



## *Getting started with Eco Church*

Polly Eaton, Eco Church





# Outline

- Where are you now?
- Survey overview
- Where are you going?
- Staying on track



Photo credit: St Mary's Church, Wiverton

# Hope for the future

Caring for the earth and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world





Demonstrating that the gospel is good news for God's earth



AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT  
**WILD CHRISTIAN**  
connecting faith, nature and climate



AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT  
**PARTNERS IN ACTION**



**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

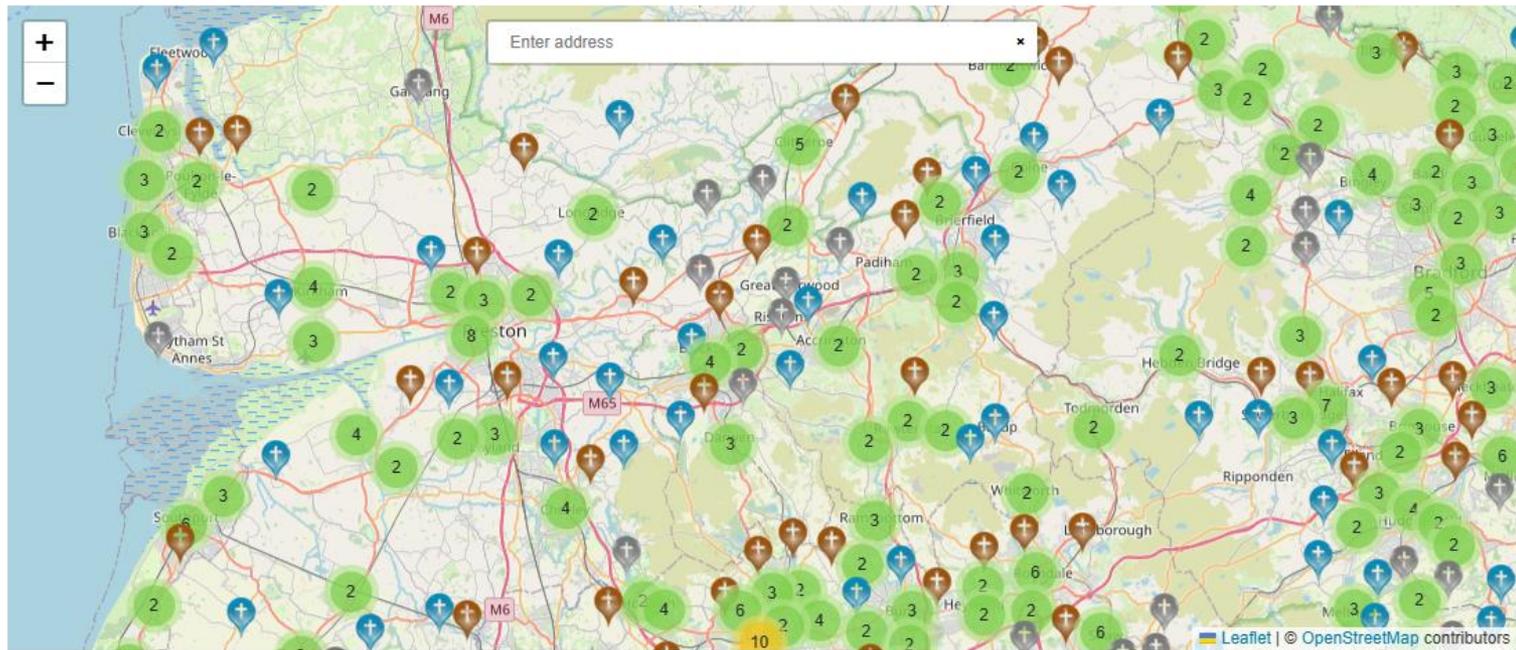
# Welcome !

