

Care for Creation

acting together for the environment



Church House, Oxford
June 2022

Welcome

Welcome to June's *Care for Creation*. We are thrilled to share the news that [the diocese has approved £10 million expenditure on environmental works](#) to improve the carbon footprint of our vicarages.

Did you know that the Climate Change Committee in the United Kingdom estimate that more than 60% of the change required to get to Net Zero involves personal behavioural change by individuals and communities: change focussed in the three areas of transport, home heating and diet?

We've concentrated on energy savings and reducing pollution in this newsletter. There are many options for taking action. What might you try?

The earth is the Lord's

This was the title of [Bishop Steven's address](#) to Diocesan Synod on 11 June. At the meeting the major investment in our clergy housing was approved, in line with our diocesan environmental policy, to bring our clergy housing nearer to our Net Zero carbon targets. Bishop Steven also announced a small [revision to our liturgy](#) for baptism and confirmation services to include safeguarding our environment, the Church of England's fifth Mark of Mission alongside the others.

Church lighting energy savings – and free site visit

Did you see the [Let there be light](#) news item on our website? St Lawrence's Church in Bradwell obtained funding to change their lighting to LEDs and have benefitted from better aesthetics, reduced maintenance and lower energy use. Look out for their open day in September if you'd like to visit.



All Saints, North Moreton switched all their 32 lightbulbs to LED lamps, which greatly reduced the energy used for lighting. From our [energy audit programme](#), we've learnt that switching to LEDs is one of the simplest and quickest ways to pay back energy savings for most churches.

Saving energy and money at church...

Another of our churches, St Kenelm's, Minster Lovell, benefitted immediately from an energy audit assessment when the auditor advised that a heater left on constantly, with the aim of preventing damp in a storeroom, was not necessary, an extractor fan would do. Turning off the heater was predicted to save them 6480 kWh of electricity annually, over £700 a year in 2019 alone.

N.B. some churches require a setback heating level to be maintained for heritage preservation, so do check with the DAC or your archdeacon before making any major heating changes.

... and at home

We are aware that rising energy prices are causing significant challenges for individuals, as well as churches, so we have gathered some resources to support you:

- Chalfont St Giles Eco Church group share these [energy saving tips](#).
 - The Energy Savings Trust have [quick tips](#) and more detailed advice on [reducing energy use at home](#) and Uswitch share [102 home energy saving tips](#).
 - [Better Housing Better Health](#) provide a Warmth and Wellbeing Service with energy advice for those struggling with energy bills.
 - Improving home insulation is a good way to save energy, Sustainable St Albans list a handy [selection of guides](#).
 - Low Carbon Hub have shared a guide to [energy-advice-and-funding-resources](#).
 - The [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#) is now open and [Cosy Homes Oxfordshire](#) have written a guide to it.
 - If you are near Oxford there are many [Green Open Homes](#) you can visit between 18-29 June and an Energy Saving Fair in Oxford Town Hall, 10am to 4pm on Sunday 26 June.
 - Repairing items rather than replacing them saves resources and money. Read about the [Winslow Repair Café](#).
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Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

Please encourage/offer to help your church treasurer to complete the [Energy Footprint Tool](#) for your church before it closes at the end of July.

We are given the information from the national church once the data is compiled so can share news of good tariffs we identify.

107 of our churches have started completing the EFT online, but only 61 have submitted their form so far – thank you to those who are working on this. Don't worry if you can't answer all the questions; you can still continue past the notification and submit your form.

If you don't have access to your church Parish Returns account, you can just complete a very short [2021 Word form](#) and email it to environment@oxford.anglican.org for us to enter for you.

Clean Air Day

The [Action for Clean Air](#) website has plenty of information including a tool for you to measure your own [air pollution footprint](#) and resources to help [individuals and communities](#), [businesses](#) and [schools](#) take action. Oxfordshire schools may be interested to know that the Oxford Friends of the Earth [Schools Clean Air Network](#) has air quality monitoring equipment to loan out to schools. Schools and children's groups can also use our [Be Carbon Free](#) activities.



