

Eco Church and Creation Care

12th May 2024

Karen Park, A Rocha UK Speaker,
Authorised Lay Minister
Care for Creation and Eco Church



Eco Church Bronze Awards



St Peter's
Old Woking



St Mark's
Westfield



All Souls
Sutton Green



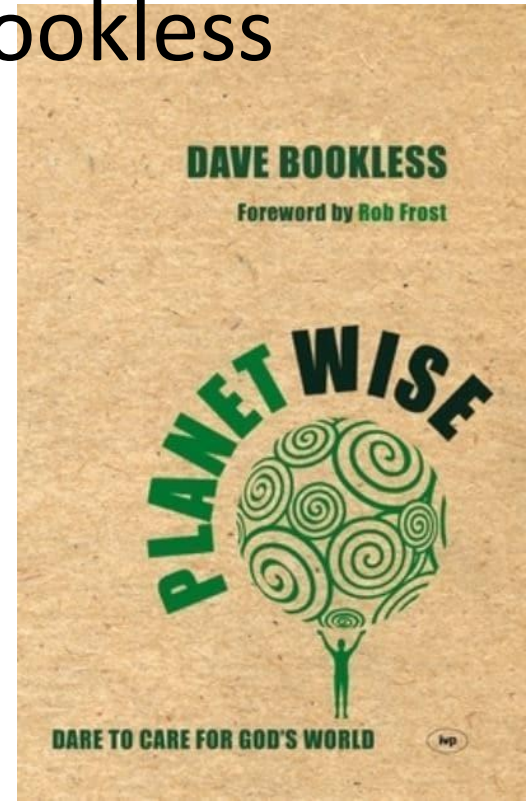
A Christian charity equipping Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people.

Part of the international A Rocha network of Christian organisations, in more than 20 countries.



A Rocha

- 1983 Anglican minister and his wife, Peter and Miranda Harris
- Christian wildlife study centre in Portugal
- 2001 A Rocha UK co-founded by Dave and Ann Bookless



AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT
PARTNERS  **IN ACTION**

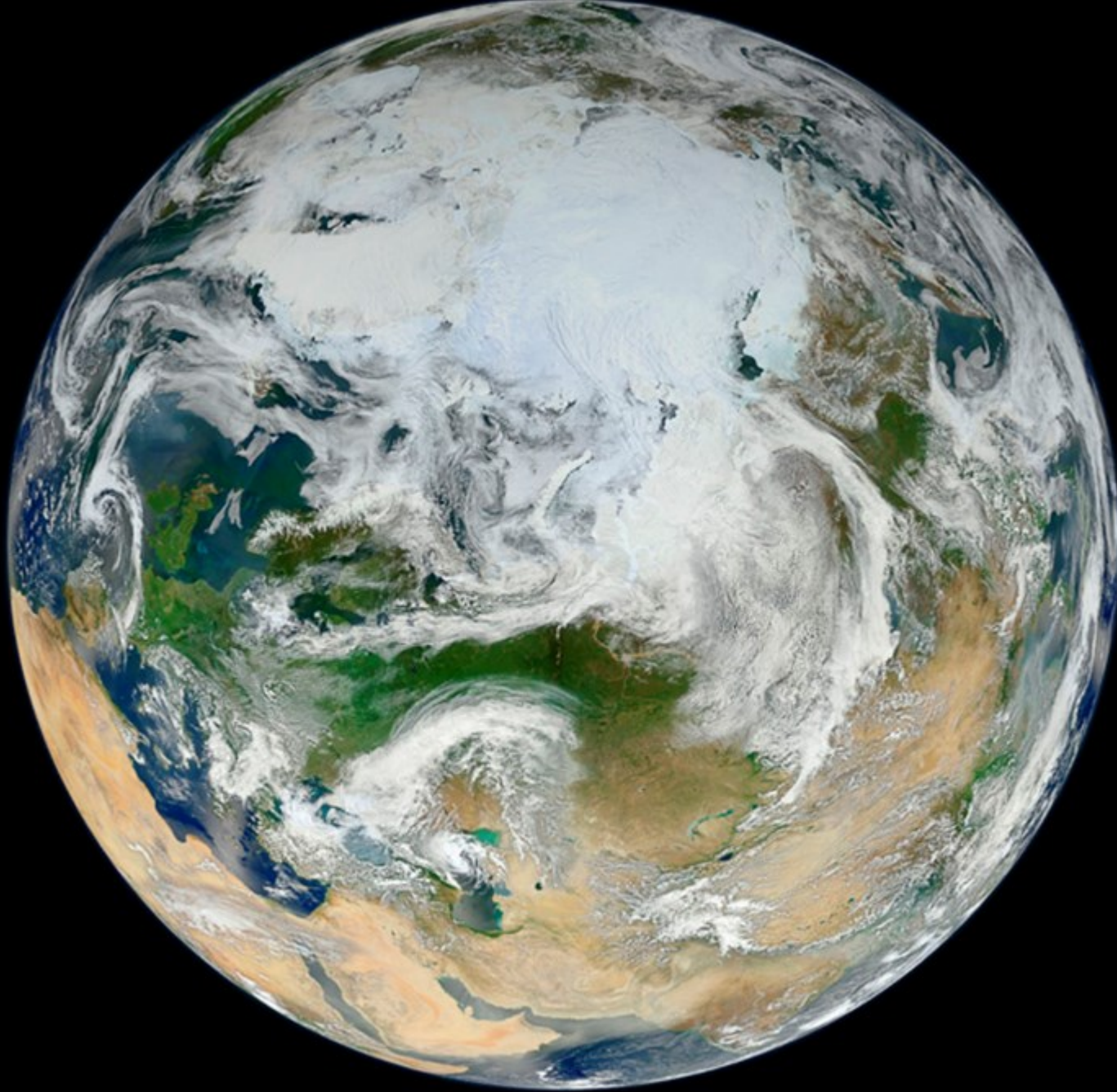


NATURE RESERVES Wolf Fields & Foxearth Meadows



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WILD  **CHRISTIAN**

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



God - Creator and Lord of all things

‘God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.’ *Genesis 1:31*

‘The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.’
Genesis 2:15

Climate and Ecological Emergency

- The most important commandments are to love God, and to love our neighbours.
- Tackling the climate crisis is vital to both.



Church of England

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

TREASURE:
Safeguard &
Care for
Creation



TELL: Share the Good News
of Jesus Christ

TEACH:
Nurture new
Believers in
the Faith

TRANSFORM: Address
Injustice & Promote
Reconciliation

TEND: Offer
Loving Service



churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme



Renew Our World Campaign

Download free resources including Making a World of Difference booklet, lead author Revd Dave Bookless

<https://renewourworld.net/resources>



**renew
our
world**
CAMPAIGN

Eco Church

- For all denominations
- Free online survey records what already doing
- Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Church Awards

Free resources inform decisions on further steps in 5 key areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community & global engagement
- Personal lifestyle

ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Eco Church Survey

Worship and Teaching

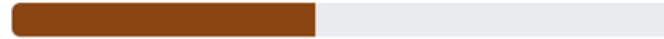


Gold

You've answered 10 of 10 questions.

Fill in this section

Buildings



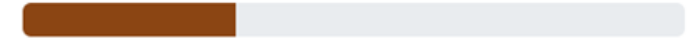
Bronze

You've answered 32 of 33 questions.

Fill in this section

Is your church responsible for the premises in which it meets?

Land



Bronze

You've answered 16 of 16 questions.

Fill in this section

Does your church have influence over any land? This includes church gardens, car parks, paved areas, flower-beds or planters, churchyards.

Community and Global Engagement



Silver

You've answered 27 of 27 questions.