## Eco Church map

Award status Denomination

Show registered churches with no award yet

- Any - - Any - - Any - Apply



<https://app.ecochurch.org/map>



**Where is your church on the Eco  
Church journey (scale 0-10) ?**

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# The Eco Church Survey

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# The Survey

- Take ownership
- Make a commitment
- Use additional comments



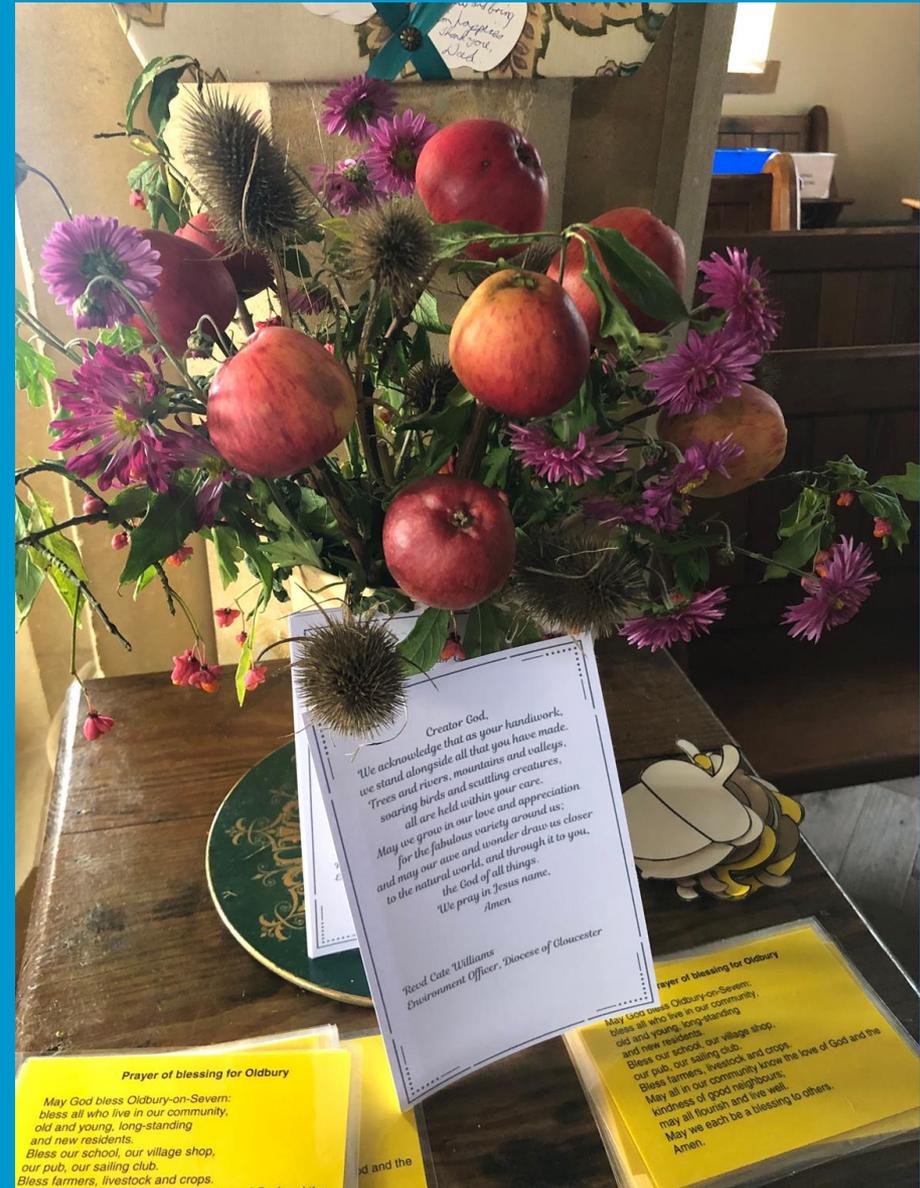
# Worship and Teaching

Commitment

Theme 1: Worship & Prayer

Theme 2: People

Theme 3: Teaching & Discipleship



# Buildings and Energy

Commitment

