

Resources to help in greening your church

Bible verses

God made the earth	Genesis 1
God loves the earth	Genesis 1:31
God sustains the earth	Psalms 104:27
God gave the earth into our care	Genesis 1:28
Christ redeemed the earth	Colossians 1:15
God will hold us accountable for the earth	Revelation 11:18

Part of something bigger

- Anglican commitment to 5 marks of mission - 5th mark is:
'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth'
- Lausanne Conference 2010 - The Cape Town Commitment www.lausanne.org and the 2012 conference and call to action on 'Creation Care and the Gospel'
- www.shrinkingthefootprint.org.uk - CoFE commitment to reduce carbon footprint
- Anglican Communion Environmental Network - lot of useful papers at acen.anglicancommunion.org

Useful web resources (all of which have plenty of links)

- SW dioceses have established resourcing site of www.ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk and this is an excellent place to start.
- Churches can use www.ecocongregation.org to access resources to help them on their green journey including a checklist for buildings and activities, hopefully en route to becoming one of more than 300 eco-congregations.
- Organisations helping us to take environmental stewardship seriously include: www.arocha.org.uk (A Rocha), www.greenchristian.org.uk (Christian Ecology Link), www.jri.org.uk (The John Ray Initiative).
- Development agencies such as www.tearfund.org, www.christian-aid.org.uk and www.cafod.org.uk recognise that we can't tackle global poverty without caring for God's creation.
- Check out your own carbon footprint www.quaker.org.uk/climate-impact-calculators
- Reducing is best but there are unavoidable carbon emissions and offsetting these by investing in trustworthy conservation projects can be done via www.climatestewards.org
- Local wildlife trusts and other bodies co-ordinate local environmental action (e.g. www.wildlifetrusts.org and www.environment-agency.gov.uk).
- Churches Together in Britain & Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk have materials for Creation Time each year
- www.shrinkingthefootprint.org.uk includes newsletter and a downloadable 'Guidebook for Greener Churches' called *For Creed and Creation* produced by the Diocese of London.
- www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk is all about looking after churchyards environmentally
- www.arcworld.org is the home of the living churchyards project
- www.operationnoah.org focuses mainly on a Christian response to climate change but also has some excellent resources including a Lent course and theology resources including a contribution by Tom Wright (ex Bishop of Durham).

Bible study outlines

There are many around on this whole area, but here are just a sample:

- Ruth Valerio: *Environment* (CWR Life Issues Bible Study series; 4 studies)
- Charlotte Sleight & Bryony Webb: *God's Green Book* (7 studies)
- A Rocha: *Noah's Ark, A Tale for our Times* (downloadable)
- Tearfund: *Whose life is it anyway? Injustice, stewardship & the kingdom of God*
- Jubilee Centre/Tearfund: *Christianity, Climate Change & Sustainable Living* (5 downloadable studies)
- Ellen Teague: *Paint the Church Green* (6 studies)

Worship resources

- Many of these are downloadable but some may need to be purchased:
- www.ctbi.org.uk provides lots of useful resources for worship for Creation time (Sept/Oct)
- www.arocha.org.uk provides resources each year for environmental services including lists of songs, sermons, audio-visuals, sketches, children's materials
- The Bible Society have developed an excellent website with the Faraday Institute covering science and faith see www.testoffaith.com . It includes creation service resources.
- www.greenchristian.org.uk have a range of year-round resources including a 'green' view of the lectionary

Books

To get started ...

- *The Environment: A Christian Perspective* by Nicky Gumbel is a £1, 20-page booklet - good value for money & probably the most concise treatment available!
- *L is for Lifestyle* by Ruth Valerio is an A-Z of practical suggestions for caring for the planet by living everyday life according to the values of God's kingdom.
- *Caring for God's Creation - Part of our Gospel Calling?* by Peter Harris & Stella Simiyu, is a pithy & challenging Grove Booklet showing how care for creation not only connects with biblical themes but is also intertwined with loving our global neighbours.
- *Planetwise* by Dave Bookless gives an overview of the Bible's teaching on creation care, followed by its implications for our worship, discipleship, lifestyle and mission.

To inspire you ...

- *God Doesn't do Waste* is Dave Bookless' story of his journey into caring for God's creation, how that impacted his family's lifestyle and led to full-time involvement in the global A Rocha movement.
- *Under the Bright Wings* by Peter Harris tells the moving and powerful story of how God called a British couple to protect a threatened estuary in Portugal - and how that small project led to founding A Rocha.
- *Kingfisher's Fire* by Peter Harris continues the A Rocha story from one project in Portugal to a global movement across six continents - a real movement of God's Spirit in creation care.

To go deeper ...

- If you want to grapple with more in-depth treatments of the whole subject, try, *Cherishing the Earth* by Margot & Martin Hodson, *Christianity, Climate Change & Sustainable Living* by Nick Spencer & Robert White, *Creation: The Biblical View for the Environment* by Margaret Barker, *The Bible and Ecology* by Prof. Richard Bauckham, *The Ecology of the New Testament* by Mark Bredin, *For the Beauty of the Earth* by Steven Bouma-Prediger.

If you'd like to contact someone please e-mail David Morgan (DEG Chair)

david.morgan@arocha.org or Colin Brady (Social Justice)

colin.brady@anglican.salisbury.org