Lifestyle



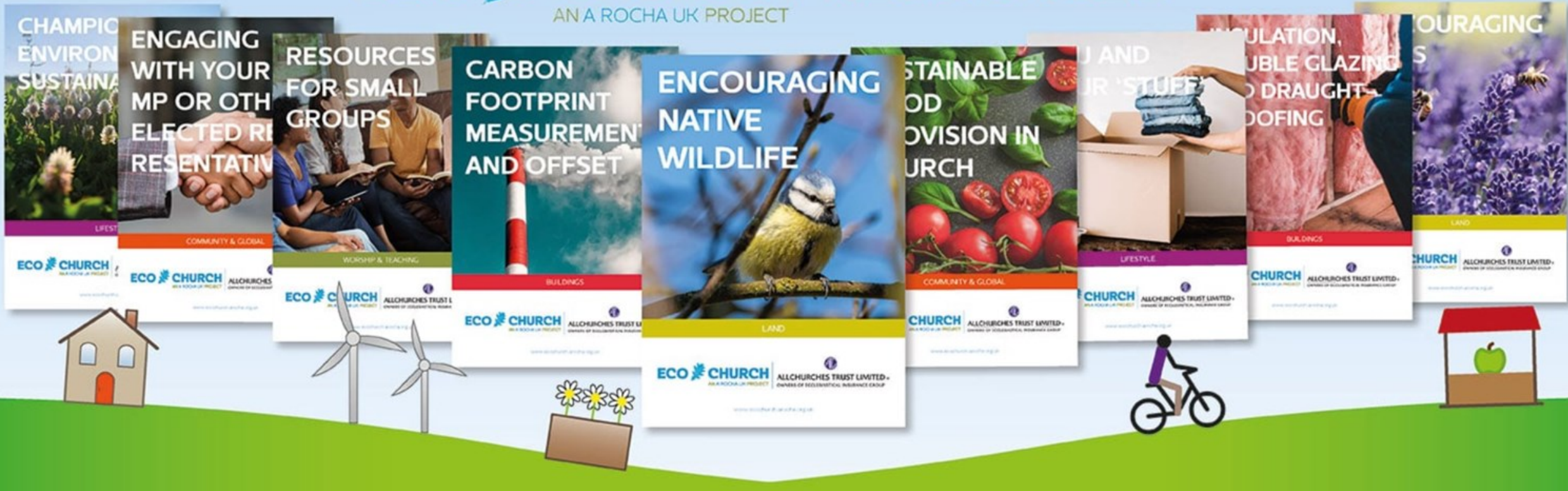
Silver

You've answered 14 of 15 questions.

- 25% Bronze
- 50% Silver
- 75% Gold
- Eco Diary and photos

ECO CHURCH RESOURCES

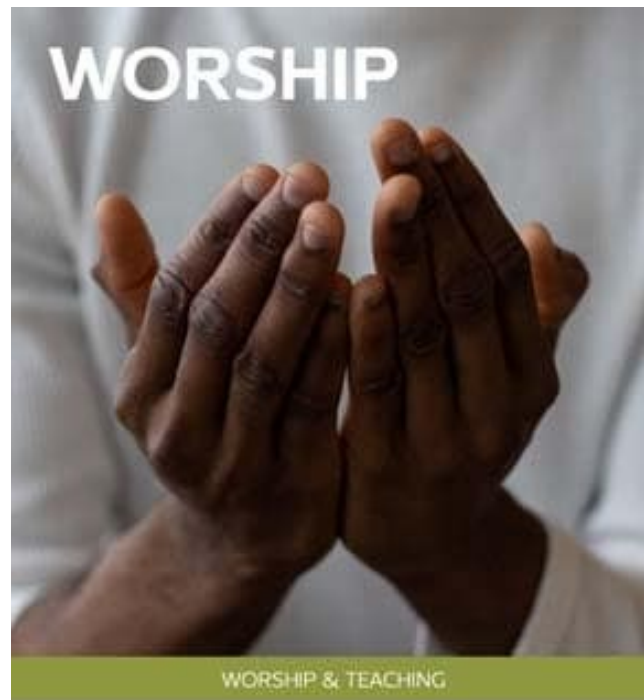
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- Correspond to Eco Church survey questions
- Quickly explore why and how to undertake recommended actions
- Longer reads and case studies

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

Worship and Teaching



KIDS & YOUTH



<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/worship-and-teaching>

ECO CHURCH
A UK ROYAL LIAISON PROJECT

ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED
OWNERS OF ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE GROUP

A Rocha UK Free Education Plans



- 3 - 14 years for schools, community groups and churches
- Enjoy exploring nature and caring for our planet through fun, interactive activities
- Linked to national curriculum, using scientific enquiry

<https://arocha.org.uk/education-plans>

Church Buildings

- Journey to Net Zero Carbon Church
- 7% of churches already net zero carbon
- Sample very-high energy using buildings all can achieve net zero carbon