Theme 1: Carbon measuring

Theme 2a and b: The building

Theme 2c: People and policies

Three  
pathways



Photo credit: St Saviour's Church, St Albans

# Land and Nature

Commitment

Theme 1: Biodiversity

Theme 2: Monitoring and  
citizen science

Theme 3: People

Two  
pathways



Photo: St Saviour's Church, Brockenhurst

# Community and global

Commitment

Theme 1: Awareness raising

Theme 2: Taking action

Theme 3: Communication



# Lifestyle

Commitment

Theme 1: Influence

Theme 2: Carbon footprint

Theme 3: Personal choices

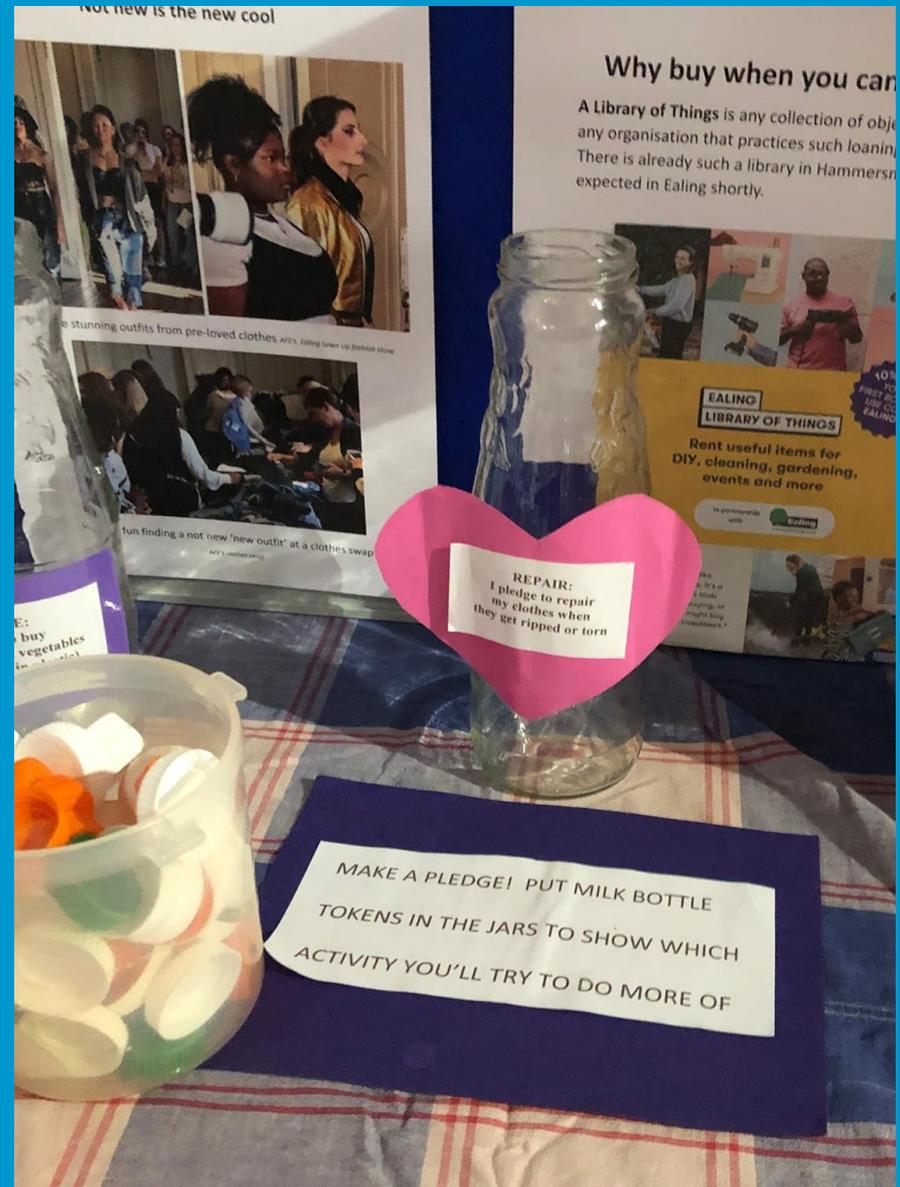


Photo: St Andrew's Church, Uxbridge

What are you *already* doing?



