

**From:** [Creation Care Team](#)  
**To:** [ctcinfohub@gmail.com](mailto:ctcinfohub@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Seasons Newsletter  
**Date:** 18 April 2024 09:33:55

---



## **Hello & welcome to our spring edition of Seasons.**

For the first time this newsletter is being circulated to all church wardens as well as our existing subscribers. We hope that you find it a useful 'one stop shop' for all the Diocese of Exeter is doing in Creation Care. Seasons is issued quarterly but for more frequent news please do follow our social media using links at the bottom of the page (this is also where you will find the unsubscribe option but we sincerely hope that you find this a useful resource!).

It has been lovely to enjoy some sunny weather these last few days, the ground is slowly drying out and bluebells are starting to pop up everywhere I look, lambs are in the field and at home on my small holding we have a litter of piglets who are bringing much joy!

We love to hear about stories and events from around the diocese of what's going on in your parishes so please do get in touch if you have a story to share or an event to advertise.

Every blessing,

Sarah Charker, Creation Care Engagement Officer

---

# What's coming up?



The banner features a background image of Exeter Cathedral. In the top left corner is the Diocese of Exeter logo, and in the top right is the Exeter Cathedral logo. The central text reads "ECO CHURCH CELEBRATION" with a blue leaf icon between "ECO" and "CHURCH".

Click image to watch video!  
Eco Church Celebration 28th April 2024 12.30pm - 3.15pm Exeter Cathedral. Delegates are warmly invited to stay for evensong at 4pm.  
Book your place [here](#).



The banner has a green background. On the left, the text reads "Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!" with "ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL" below it. On the right, there is an image of hands holding a tablet displaying a data chart, with a green circular badge that says "NOW OPEN for 2024!". The Church of England logo is in the bottom right corner.

Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!  
ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL

NOW OPEN for 2024!

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open for you to submit your energy use for 2023 to calculate your church's carbon footprint.

Completing the EFT is not compulsory, but we strongly urge you to do this. This is such an important part of our environmental stewardship, and is a crucial

step on the journey to reducing our collective carbon footprint.

EFT completion is also now a pre-requisite for accessing CofE grants and support for energy saving and carbon cutting projects.

The Church of England's General Synod set a Net Zero Carbon by 2030 target, so we're measuring and reporting against that along with thousands of other organisations across the world. If you'd like to know more about why we're doing this, please contact us about coming along to speak at a deanery synod meeting.

The EFT can be found through Parish Returns, which is where your treasurer will submit the annual Parish Finance Return. You'll need energy bills from 2023 and any records of any travel expense claims. It can be filled in by anyone given permission from the PCC.

There are helpful videos and advice here: [Energy Footprint Tool | The Church of England](#)



### **Get independent advice on how to save energy in your church**

We're continuing to subsidise energy audits for churches across the diocese. The cost to the PCC is £225 +VAT. If you have a hall which is on a separate heating system this will count as a separate audit which you can choose to request when booking.

The energy audit is a really useful starting point to considering how to reduce the environmental impact of your church buildings, and has kickstarted several

exciting projects across the diocese. For example in Plymstock St Mary's they had an audit in July 2023, which led to being able to take part in [Give 2 Go Green](#) and they've now raised over £10k towards under pew heating and accessed a match-funded grant of a further £10k!

We encourage you to register interest early so that we can coordinate groups of three nearby churches per day to reduce travel for the assessors. All the details about our subsidised audit programme are here: [Church Energy Audits - Diocese of Exeter \(anglican.org\)](#)

---



As we begin to see more effects of a changing climate, many communities are beginning to think about how they might adapt to these new conditions. Over the past few years, several communities have opened up *Warm Spaces*. These are safe, accessible places for community members who might be struggling with their heating bills and play a key role in preventing deaths and ill health due to fuel poverty. To continue this article [click here](#).

