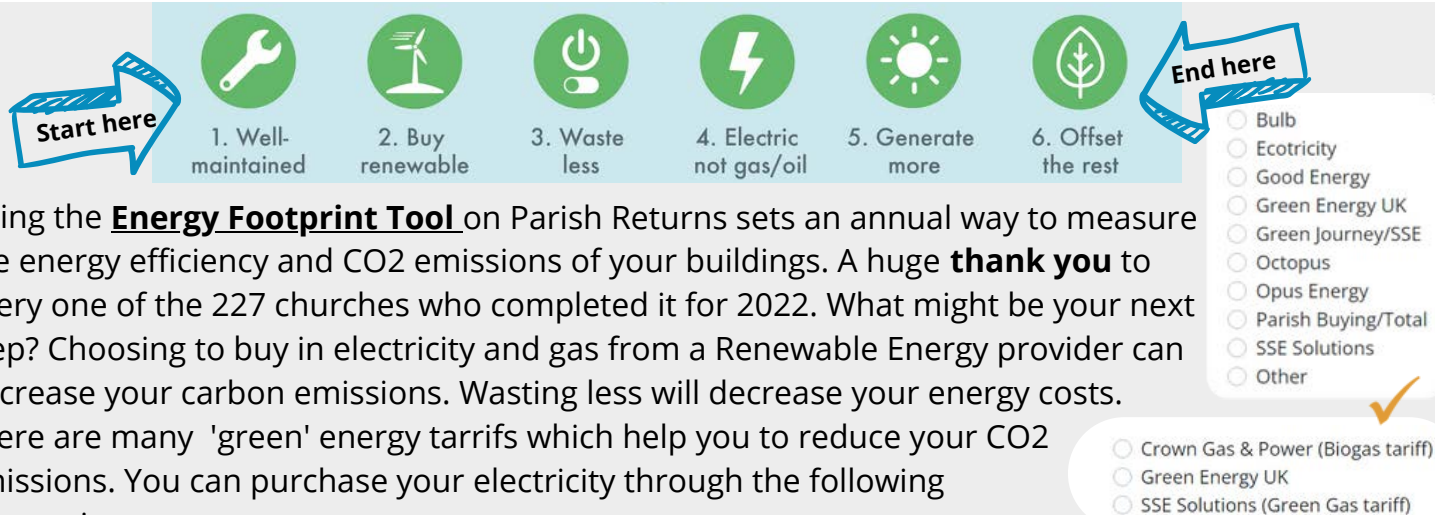
It will focus mainly on the 'Buildings' section of the Eco Church survey, since it is heating and lighting a church building which creates most of a church's carbon footprint. The webinar will explain about free carbon footprinting tools available to churches.

CARBON FOOTPRINT MEASUREMENT AND OFFSET



Many more past and future webinars from the Church of England's Environmental Team are held in one place. With a huge range of subjects including fundraising, Season of Creation, Schools, Net Zero, Land and Biodiversity: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon#na>

Journeying to Net Zero



Using the **Energy Footprint Tool** on Parish Returns sets an annual way to measure the energy efficiency and CO2 emissions of your buildings. A huge **thank you** to every one of the 227 churches who completed it for 2022. What might be your next step? Choosing to buy in electricity and gas from a Renewable Energy provider can decrease your carbon emissions. Wasting less will decrease your energy costs. There are many 'green' energy tariffs which help you to reduce your CO2 emissions. You can purchase your electricity through the following companies:



Parish Buying have both Green Energy Baskets and a Net Zero Hub, where they offer a range of bulk buying renewables resources, discounted energy audits and **Parish Buying** services to help your church get to Net Zero.



Subsidised Energy Audits with Parish Buying £345



Reducing Emissions from Churches

Responding to the climate crisis is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God's creation and achieve a just world.

This [page](#) sets out the milestones that we, as a whole church, are aiming for in our journey to Net Zero Carbon, 2030. These include increasing the number of churches working towards the different Eco Church awards and ensuring as many people as possible fill in the [Energy Footprint Tool](#).