# The Eco Church survey categories



Worship and Teaching



Buildings and Energy



Land and Nature



Community and Global



Lifestyle

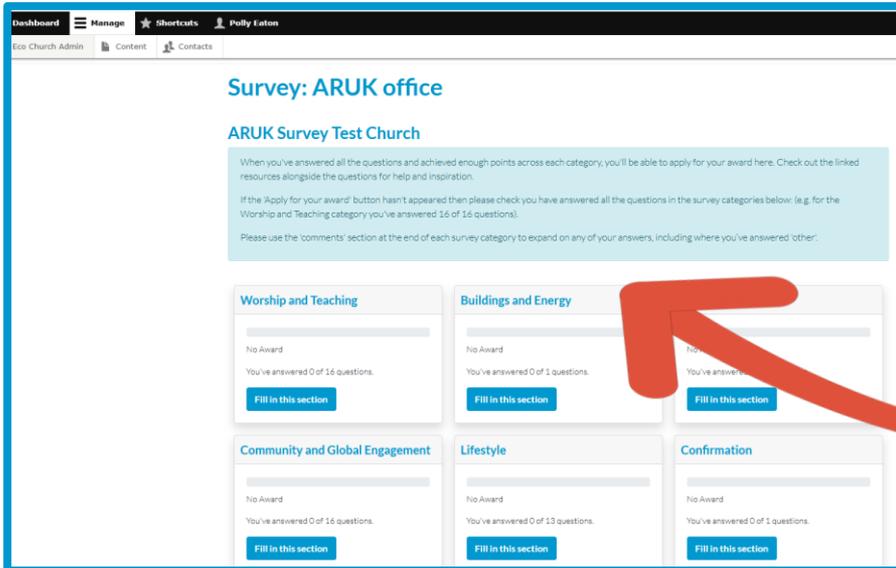
**Pathway options:**  
Buildings and Energy  
Land and Nature

# Practicalities

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The Eco Church website



The Eco Church platform

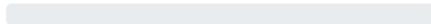
# The platform

When you've answered all the questions and achieved enough points across each category, you'll be able to apply for your award here. Check out the linked resources alongside the questions for help and inspiration.

If the 'Apply for your award' button hasn't appeared then please check you have answered all the questions in the survey categories below: (e.g. for the Worship and Teaching category you've answered 16 of 16 questions).

Please use the 'comments' section at the end of each survey category to expand on any of your answers, including where you've answered 'other'.

## Worship and Teaching

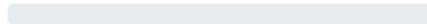


No Award

You've answered 0 of 16 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

## Buildings and Energy

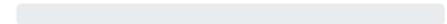


No Award

You've answered 0 of 1 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

## Land and Nature

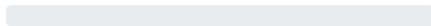


No Award

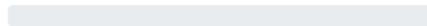
You've answered 0 of 1 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

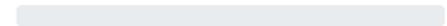
## Community and Global Engagement



## Lifestyle



## Confirmation



# The platform

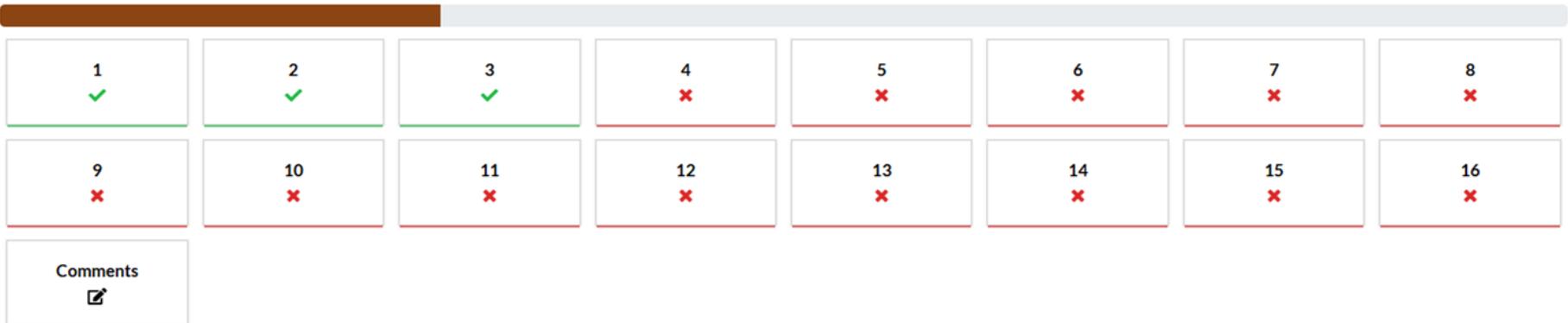
Sliding  
scale to see  
your  
progress

## Worship and Teaching

We worship a God who loves the earth he created and calls us to care for it. Doing so is part of our worship and witness as we respond to a creation that is groaning. Churches participating in Eco Church come from a broad variety of traditions which while bringing enormous breadth and richness, makes it challenging to craft one survey that covers the language and practice of every tradition - so please interpret these questions within your specific context.

