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  
  *Psalm 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](http://www.lausanne.org) and the 2012 conference and call to action on ‘Creation Care and the Gospel’
- [www.shrinkingthefootprint.org.uk](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.org.uk) - CofE commitment to reduce carbon footprint
- Anglican Communion Environmental Network - lot of useful papers at [acen.anglicancommunion.org](http://acen.anglicancommunion.org)

**Useful web resources** (all of which have plenty of links)
- SW dioceses have established resourcing site of [www.ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk) and this is an excellent place to start.
- Churches can use [www.ecocongregation.org](http://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](http://www.arocha.org.uk) (A Rocha),  
  [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk) (Christian Ecology Link),  
- Development agencies such as [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org),  
  [www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk) and [www.cafod.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.climatestewards.org)
- Local wildlife trusts and other bodies co-ordinate local environmental action (e.g. [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org) and [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)).
- Churches Together in Britain & Ireland  
  [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk) have materials for Creation Time each year
- [www.shrinkingthefootprint.org.uk](http://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](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) is all about looking after churchyards environmentally
- [www.arcworld.org](http://www.arcworld.org) is the home of the living churchyards project
- [www.operationnoah.org](http://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 Sleigh & 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](http://www.ctbi.org.uk) provides lots of useful resources for worship for Creation time (Sept/Oct)
- [www.arocha.org.uk](http://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](http://www.testoffaith.com). It includes creation service resources.
- [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://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.

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