With links to the detailed [Routemap](#), churches can plan how to contribute to the overall aim to reduce the carbon emissions of our buildings and travel to be less than 10 per cent of our baseline levels, with the rest of the carbon offset via verified schemes.

Every action, however small, adds up. By using the resources in this publication and online, you can review, plan and then action how your church community can play their part.

As part of suite of [resources](#) aimed at helping churches make the most of their church buildings, this [webinar](#) explains the reasons why keeping on top of your church building maintenance can help lower the building carbon footprint. The key is to keep water away from the building. Next time it rains, look to see if the guttering is working or overflowing. Remember that a damp building takes more energy to heat. For further help, contact the Church Buildings Team (churchbuilding.team@lincoln.anglican.org)



Stories from Churches



1. Well-maintained



2. Buy renewable



3. Waste less



4. Electric not gas/oil



5. Generate more



6. Offset the rest



New lighting was installed into South Kyme church in 2020. Ann Freeston, churchwarden, explained the motivation. 'The new bulbs enable the congregation to see better but are also more environmentally friendly than the previous incandescent bulbs and should last longer, saving further money.

With better lighting the church is also equipped to host additional events in the building. This year the LED bulbs are making a significant difference to our energy bills, and combined with a renewal energy tariff results in Net Zero lighting and heating.'

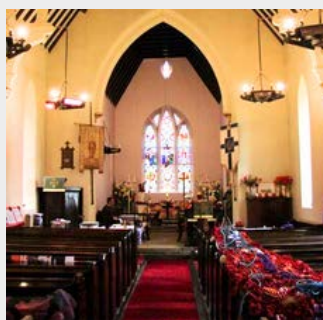
As reported in The Sun: **Pew, what a scorcher!**

Heated pew cushions have been installed at St Swithin's Church, Leadenham. They use just £1 of electricity to warm 100 worshippers through an hour-long service. Installed in 2021, churchwarden Henrietta Reeve said 'It's a Godsend. Some of the congregation don't want to stand for hymns!' Each cushion is individually activated by simply sitting on them but can be turned off if occupiers get too warm. When combined with electricity from a renewable source, then this solutions becomes both cost effective and carbon neutral!

[Sit&Heat](#)

[KovoSchmidt](#)

[Case Study](#)



Amcott's lighting and heating chandeliers were an early example of this form of heating which is now seen in a number of churches in the diocese. Installed in 2016, they have enabled the building to be useable throughout the year as the focus of the small community. The chandeliers can be used just for lighting purposes or with the heaters as well and warm the people rather than the building. This means that there is no need to turn the heating on at 4am before a Sunday service! Combined with a renewable electricity tariff this brings a church's carbon footprint right down. You can read more about 'Herschel Halo' here:

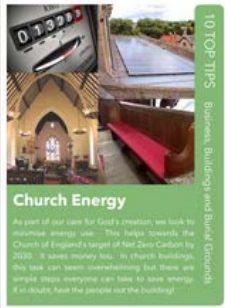


St Wulfram's Church is committed to finding ways to becoming Carbon Neutral. Their Creation Care group have been working on a Routemap to how to achieve the 2030 Carbon Neutral target, whilst respecting the parameters of their Grade 1 listed building. This has culminated in a Solar Panel Project. Their average yearly electricity consumption is 34950kWh. This project will see 78 Solar Panels fitted to the central nave roof and the north aisle roof, along with 9 Pylon tech Lithium-Ion Batteries; read more:

<https://stwulfram.churchdesk.com/blog/125094/solar-panel-project>



Further Resources



10 Top Tips - Church Energy

As part of the Diocesan [10 Top Tips](#) series, this one on [Church Energy](#) gives you the quick wins to reduce energy consumption, thus reducing emissions and lowering costs.

Now is a good time to consider what you can do differently as you approach the next heating season.

Embodied Carbon Guidance

Embodied carbon is the carbon associated with the material extraction, transport, manufacture and installation of a product. The Church of England has produced [guidance](#) so that embodied carbon can be considered in large and small projects. Whilst embodied carbon is not in scope of the Church of England's net zero carbon target until after 2030, churches can take action now, and it is important to consider when carrying out maintenance and renovations to further aid emissions reduction.

