



Environment Briefing: May 2022

Huge thanks to all who've shared events and news with the wider network this month. If you have anything you'd like to include in the next briefing, [please email me](#). There's a lot to cover this month, so make a cuppa and read on.

NEWS

[Breakthrough ruling allows churches and charities to take stronger environmental action](#)

Last month saw a significant development in charity law in support of climate action. Trustees of charitable trusts, including schools and churches, are now allowed to prioritise the climate change outcomes of their investments even if it risks reducing financial returns. [Find out more here](#).



[Saving 22 trees and 934 burgers!](#)

Rev Mark Siddall recently completed his curacy in Draycot Benefice, during which time he estimates that he cycled over 10,000 miles – saving a whopping 1,870kg of CO2 emissions, equivalent to 22 trees, and burning off 467,200 calories, equivalent to 934 burgers! All the best to Mark as he cycles off to pastures new.



[Tackling soaring energy bills](#)

With the current energy crisis pushing up bills across households and churches, the Eco Team at Christ Church Swindon now publish their monthly energy use and costs in their monthly magazine and pin the info on the church noticeboards. An interesting step to raise awareness and help reduce usage!



Another good way to monitor your energy use is the new & improved **Energy Footprint Tool** ([see guidance here](#)). Also take a look at the [Net Zero Carbon Church Checklist](#) that helps identify energy efficiency measures for your church building.

[New Eco Church awards for our churches](#)

Congratulations to St Oswald's Church Bedminster who were awarded a Silver Eco Church award this month, and to Holy Trinity Abbot's Leigh who received a Bronze award! If your parish hasn't yet started your Eco Church journey, register [here](#).



EVENTS

[Sustaining Conversation: Diversity in Community and Nature - 24 May](#)

Healthy ecosystems are biodiverse. What can we learn from the voice of nature and see our communities thrive by encouraging diversity? Join the conversation at this Hazelnut Community Farm webinar with Revd Mark Nam and Ray Lei at 8pm on Tuesday 24th May. [Register here](#).

[Christian Climate Action: Our Responsibilities at This Time – 26 May](#)

Prominent Christian climate campaigner, Rev Mark Coleman, will be joined by two other Anglicans with profoundly moving and challenging stories to tell about their experiences of taking action in the face of the climate emergency. This online event also gives people of faith the chance to learn about the ongoing [Just Stop Oil](#) campaign. [Register here](#).

[Green Christian conference - 7-8 October](#)

The conference, titled '[Building back greener? Christian perspectives on the future of our economy, money and work](#)', will be held both online and in-person, with the physical event taking place in Birmingham.

Creation Restored: Ministry in a time of Climate Crisis - Saturday 17 September

Save the date for an inspiring and challenging day for all in church leadership - lay, ordained, youth or environmental! Share in fellowship, and explore the challenges, sensitivities and opportunities of leading church life in a time of climate emergency. Held at the Pattern Church in Swindon, with guest speakers from across the UK, it promises to be a great day. [Register here.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

FREE Zero Carbon Britain training

You'll have to be quick, as this training from the [Centre for Alternative Technology](#) runs over two days **this week**. It's held online from 10-5pm on 18 and 19 May. The course will explore CAT's landmark report '[Zero Carbon Britain: Rising to the Climate Emergency](#)', as well as solutions, and the role the Church can play in bringing them about. It normally costs £75, and is being made available **free**. To book email zcb@cat.org.uk



Great Big Green Week grants now open

A great opportunity for local churches and schools to run an event during the Season of Creation, with some funding to support them. A variety of grants are available from £200 up to £10,000. All information is on the Climate Coalition website [here](#). Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis until 30 June 2022.



A wake up call from the ocean

Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and Marine Conservation Society (MCS) have commissioned a '[wake up call from the ocean](#)', a sound-piece made up of five pentatonic tracks from acclaimed sound artist [Dom Jones](#). This haunting, spiritual work of art aims to create a powerful experience in churches and cathedrals around the message to protect '*all creatures great and small*', from the tiniest plankton to the greatest whales.



They are seeking churches to host free, interactive performances, delivered through hand-held bluetooth speakers, PA systems, or even mobile phones. Every performance is unique, and could be created by congregations as few as five people to as many as 500. Promotional materials and fact sheets are available. If you're interested, please contact ed.fox@whales.org (and copy in Clare Fussell please!)

Churches Count on Nature week: 4th – 12th June

This June sees the return of [Churches Count on Nature](#), a week where churches are encouraged to undertake wildlife surveys of your churchyards which are then collated on the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\)](#), a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.

- Register on the [Caring for Gods Acre](#) website.
- Join the "'**Knowing your ant from your elder**': why and how to record during Churches Count on Nature" webinar on Tues 31st May, 4-5pm. [Book here.](#)
- Find the Discovery Pack for Children [here](#).



Parish Buying Energy Audit programme reopens

Registration for the next round of Energy Audits has opened, with a £150 reduction in the £445 fee for the first 100 churches to sign up. Your audit will include an assessment of the feasibility of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies – all with the goal of reducing your energy consumption and carbon footprint. Typical energy savings can be around 20% of current consumption. [The offer is open to all.](#)



Church divestment announcement

[10 Church of England dioceses](#) have now made commitments to divest from fossil fuels. Operation Noah invites local churches, dioceses and Christian organisations to consider joining the global divestment announcement in July, prior to the Lambeth Conference. Contact Bokani Tshidzu on bokani.tshidzu@operationnoah.org before 28 June 2022 for more information or to register your interest, and take a look at their [church divestment guide here](#).



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Messy Church Goes Wild!

Messy Church is piloting new resources called [Messy Church Goes Wild](#). The idea is to encourage Messy Churches to engage with nature and explore how caring for creation integrates into our life as Christians.



Environmental Fundraising resources

[This new webpage](#) from the CoFE talks you through how to approach environmental fundraising, and helps you identify which funders to approach.

Deep Waters – exploring climate grief with Green Christian

In the last briefing I introduced [Plenty!](#), a new small group course from Green Christian. This month, I'd like to share **Deep Waters**; more a journey than a 'course', the sessions explore climate grief and eco-anxiety, to help you discover renewed courage, hope, and purpose. Deep Waters is a safe space, designed for small groups. [Register your interest here](#).



New Christian Aid resources on underrepresented views

Young adults are leading the climate justice movement, yet their voices and stories are often left unheard. These [Young Adult Climate Justice Stories](#) were collated through focus groups with young adults based in Colombia, Nigeria, and the UK and amplify voices from the global majority.



This new [film highlighting the connections between environmental and racial justice](#) raises the profile and voices of people from underrepresented communities and shares their perspectives.

CoFE Environment Programme webinars

There is a growing bank of recorded webinars, and details of upcoming 'live' sessions [here](#).

And finally...

Climate Quiz!

See if you can save the planet from the worst effects of climate change, by taking 5 minutes to try this [climate quiz game created by the Financial Times](#). Your task is to get to net zero - select the policies that will cut emissions, set targets, invest in technologies, and see what the global temperature is by 2050.

Please share this information with your church and deanery.

Thanks for reading, and I pray for every blessing as you continue to work to protect God's earth.