

Resources for Churches Growing Creation Care

Whether you are starting out on your creation care journey or are a fully 'paid up' Gold Eco Church it can be helpful to tap into resources and networks to help you grow. This can feel a little overwhelming, so here is a rundown of (mostly) faith-based organisations supporting churches and individuals in their response to the climate emergency.

The resources have been grouped under the following headings:

Organisations

Movements and campaigns

Small group studies

Courses

Books

This is not a definitive list, and new resources are always emerging. If you know of other resources which could be added to this list, please let us know by emailing admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk.

Organisations

A Rocha

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

A Rocha UK (ARUK) is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. Eco Church and Wild Christian are A Rocha projects.

BUEN

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/349554/Baptist_Union_Environment.aspx.

The Baptist Union Environment Network – 'BUEN', good in Spanish – is an initiative that aims to raise awareness and respond to the environmental crisis. They have a network of groups across the regional areas to support promotion of creation care in these areas. They aim to journey alongside churches to enable them to declare, with God, in worship, life, and action that 'creation is good' (Gen. 1:25).

Caring for God's Acre

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>

Promoting the conservation of burial sites and supporting the volunteers who look after and maintain them. Particularly relevant to older churches with graveyards. Various courses and resources.

Climate Coalition

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

An organisation representing over 100 organisations across the UK coming together to call for urgent action on climate change. They run 'The Time is Now' and 'Show the Love' campaigns. Useful resource of '10 point plan' for a green recovery of policy and resources.

Climate Stewards

<https://www.climatestewards.org/>

Climate Stewards encourages you to calculate your carbon footprint, reduce it if you can, and offset the rest. Offsetting means compensating for every tonne of CO₂ you emit. They do this by using your donation to support community forestry, water filters, solar and cookstove projects in the developing world.

Eco Church (an A Rocha project)

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

A survey enables churches to collect points towards an Eco Church Award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. If your score doesn't gain you an Eco Church Award straight away don't worry – the idea is to complete further actions to gain the points necessary for an Award.

Global Connections

<https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/>

Not specifically environmental but some excellent resources on their development and environment page. Global Connections is a growing network of over 300 UK churches and agencies with a passion for mission. Links to other agencies too.

Green Christian

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/>

'We are a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith. Join us.' Green Christian offers thought-out theology, excellent resources and publications to challenge thinking and offer practical suggestions on current issues.

John Ray Initiative

<https://www.jri.org.uk/>

The John Ray Initiative is an educational charity with a vision to bring together scientific and Christian understandings of the environment in a way that can be widely communicated and lead to effective action. JRI's mission is to promote responsible environmental stewardship in accordance with Christian principles and the wise use of science and technology.

JPIT

<https://jpit.uk/>

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church. The purpose of JPIT is to help the Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues. They have a number of campaigns as well as being able to offer personal support to churches, training and information sessions.

Live Simply (a CAFOD project)

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

The livesimply award is an opportunity for Catholic communities – parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies – to respond to Pope Francis's invitation in *Laudato Si'* to 'work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us'. Useful resources on their website.

Global Catholic Climate Movement

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

Excellent resources and links to campaigns.

Hope for the Future

<https://www.hftf.org.uk/>

Hope for the Future is a UK-based charity which works to equip communities, groups and individuals across the country to communicate the urgency of the climate and nature crises with politicians. They act as a bridge between local people and their elected representatives. They have excellent practical support, including webinars and training, for those wishing to engage in politics.

Operation Noah

<https://operationnoah.org/>

A Christian charity working with churches to inspire action on the climate crisis. Responsible for 'Bright Now', a campaign set up to encourage and support denominations to divest from fossil fuels and which has now expanded to look at church land use and at nature-based solutions to climate change. Useful resources.

Tearfund

<https://www.tearfund.org/>

A Christian international development charity with a number of campaigns including 'Reboot' – a prayer and action campaign to see a breakthrough in the climate crisis.

Wild Christian (an A Rocha project)

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

A Rocha UK's Wild Christian scheme is a community of families and individuals exploring the connections between Christian faith, the natural environment and how we live.

Movements and campaigns

The following movements are regular events which churches can take part in. Linking with a national (or global) initiative is a great way for a church to be part of the bigger picture. All these sites have excellent resources and ideas on how to get involved in climate change awareness and campaigns.

Christian Climate Action

<https://christianclimateaction.org/>

'We are a community of Christians supporting each other to take meaningful action in the face of imminent and catastrophic anthropogenic climate breakdown. We are inspired by Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. Following the example of social justice movements of the past, we carry out acts of public witness, nonviolent protest and civil disobedience to urge those in power to make the changes needed. We work alongside other nonviolent protest groups, such as Extinction Rebellion.'

Climate Sunday

<https://www.climatesunday.org/>

An initiative established in the run-up to COP26 in 2022, Climate Sunday continues to provide opportunities for local churches to make climate action a significant part of their discipleship and mission and to contribute to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action. Resources page for inspiration and worship ideas to suit all church traditions.