Please refer to the [Worship and teaching overview document](#) for further guidance about completing this category

Current Score: 90/320



# Getting started

- Gather a team
- Take ownership
- Make a commitment
- Have a go!

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Getting-started-with-Eco-Church.pdf>

## Getting started with Eco Church

Tips and suggestions to help you get started and make progress

Churches can arrive at Eco Church via many different paths: a desire to save money by bringing down energy costs, a heart for identifying wildlife in the churchyard and enhancing biodiversity, an active foodbank and community outreach, a concern about the climate and nature crises and conviction to act as a Christians. However you 'arrive', a good place to start would be meeting your church where they are and growing and developing from there. Once you have completed the online survey you will gain a better picture of the areas your church is already strongest – take time to recognise this and highlight how these actions contribute to Eco Church. Here are some more suggestions to help you get started and make progress with Eco Church.

### 1. Create spaces to grow

Coming to an understanding of the climate and nature crises and making the connection to faith and action can take time for churches, and individuals. Eco Church is designed to meet people where they are and can be used to prompt actions, step by step, to move forward. However, an important part of Eco Church is to grow together as a church community. Spending time learning, making connections, and listening to God is important, and, as a church, you will need to consider how you create spaces to do this. Sunday morning worship, small groups, special services, visiting speakers, chats over coffee. The first step may be to reflect on what you love about creation and your own 'Aha!' moment that awoke the urgency to act for God, nature and people. Remember, we are all developing our understanding of what it means to care for creation.

### 2. Gather a team

Have others around who can support, motivate you and hold you to account! In time this may be a committee or some other structure, but when starting out this might only be two or three people. An obvious start might be those already interested in 'green' things, but don't limit it to them. If you have a youth worker or a fabric officer for example, they can be involved too. As you will see, Eco Church will benefit from varied experiences.

### 3. Take ownership

The Eco Church survey is a self-assessment for churches across many different denominations and settings. Eco Church will look different depending on the church setting (urban, rural, size of congregation, facilities, building, finance, demographics – you name it!). We encourage you to engage with the survey in the most useful way for your church. So, even if the wording of a specific question doesn't cover your exact circumstances or practice, it is okay to interpret and answer it within your local context, as long as you do so with integrity, and aligned with the overall spirit of the question.

### 4. Make a commitment

The first question of every category of the Eco Church survey asks your church to acknowledge the climate and nature crises and demonstrate a commitment to taking action. Your commitment may start with a simple statement such as this:

*'We recognise and teach that creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to Christian faith, life and worship. We are committed to respond to this by participating in the A Rocha UK Eco Church award scheme.'*

There are further notes about commitment on the [survey category overviews](#) on our [resources page](#).

### 9. Make use of other resources and tools

Apart from Eco Church's resources and guidance, we have stories and examples where you can read about the experiences of other churches. But we do not have ALL the answers! There are a wealth of other organisations, tools, schemes, projects and sources of information to make use of. Explore our [resources](#) for suggestions and links.

### 10. Celebrate

Since Eco Church began, we have emphasised the celebration of awards, as an important milestone. Equally, we encourage churches to spend time in nature and celebrate creation; taking time to enjoy God's creation is not only an act of worship but can help us make deeper connections from which to spur us on to take action.

# Prompt for action



Photo: All Saints Church, Kettering

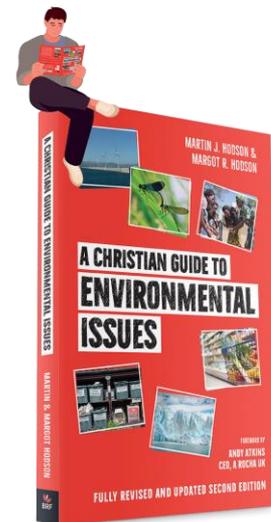
# Other resources and tools



Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times



FAIRTRADE  
FOUNDATION



The Big  
Church Read



# Spaces to grow



**What is your story?**



# Summary

1. Create spaces to grow
2. Gather a team
3. Take ownership
4. Make a commitment
5. Have a go
6. Prompts for action
7. Make connections
8. Collaborate
9. Make use of other resources and tools
10. Celebrate

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Getting-started-with-Eco-Church.pdf>



Photo credit: Glossop Parish Church

# Make a plan

- Incremental steps
- Whole year/seasons
- Special days
- Celebrate

## 2025 Environment Days & Key Events

We believe that responding to the climate crisis is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God's creation and achieve a just world. Climate change already hits hardest the poorest countries and poorest people of the world but it's now hitting us harder too.

