



# Eco Church : Going for Gold. Clitheroe United Reformed Church

Dr Isobel Lamb

on behalf of

Clitheroe URC Eco Church Group

<https://clitheroeurc.org.uk/eco-church-section/eco-church.html>

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

# Aims

- Share highlights of what we did for each section of survey.
- Share how we presented evidence.
- Onward journey - what we have done since achieving gold.
- Questions for panel.
  - Izzy Lamb - Chair of Clitheroe URC Eco Church Group
  - Wendy Higson - Eco Church Group member
  - Daleen ten Cate - Green Apostle NW Synod URC & Missional Discipleship Mentor
  - Ian White - Chief Operating Officer of Blackburn Cathedral

# Worship and Teaching

Fairtrade Service linked with Harvest.

Christian Aid appeal and peas grown to promote.

Sunflower growing competition.

Count on Nature with Junior Church, Barrow School, and Rainbows.

Regular updates in Notices, Notice Board, Courier, and NW Synod Eco newsletter. Facebook and website updates.

Care for creation integrated into worship - Sunday & Thursday.

Banner in church.

NW Synod Green Apostle and Missional Discipleship Mentor leads worship on Eco issues.

# Worship and Teaching

## Clitheroe URC and Barrow URC School spread Christian Aid's Pigeon Peas

Our Christian Aid representative, Geoff Holmes, brought some seedlings to church for children from Barrow School, which is linked to Clitheroe URC. These special seedlings were sprouting pigeon peas, which are very important because they are a vegetable which can tolerate drought and are very adaptable to difficult growing conditions. Rev Rob Hoch helped the Barrow pupils to understand why this crop is becoming so important in the changing African climate. The children took a tray of plants back to school to plant out and Clitheroe URC planted Pigeon Peas outside the church too. During the East Lancashire Mission Partnership Zoom prayer morning Rev Adam Woodhouse continue the theme on the Tuesday morning of Christian Aid week.



### The Big Pea Challenge

Welcome to the Big Pea challenge - a fun and interactive way for your church and community to come together to raise funds this Christian Aid Week 2023!

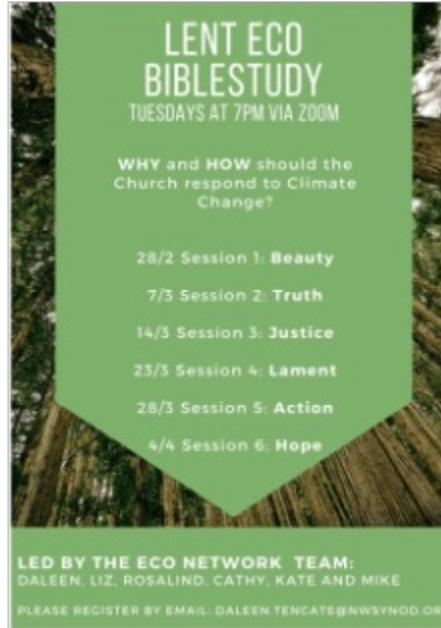
This Christian Aid Week, we celebrate how our partners in Malawi are helping farmers transform their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop. Inspired by the transformational pigeon pea, the Big Pea Challenge invites you to hold your own pea-themed fundraiser this May.

Whether you're a gardener, a cook, or just up for a bit of fun, on this site, you'll find resources to help you get out into your community and bring other good-hearted people into the Christian Aid movement.

[Sign up or View Page](#)

Christian Aid Week is an annual moment for everyone who believes poverty can be beaten, bringing them together to raise funds for our life-saving projects. Every year, we showcase a country whose Christian Aid's partners, funded by your generous donations, are transforming the lives of those living in extreme poverty.

## Christian Aid - Growing Peas to Promote Big Pea Challenge



## Sunflower seeds given out during worship in spring and winner presented during Harvest service.



## Prayer table on Palm Sunday including lament on environmental damage



## Eco Church Banner

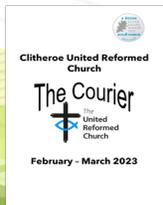


## Pebbles painted by Junior Church for garden

# Worship and Teaching



Planting trees to celebrate 50 Years of URC at Barrow URC school



Information displayed about environmental issues in entrance, on notice boards, & regular updates in notices & newsletters



Attendees from COP26 pilgrimage to Glasgow including Barbara Keal and the Coat of Hopes

# Buildings and Energy

Carbon footprint      Recycling      Compost      Water butt

Local and homemade produce for events.

Environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Double and triple glazing.

Some meetings on zoom. Think before print or laminate.

Plans for and now have new AV system for services / meetings

Email notices and on screen at beginning of worship

Plans for at time and now have new boiler to more efficiently heat boiler.

Ecosia.

# Buildings and Energy



**Creating a street level church**

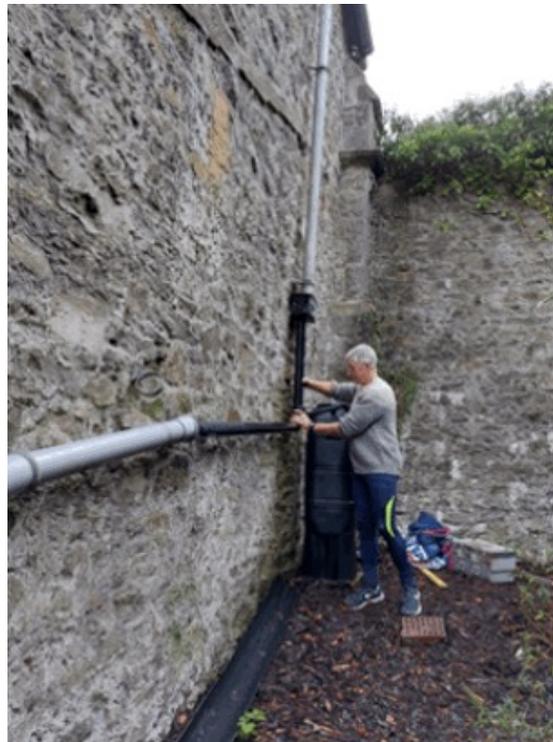
# Buildings and Energy



Triple Glazed window made by Lightworks

Environmentally friendly cleaning products; toilet rolls; local or fairtrade produce etc

Always in mind for cafe / brews after worship / events.



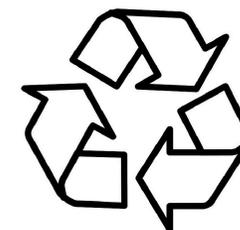
Water butt in wildlife garden



Compost bin in wildlife garden  
Recycle teabags and other waste.  
(Anything else goes to Jean's chickens)

**360° carbon**  
by Climate Stewards

Carbon Footprint for  
Total Annual Emissions (Dual Reporting)



# Buildings and Energy

 Ecosia   
<https://www.ecosia.org> :

## Ecosia - the search engine that plants trees

Ecosia uses 100% of its profits for the planet and produces enough renewable energy to power all searches twice over.

### YouTube

YouTube - Ecosia - the search engine that plants trees

### Web

Web - Ecosia - the search engine that plants trees

### Ecosia Browser

The Ecosia Browser has built-in green features that make it simple to be...

### Ecosia for Companies

Switch your company's standard search engine to Ecosia and help...

 Ecosia   
<https://www.ecosia.org> › browser :

## The greenest browser on Earth - Ecosia

The Ecosia Browser has built-in green features that make it simple to be climate active every day. We produce 25Wh of renewable energy each day you browse.

## Ecosia

Web search engine and browser

# ECOSIA

Ecosia is a non-profit tech organisation based in Berlin, Germany. It runs its namesake internet search engine, which launched on 7 December 2009 to coincide with UN climate talks in Copenhagen. More recently the organisation have launched additional products such as a namesake web browser.

### Ecosia

**Type of site:** Search engine and web browser

**Available in:** English and 27 other languages

**Headquarters:** Berlin, Germany

**CEO:** Christian Kroll

**Revenue:** 35.3M€ (2023)

<https://www.ecosia.org>



# ECOSIA

Search the web...