Great Big Green Week

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

Annual event in June to encourage communities to take action for the environment. A joint initiative with various groups including Fairtrade Foundation, WWF, National Trust, RSPB and others.

Pray and Fast for the Climate

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

A call to pray and fast on the first day of the month for climate change. Excellent monthly summary of prayer points with useful information and updates.

Show the Love

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

A Climate Coalition campaign for the month of February to raise awareness and lobby politicians.

The Time is Now

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow>

A Climate Coalition campaign calling for a cleaner, greener world that works for everyone by lobbying government and signing their petition.

Small group studies

Small-group and church-wide study is a fantastic way to explore the topic of creation care. There are many resources available which can be used or adapted to your setting. Scheduling the study to coincide with Lent or the Season of Creation (September) can be a good way of focussing on the topic with a view to considering signing up to Eco Church.

Big Church Read

<https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>

This is an ever-expanding collection of resources for a small group to 'read together' a book. There are videos and questions for each week (usually a 6- to 8-week course). The following books link to environment and social justice:

A Call to Act – Building a poverty-busting lifestyle by Martin Charlesworth and Natalie Williams

A Place at the Table by Miranda Harris and Jo Swinney

Embracing Justice by Isabelle Hamley

A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues by Martin and Margot Hodson

Climate Emergency Tool Kit

<https://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com/>

A Tearfund programme to lead your church or small group on a journey to climate action, following a structure of 'prepare', 'declare', 'impact'.

Tenants of the King

<https://operationnoah.org/resources/tenants-of-the-king-study-guide/>

A four-part Bible study course for churches/small groups from Operation Noah.

Living Lent

<https://livinglent.org/>

A Lent course run in 2019, which can be visited at any time, with resources and ideas for practical action.

Caring for Creation, York Courses

<https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/product/caring-for-creation/>

Ideal for Lent, or any time of year.

#LiveLent 2020

<https://www.eden.co.uk/livelent-care-for-gods-creation/>

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation was the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. It was inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio. Study books for individuals and children are available. With weekly themes and prayers shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. For each day of Lent it offers a Bible reading, a short reflection and an action to help you live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

Courses

There are a few ideas below; some of these courses are directed to the church, while others are great opportunities for exploring the topic of the environment more generally. They range from one-hour webinars to full-time study.

<https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/events/creation-care-%E2%80%93-an-optional-extra/210204>

<https://www.cres.org.uk/cres-certificate/>

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/find-a-session/webinars/>

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/whats-on/>

<https://www.faithinvest.org/>

<https://jpit.uk/resources>

Books

There are many books about climate change and it can be difficult to know where to start. The following books have been helpfully reviewed by Nicky Bull and her reviews can be found on this page of the Operation Noah website: <https://operationnoah.org/news-events/news-blog/book-reviews/>

Falter: Has the human game begun to play itself out? (Bill McKibben)

No One is Too Small to Make a Difference (Greta Thunberg)

Losing Earth: The Decade We Could Have Stopped Climate Change (Nathaniel Rich)

Say No to Plastic: 101 Easy Ways to Use Less Plastic (Harriet Dyer)

On Fire (Naomi Klein)

Time To Act (Christian Climate Action)

The Case for the Green New Deal (Ann Pettifor)

The Future We Choose: Surviving the climate crisis (Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac)

Climate Chaos and the Global Green New Deal (Noam Chomsky and Robert Pollin)

There are also books about the climate crisis from a specifically Christian perspective; these are a good place to start, and a good example is the book mentioned above, under #LiveLent: *Saying Yes to Life* (Ruth Valerio). This was written as the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent book. Its theme is caring for creation and it uses the beginning of the book of Genesis as an outline, with a chapter dedicated to each of the 'days' of creation. Both extremely practical and also prayerful, it provides a wide-ranging overview of environmental and ethical issues in relation to light, water, land, seasons, creatures and human beings. Passages describing situations and responses from all around the globe make this a very informative book

that expands horizons, and it is thought-provoking and challenging. Well worth re-reading every Lent I would think.

See also:

A Life on Our Planet (David Attenborough)

Renewing the Face of the Earth (David Atkinson)

Cherishing the Earth: How to care for God's creation (Martin J Hodson and Margot R Hodson)

Creation in Crisis (ed. Robert S White)

Hope in God's Future: Christian discipleship in the context of climate change (Joint Public Issues Team)

and the Grove booklets:

B50: *The Earth is the Lord's* (Hilary Marlow)

E149: *Caring for Creation* (Stella Simiyu and Peter Harris)

E161: *Uncovering Isaiah's Environmental Ethics* (Margot R Hodson)

E165: *Hope for the Ocean* (Robert D Sluka)

E184: *An Introduction to Environmental Ethics* (Martin J Hodson and Margot R Hodson)

E198: *Covid-19: Environment, Justice and the Future* (Ruth Valerio, Margot R Hodson, Martin J Hodson and Timothy Howles)

eD24: *Changing the Climate* (Adrian Brown)

MEv134: *Climate Action as Mission* (Grace Thomas and Mark Coleman)

iD2: *Renewing the Life of the Earth* (Rachel Mash)