Cleaner travel

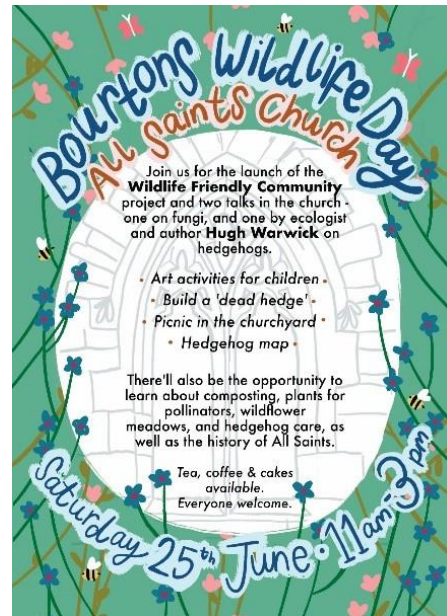
Cycling is low cost, good exercise and non-polluting. Bike Week ran from 6-12 June this year and their [inspiration for cycling](#) page, with ideas for families, cycle-commuters and routes to try, is available to peruse. If driving is unavoidable, here are some tips to make your journeys more [fuel efficient](#) and therefore save money and reduce pollution. If you're considering going electric, you may be interested in these [electric car charger installation](#) options and [charging guide](#). Perhaps you only need a car occasionally and could consider not owning but using an hourly/daily hiring option such as [Hiyacar](#), [Co Wheels](#) or [Zipcar](#) (Oxford). [Let us know](#) if you have experience of these.

Greener preaching

[Preaching For God's World](#) is a new website resource for preachers, which 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 on caring for people and planet. Why not share this with your church leaders?

Webinars and online events

- **Webinars from the National Church's Environment Programme**
Don't miss the impressive back catalogue of webinar recordings [here](#) or access via the [Church of England](#) and [ChurchCare](#) YouTube playlists.
- **Greenshoots Network online get together (with a focus on biodiversity this month)**
Monday 20 June, 7.30-8.30pm
Our Greenshoots Network connects those who are working to green their churches to encourage and inspire one another. Ask to join the network to receive the invitations. [Email us](#).
- **Bourtons Wildlife Day, All Saints' Church, Great Bourton, OX17 1QW**
Saturday 25 June, 11am-3pm
Wildlife Friendly Community launch, Hugh Warwick speaking about hedgehogs, a talk on fungi, advice on composting, plants for pollinators and wildflower meadows, children's activities, refreshments and picnic space.
- **Arrange for the Future – Sustainable Church Flowers**
Saturday 25 June, 10am-1pm, St Peter and St Paul's, Wantage, OX12 8AQ.
Flower workshop to rediscover the old ways and learn how to create more nature-friendly seasonal displays. Info [here](#) booking [here](#).
- **Talking Climate Justice Tour Launch, Christian Aid**
Monday 4 July, 7-8.30pm online. [Info and registration](#).
Find out how you and your church can make a difference and be part of change making climate conversations.
- **Sustaining Church online conference**
Wednesday 13 - Thursday 14 July [Poster here](#)
Reimagining communities of faith in climate crisis. Speakers include theologians, farmers, dreamers and environmentalists.
- **Guided Retreat: The Wisdom of Trees**
Saturday 16 July, 10am-4pm, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, £30
[Details and booking here](#).
A day to focus on Biblical reflections on the environment and our relationship with it, based on the book [Green Reflections: biblical inspiration for sustainable living](#) which asks "how should we look after the world we inhabit?" With Revd Margot Hodson.



And finally...

A reminder that basic maintenance of your church building (or home), such as clearing gutters and downpipes to stop damp areas, can reduce heating energy use come winter. See the C of E [housekeeping and quick wins](#) webinar recording.



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