*What are we up to?*

---



### **Funding incoming for improving the sustainability of your church building!**

It really does feel as though funding is starting to filter down from the Church of England to help parishes reduce their carbon emissions. Here's a summary of the upcoming grants and projects:

1. **Subsidised energy audits** – from the Diocese of Exeter to help PCCs take the first step in identifying how to reduce the carbon footprint of their church. Available for any Anglican church in the Diocese of Exeter. [Church Energy Audits - Diocese of Exeter \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org)
2. **Free energy audits** – the 600 highest emitting churches\* across the country have been identified to be offered a free audit. We're still waiting to get confirmation of which churches will be offered this free audit.
3. **Quick Wins** – Grants could help churches to buy new LED lighting, pew heaters, insulation or update their electric supply. Funds will be given to dioceses to enable them to give grants to churches and church halls, typically £2.5k (max £10k) for small net zero improvements aligned to the [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon](#) for Churches, temporary/flexible heating solutions, or electrical upgrades. We haven't had confirmation of how much funding we'll have available yet.
4. **Buildings for Mission Minor Repairs grant** – not specifically Net Zero but there is a lot of overlap – for example roof repairs are a priority, which could also be part of a net zero project to improve insulation or install

solar PV. Currently only open to churches in certain areas. [Grants and Funding - Diocese of Exeter \(anglican.org\)](#)

5. **Church Demonstrators project** – we're interested to hear from you if you have a net zero project with DAC support and some funding already in the bank. We've already submitted our Stage 1 nominations, but we can still make nominations for churches to the Stage 2 capital funding grant. [Church Demonstrator projects - Diocese of Exeter \(anglican.org\)](#)
6. **Pilot and Evaluation Fund** – aims to support technical and innovative projects to reduce carbon emissions across any part of the Church of England. £250k available across 8-12 projects per year. Contact us if you have ideas to discuss.

\*Please note that churches are identified by the data submitted through the Energy Footprint Tool. If you're a high emitter but don't complete the EFT, we won't know to contact you with new opportunities.



Are you managing your churchyard for nature as well as people?

Communication is key when leaving wild areas. Caring for God's Acre have produced a brilliant free poster which is an easy way to tell your community that you are prioritising nature - head to their website to register and gain access to the full size poster to display on your notice board.

---



## Give 2 Go Green

The pilot phase was a resounding success with our 16 participating churches raising an extraordinary £106k in 6 weeks. We're doing another round later this year. Get a head start thinking about your project by booking an energy audit and submitting the EFT. [Give 2 Go Green - Diocese of Exeter \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)

---



## Could your church achieve an Eco Church award?

We are encouraging **every** church to sign up to the Eco Church scheme - increasing engagement with the scheme is a key goal of ours for 2024. The Eco Church questionnaire covers 5 areas of church life, Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global Engagement and Lifestyle.

Often when I speak to people about Eco Church the immediate response is along the lines of 'is that to do with fitting solar panels?'. Although installing renewables is great for those who can, there is much more to the award and

there are many easy changes and small wins that you and your church will be able to do quickly and easily to improve your environmental credentials.

Registering and adding your church is quick and easy and you will notice on filling out the survey how achievable many of the questions are. You may already be doing more than you realise – [click here](#) to register.

---

# Stories



## **No Mow (not just) May**

This year is the fifth anniversary of the conservation charity Plantlife's initiative to encourage us all to leave the mower in the shed, ignore the growing grass and allow the early plants to flower and feed the masses. The now annual No Mow May has gained huge momentum, even travelling across to the USA, to become a feature of the news and the gardening calendar during the fifth month. Bees and their cousins have inevitably become the poster children of the campaign, without them most of our commercial crops would go



unpollinated. To continue this article [click here](#).

---



Congratulations to the below churches who have achieved a new Eco Church award since our last newsletter:

St Andrew's Church, Chardstock - Silver  
St Mary's Church, Bideford - Silver  
St Michael and All Angels Church, Stockland - Silver  
St James and St Anne's Church, Alfington - Silver  
St Mary and St Peter's Church, Salcombe Regis - Silver  
Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance - Silver  
Exeter Cathedral Church of St Peter - Silver

St Luke's Church, Countess Wear - Bronze  
St James the Great Church, Talaton - Bronze  
Parish Church of Saint Margaret, Topsham - Bronze  
St Luke's Church, Newton Poppleford - Bronze  
St John The Baptist Church, Yarcombe - Bronze  
St Marys Church, High Bickington - Bronze

---

*Lets share*



## Upcoming National Campaigns



DIOCESE  
OF EXETER  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
IN DEVON



pray



grow



serve  
with joy



*Copyright © 2024 Diocese of Exeter, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).