Meantime, the widespread destruction of the natural world is a crisis for creation and our single planet island home. Our Environment Programme exists to enable the whole Church to address these threats — in faith, practice and mission. It includes tackling our own carbon emissions (aiming for Net Zero Carbon by 2030) and our wider environmental work — [see all https://www.churchofengland.org](https://www.churchofengland.org)

Find out more: [churchofengland.org/about/church-of-england-environment-programme](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/church-of-england-environment-programme)

**January**  
*Vegetarian*

- 10 National Cut Your Energy Costs Day
- 12 Plough Sunday
- 17-23 Big Energy Saving Week
- 26 International Environmental Education Day
- 24-26 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
- 7 Jan - 14 Feb RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch
- 28 International Reducing CO2 Emissions Day

**February**  
*Save the Last Climate Coalition*

- 2 World Wetlands Day
- 20 World Day of Social Justice

**March**

- 3 World Wildlife Day
- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 18 Global Recycling Day
- 21 Mar - Great British Spring Clean 6 Apr
- 21 International Day of Forests
- 22 World Water Day
- 22 Earth Hour
- 25-26 Church of England DEO Conference

**April**

- 4 National Walk to Work Day
- 7-13 Community Garden Week
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Maundy Thursday
- 18 Good Friday
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 22 Earth Day
- 30 Stop Food Waste Day

**May**  
*No Meat May & Meat Free Flat*

- 4-10 International Compost Week
- 11-17 Christian Aid Week
- 18 Endangered Species Day
- 20 World Bee Day
- 20-26 Water Saving Week
- 22 International Day of Biological Diversity

**June**

- 3 World Bike Day
- 5 World Environment Day
- 8 Day of Pentecost
- 7-15 Low Your Burial Ground and Churches Count on Nature Week
- 7-15 The Great Big Green Week
- 8 World Oceans Day
- 8 Open Farm Sunday
- 16 World Refill Day
- 20 National Clean Air Day
- 22 World Rainforest Day

**July**  
*Plastic Free July*

- 5-11 Net Zero Week
- 17 July - The Big Butterfly Count 19 Aug
- 25 July - 3 Aug Low Parks Week

**August**

- 11-17 National Abolitions Week
- 30-31 International Bat Night

**September**  
*Second Hand September & Organic September*

- 1 Sept - 4 Oct Creationtide/Season of Creation
- 1 World Day of Prayer for Creation
- 1-5 Zero Waste Week
- 22 Sept - Fairtrade Fortnight
- 16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone
- 20 World Clean Up Day
- 22 World Car Free Day
- 28 World Rivers Day
- 19-28 Great British Beach Clean

**October**  
*International Walk to School Month*

- 4 St Francis Day
- 4 No Disposable Cup Day
- 14 International E-Waste Day
- 24 Water Night
- TBC Recycle Now Recycle Week

**November**  
*World Vegan Month*

- TBC National Tree Week
- 10-21 Climate COP30 Brazil
- 29 Buy Nothing Day
- 30 First Sunday of Advent

**December**

- 5 World Soil Day
- 28 Christmas Day
- 25 Jan 12 Days Wild

Download all events to your calendar!

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Environment Programme

Net Zero Carbon 2030



**What do you need to do next?**  
**(to move along your 0-10 scale)**

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# Summary

- Where are you now?
- Where are you going?
- Staying on track



# Keep in touch!



**Find out about more A Rocha UK events**  
[arocha.org.uk/events/](http://arocha.org.uk/events/)



**Pray for our work throughout the year**  
[arocha.org.uk/get-involved/pray/](http://arocha.org.uk/get-involved/pray/)



**Sign up to Eco Church Connect**  
[bit.ly/aruksignup](http://bit.ly/aruksignup)

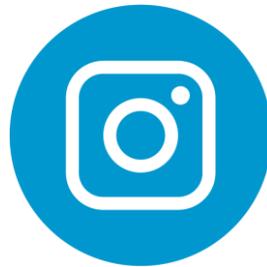
**Email: [ecochurch@arocha.org](mailto:ecochurch@arocha.org)**

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