

## **Stroud Deanery Environmental Ambassador Report to Deanery Synod April 2026**

5<sup>th</sup> mark of mission: *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

### **Church of England**

Please check that your church will be completing the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT). The EFT portal, accessed through the Parish Returns, is now open for entering your church energy use for 2025 and completing it is very straightforward. The CofE web site provides excellent help and support if needed.

CofE 2026 Connect Conference for Diocesan and Net Zero Carbon Officers took place at the end of March. 42 dioceses took part. I do not yet know if this included Gloucester but hope that it did and that some feedback will be shared in due course.

### **Diocesan Update**

Church House is working towards becoming an Eco Silver Award office and staff has been reporting regularly on their actions in the weekly bulletin.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, as part of the diocesan commitment to moving towards an Eco Church Silver Diocese Award, Katherine Clamp circulated a short survey, on behalf of the diocesan team. The aim is to find out how Eco Church is progressing in our churches. It would be helpful if you could check whether at least one person in your church has received this and responded. In addition to providing useful feedback this will also enable the diocese to update their records and know who to contact so that they can keep churches informed about relevant articles, events or updates. I can forward the link to the survey if you need it please let me know.

### **Stroud Deanery**

Sustainable Church Flowers (SCF)

In February General Synod passed a motion calling on churches to rethink how floral arrangements are sourced and arranged. At its heart is a commitment to reducing the environmental harm caused by microplastics, chemical sprays and the high carbon footprint associated with imported flowers. In Stroud Deanery, and working alongside Cirencester Deanery, we have been addressing these issues since at least 2023. We have organised a number of demonstrations and workshops encouraging and supporting church flower teams with information and advice. Planning is in place for another deanery SCF in June – further details to follow.

Eco Church 'Café Meet Up

This turned into a marvellous informal ecumenical gathering of seven churches from three deaneries sharing ideas, prayer, and practical action to care for God's creation. The enthusiasm and mutual support generated during the morning was a good example of how much can be gained by working together with other local churches.

### **National events with an environmental focus**

June 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>

Love Your Burial Ground and Churches Count in Nature Week – registration for 2026 now open

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

The Big Green Week – [www.greatbiggreenweek.com](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.com)

This may seem like overload but there is plenty of overlap and a few simple things can have an impact and those churches that participate that it can be a great way to engage with our local communities.

Thank you for all that you and your churches are doing to support this important work.

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