Sustainable Church Flowers

As part of your thinking about how to make your day to day operation more sustainable, consider your church flower policy. Floral foam is a single use plastic and harms the environment. The Sustainable Church Flowers movement has lots of advice on how to create wonderful floral displays without the need for floral foam. More information can be found here: <https://www.suschurchflowers.com/> If somewhere the size of Salisbury Cathedral can manage it, we all can try too!



Land and Nature Page

The [Land and Nature](#) page is now live on the Church of England website, bringing together various resources, including links to:

- [Caring for God's Acre](#) resources and [Churches Count on Nature](#)
- [Eco Church](#) and [Wild Christian](#)
- [Bats in Churches](#)
- [Biodiversity](#) and [Trees Guidance](#)

St John the Baptist, Ermine, Lincoln - read how they created a wildflower meadow in an urban setting.

Last August, the Revd Rachel Heskins, wrote about how their wildflower meadow was created for the Church Buildings Team bulletin. To be inspired again and to read about the process they went through, follow this [link](#).



Steps for churches



WORKING TOWARDS NET ZERO

Get Help

Find a few people who are willing to work together. Get in contact with others who have previous experience via your Deanery Environment Champion or the Diocesan Environment Officer.

sarah.spencer@lincoln.anglican.org

Cost: A phone call



Pray

Consider setting up a small group for bible study and prayer on net zero. Many of CofE case studies have videos and discussion questions. [Net Zero Carbon and Environmental case studies](#)

Cost: time and some refreshments

Measure and Report

Find previous energy bills and complete the Energy Footprint Tool on Parish Returns. This really helps us to understand what the carbon footprint is across the diocese and nationally. [Parish Returns Online](#)
Open 1st January - 31st July 2023

Cost: time

Join

Sign up for Eco Church and start working towards an award. You'll probably find you are doing more already than you had realised!

[Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#) with lots of good resources.

Cost: time

Read & Learn

A really useful start is to carry out your own **heating walk-round** of your building. This checklist will provide some useful tips to help you make energy savings [heating_checklist.pdf](#)
Cost: Time

Watch **webinars and case studies** from the National Environment Programme. They are really encouraging, inspiring and informative. [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon](#) and [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon](#) *Cost: Time*

Read the **Diocesan Advisory Committee's Environmental Guidance** at an early stage of planning works in your church. [Lincoln DAC Environmental Guidance](#) *Cost: Time*

Get a professional **Energy Audit** through [Parish Buying](#) or [Green Journey](#) - this will give you a list of actions and measures which can reduce your carbon footprint. The audit is essential for working out which measures are most effective for your own church. [Parish Buying - Energy Audit](#) - you have to be logged into Parish Buying for the link. *Cost: £300- £500*

Take Action:

Work through the [CofE Practical Path to Net Zero for Churches](#) checklist. This will take you through the actual energy reduction measures needed. Review the CofE [National Routemap 2030, Milestones for churches](#). Make a plan for your church based on this guidance.

Cost: Time and planned cost of changes

Connect:

Which sustainability, climate action or community energy groups are in your area? Can they share expertise with you or your church?
Cost: new friendships

For Environment Matters

sarah.spencer@lincoln.anglican.org

Church Buildings

churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org

Involving Community



[Resources](#)

Challenge yourself and be a **Bats In Churches Champion!**

If you'd like to be part of Bats In Churches with your Messy Church, Scouting or Guiding Group, Woodcraft Folk, Sunday School, School, Nursery or just with friends and families you can take part in our Bats In Churches Challenge Badge.

The Challenge Badge has four sections. Each section has a range of activities and you can pick which ones suit you and your group. At the end of the pack there are Record Sheets for each child to keep track of their completed challenges.

i-Naturalist is a free, citizen science app which helps you to record, identify and keep track of the wonderful range of biodiversity that you and your community can find in your churchyard. A great way to involve people and learn together as individuals or as groups, of any age as you explore through the seasons the variety of nature in your open spaces.

A great way to build community locally.



[Download the App](#)



[Download the App](#)

BirdNet

A free citizen science App developed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology which records the sound of birdsong and helps you identify the birds in your churchyard. The data is used for research purposes, to track the changes over time of bird populations.