 241,350,014  
trees planted by Ecosia

 €96,715,414  
dedicated to climate action



## Ecosia: Search to plant trees

Plant trees as you browse.

Open

# Land and Nature

Wildlife garden from wasteland

Bird Box / BatBox / Bug hotel / Water / Logs

Plants including weeds to encourage biodiversity

Tom's Table restaurant - sheds with salad / edible flowers & quiet space for staff

Grass - no mow May grass facing high street with signs

Bench on land facing high street.

Rangers greenhouse recycled bottles

Land management plan

# Land and Nature



# Land and Nature



# Community and Global

Street Level Church Development

Royal Lancashire Show Churches Together in Lancashire Tent

Climate Conscious Hustings

COP26

Fairtrade produce used and promoted

Links with Shop of Hope and Art 4 All

Articles on Fairtrade; Recycling; Ethical Consumer (bi-monthly update in Courier)

Supporting other churches and spreading word

# Community and Global



31st March 2023 at 10:30  
Meet at Hurst Green Village Hall  
Avenue Rd, Hurst Green, Clitheroe BB7 9QB  
Lunch at Shireburn Arms

R.S.V.P by the 20th March  
Kerry Lister: office@nwsynod.org.uk

*Walking into  
HolyWeek  
alongside the Mentors*



**Royal Lancashire Show;  
Climate Hustings; Litter  
pick up; Fairtrade etc**



# Lifestyle

Regular articles in Courier newsletter; NW Synod Eco newsletter and on Eco notice board.

Fairtrade and other services - information shared /time to reflect

Local and Fairtrade produce used and encouraged for church events.

Cleaning - cleaner uses environmentally friendly products; Signs to encourage any people using building.

People encouraged to bring used batteries for recycling.

Ethical consumer information shared regularly.

# Presenting Evidence and Preparing for Visit

Evidence document with photos (resource file).

Future goals and plans.

Involve everyone (you don't have to do it alone).

Evidence that Eco Church work is threaded through whole church.

Accept it might be a long journey - but think what you have already done in the past as well as now.

# Presenting Evidence

## Worship and Teaching

Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth (e.g. Creation Time, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday etc.) are celebrated in our church

At least annually

We have special services twice a year at Fairtrade Fortnight and at Harvest when environmental issues are the focus of worship.

Other services celebrated creation in 2022 led by our now retired minister. NW Synod Green Apostle and Missional Discipleship Mentor for Lancashire was invited to preach on Eco issues on 020423 and led the congregation in prayer and worship related to environmental issues, including lament for brokenness/sin which causes environmental damage, and prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of action for change. Members were invited to a prayer table (see photo below) prior to communion to offer their prayers.



Evidence document with photos and narrative for each survey Question  
Names and dates of events  
Links to other files and other information

Action Plan for each year with updates

See website

<https://clitheroeurc.org.uk/eco-church-section/ecochurch-file-downloads.html>

# Progress since Award

New heating system

Carbon offset plans - tree planting National Trust, Ecosia and Rossendale.

Ongoing worship Fairtrade, Count on Nature, Christian Aid etc

Support for other churches and Royal Lancashire Show.

Communication - website, Facebook, local press, updates in church newsletter, elder's meetings, church meetings and AGM, Northwest Synod Eco newsletter, Reform (URC magazine), attend A Rocha UK Eco Church Gold Award Forum.

Partnership - Barrow URC School, Witton Park - Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Rainbows and Rangers, Ribble Valley CAN.

# Progress since award



March 2024

St Patricks day service  
led by Fiona

Christian's responsibility to  
care for nature.

Carbon offset tree planting  
target launched



## Tree planting Rossendale 2024 and 2025



# Further Information

Email: [eco@clitheroeurc.org.uk](mailto:eco@clitheroeurc.org.uk)

Link for talking NW Synod podcasts including Clitheroe URC  
Going for gold interview with Lawrence Heath-Moore.

<https://lawrenceheathmoore.podbean.com/page/2/>

Clitheroe URC Website Eco Church pages

<https://clitheroeurc.org.uk/eco-church-section/eco-church.html>