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VISION IN FOCUS



Introduction

It's only been a few months since we launched our new Vision, but our diocesan communities are already embracing its themes and working hard to make the jump from words on paper to action in our ministry areas!

We know it's not always easy, and some of you maybe finding it hard to get started, while others may have some fantastic examples that you would like to share.

That's why we thought it would be good to catch up once a month and focus on one of our five branches – offering more of an insight into how it is being embedded across our diocese.

This month we are looking at the environment branch of our vision – “caring for God’s creation.” Well, it is Creation Sunday this weekend (12th February) after all!

From making the exciting announcement that we are working towards becoming a Bronze Eco Diocese, to finding out how amazing our schoolchildren are at being ‘eco warriors’, to tips and tricks to help us all become better climate citizens, we hope that you find something interesting, informative or igniting or maybe all three!

*Debra Goddard
Diocesan Communications Officer*



Becoming an Eco Diocese!

Join the Ven Stella Bailey as she announces our commitment to becoming an Eco Diocese! A few of our churches have already achieved their bronze recognition, with some about to submit their applications for silver status - which is amazing! So our journey as a diocese has already begun! Archdeacon Stella shares with us how we can all work together and be part of the journey.....

If you are interested in joining the Diocesan Eco Group, please contact stellabailey@cinw.org.uk



But where do I start.....?



Dr Julia Edwards

Julia can be contacted
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Today we are all aware of the challenge of climate change and, undoubtedly, we are concerned and want to do our bit to protect the environment, but, as Christians, what can we do about it? Sometimes the issue seems so vast that we don't know where to start! We are daunted, so we do very little.

Luckily, Dr Julia Edwards, the Church in Wales' first Climate Champion is on hand to help us. Julia was appointed in April 2021 and comes with years of experience and knowledge to help us navigate through this crucial issue.



The Church in Wales has declared a Climate Emergency and stated that, as a Church, we will be working towards Net Zero by 2030.

What does all this mean?

A 10-point plan has been launched by the Church in Wales to help churches cut their carbon footprint.

The guide suggests actions every church can take - starting with small steps and building up towards larger targets. It has been produced as part of the Church in Wales' commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030 and will offer churches a chance to show that "actions speak louder than words".

- 1. Establish an eco-group and appoint a lead climate champion**
- 2. Declare a climate emergency and devise an environmental policy**
- 3. Register with A Rocha Eco Church**
- 4. Measure your carbon footprint using the Energy Footprint Tool**
- 5. Devise a Climate Action Plan**
- 6. Develop a roster for routine church maintenance and repair**
- 7. Arrange an energy audit of your church**
- 8. Develop a specific heating strategy**
- 9. Switch energy tariffs to green electricity and green biogas tariffs**
- 10. Off set the remainder of your emissions**

To read more about how to do this, take a look at the Church in Wales [website](#)

Teaching us how to become 'eco warriors'!



Osbaston Church In Wales Primary School, began its journey to become an Eco School ten years ago. This was initiated by a staff member in conjunction with a governor who had a keen personal interest in environmental issues and understanding the importance of educating the next generation and ensuring they would be custodians of the planet.

The school completed three accreditations with the Green Flag Award by Eco Schools, then worked hard to achieve the final Platinum Award in July 2021.

Headteacher Catherine Jones, explains: “This continued work has been supported by our pupils and we have maintained an active committee of learners between the ages of 7-11 years who form our ‘Eco Warriors’. This group meets fortnightly and continues to promote environmental issues, campaigns and awareness raising.”

The school has engaged with the community and undertaken litter picks both within the school grounds, immediate area and slightly further afield. The school has a designated ‘litter free zone’ area which the eco committee are responsible for.



Mrs Jones, says: “We actively support recycling and regularly promote pre-loved uniform events where old uniform can be reused as well as termly textiles recycling collections which in turn raise money for Eco projects in the school. Most recently, the school collected 168kg of clothing which made £67. This has now been used to purchase bird feeders, seeds and suet feeders to encourage further wildlife to our school grounds. All food waste generated by snacks is composted and the committee are engaging with the Local Authority waste collection team to explore recycling of food on a much larger scale relating to school lunches. This is very important to them as the number of pupils accessing universal free school meals is much larger and will increase in the coming months as junior aged children will also be eligible.”

The school is also ‘Bee Friendly’ and has designated areas that are left to rewild with grasses and flower to attract pollinators. The eco committee firmly believes in encouraging bio-diversity and have a school pond, vegetable plots, bird and bat boxes, hedgehog houses and bug hotels.



Mrs Jones, continues: “The school always participates in wider national and international events including Earth Hour, Switch off Fortnight, Wateraid.

“We have used funds from a coffee morning to purchase a toilet block. We are a Fairtrade School and continue to advocate the use of Fairtrade products within our school and the wider community.

“Our Eco Code is ‘**Eco Community at Osbaston**’ and learners believe they are, *‘helping to make the world a better place for the future and doing things that really matter.’*”

Da iawn!

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