Report your findings on further projects such as '[Natures Calendar](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/natures-calendar/)' with the Woodland Trust which is looking at how the seasons are changing with climate change. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/natures-calendar/>

NB: Members of The College of St. Hugh Team are sent information from a large number of organisations about training and resources, and we endeavour to ensure that what we pass on to you via this bulletin is appropriate and of quality. However, it is important to note here that the views expressed by any individual, group, or organisation listed are entirely their own and may not necessarily reflect those of the Team or the Diocese of Lincoln.

Global Community

Just Scripture

Just Scripture is a bible study process which enables groups of Christians from across the world to meet online to study the Bible together. Its purpose is to:

- build relationships between churches
- equip and encourage us to be people who challenge injustice
- strengthen our collective prophetic voice

**Intercultural Bible study uses
SEE - JUDGE - ACT**

Resources



tearfund

Christianity and climate change: a film series



Do you want to take a closer look at the climate crisis and how Christians are called to respond?

Christianity and Climate Change (2020) is a nine-part film series featuring Katharine Hayhoe, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist. In each episode, she responds to climate questions from key church leaders and members in Northern Ireland. You can also find discussion questions and further actions to go with each film in our leader's guide.

Resource & Videos

Film one: What the Bible says about the natural world >

Film two: Climate change is a poverty issue >

Film three: How to persuade others to care about climate change >

Film four: What we can do as a church >

Film five: Speaking to other Christians about climate change >

Film six: Grateful for fossil fuels but time to move on >

Film seven: Climate change is a threat multiplier >

Film eight: There can be a better future >

Film nine: It is not too late >

For Such a Time as This

A six week bible study course produced by USPG and free to download or send off for paper copies. We live in a world in crisis, where creation is groaning; and we are here for such a time as this. Called to respond with words and actions.

USPG partners with churches across the world in their mission of transforming lives through education, health care and justice for all. The stories from churches around the world offer us insights, hope and encouragement in the ways that they are confronting the issues of ecological justice in their own context: and in doing so, challenge us to respond: are we ready to accept the challenge?

USPG PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION

6 week course





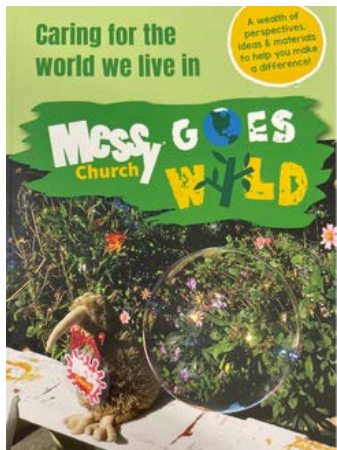
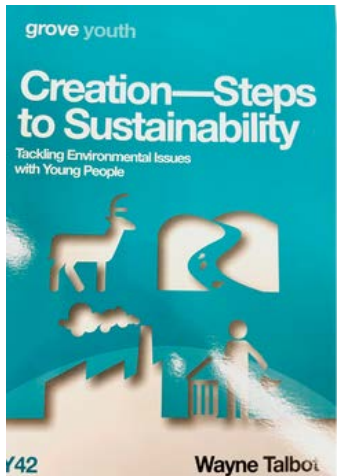
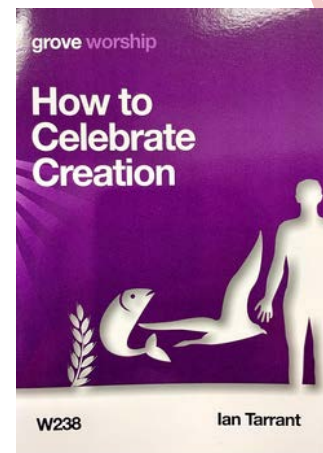
College of St Hugh Resources Centre



The College of Saint Hugh Resources Centre is the diocesan lending library of Christian resources. Borrowing is free of charge; resources are available to all church groups and leaders across the Diocese of Lincoln.

find out more

resource list



**Lindisfarne
Scriptorium**