1. Well-maintained



2. Buy renewable



3. Waste less



4. Electric not gas/oil



5. Generate more



6. Offset the rest



Prepare plan your response

Declare or recognise an emergency

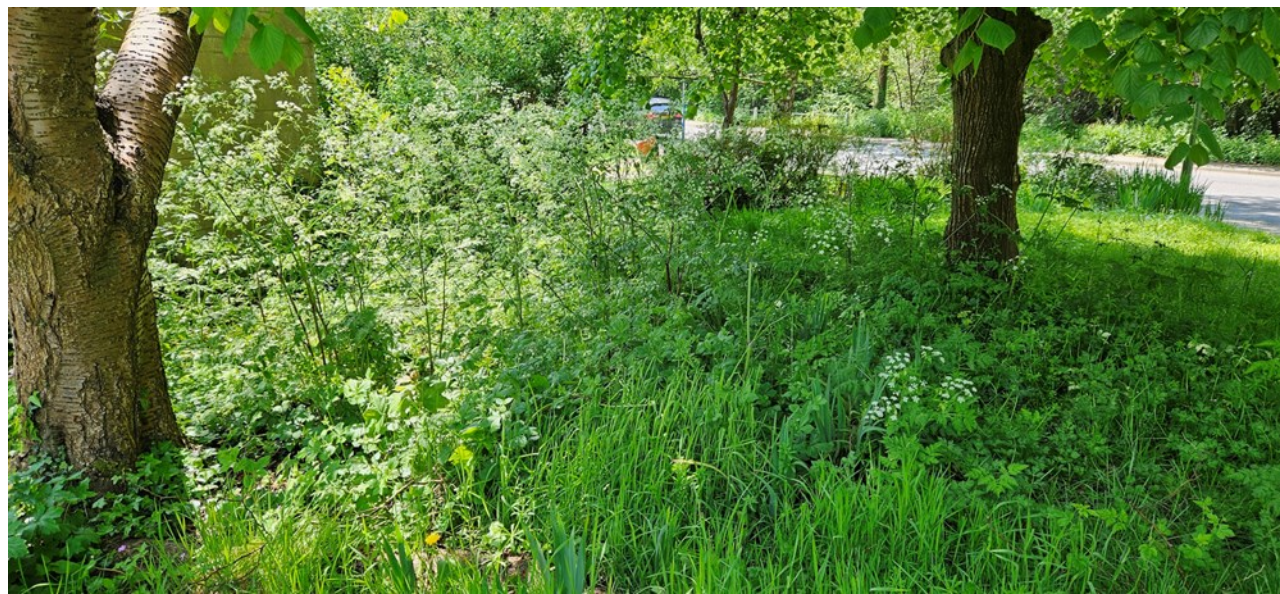
Impact widely - partner with others

- Free download – 2022 is latest version
- Step-by-step guidance to respond to the climate emergency
climateemergencytoolkit.com
- Produced by Tearfund in partnership with:

The logo for Tearfund, consisting of the word 'tearfund' in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.



Church Land



Target 25

T25

- Partners in Action working to help 25 target places and species struggling with the effects of climate change, habitat loss and pollution
- Information packs - monitoring, recording and practical actions
- arochoa.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25/

HABITATS

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT
PARTNERS  **IN ACTION**

Habitats from left to right: T1 Grassland (Hay meadows) David Chandler, T2 Hedgerows - Annie Spratt, T3 Freshwater (Lakes) Ben Clayton, T4 Woodland (Deciduous woodland) David Chandler, T5 Coastal (Hard cliffs) Dimitry Anikin

RECYCLE



STATIONERY
PLASTIC PENS
CORRECTION FLUID,
HI-LIGHTERS



**PERSONAL CARE
PACKAGING**
LIDS, POTS, FLEXIBLE TUBES,
CONTACT LENS PACKS,
MAKE UP



**CHEESE
PACKAGING**
FLEXIBLE PLASTIC
PACKAGING, NETS &
POUCHES INC BABYBEL WAX



**FOOD STORAGE
CONTAINERS**
PLASTIC FOOD STORAGE
CONTAINERS AND PLASTIC
REUSABLE BOTTLES & LIDS



CRISPS & SNACKS
BISCUITS, NUTS, BREAD,
POPCORN & CHEESE
PACKAGING



GLOVES
LATEX, VINYL, NITRILE,
POLYETHYLENE DISPOSABLE
& DURABLE GLOVES



WATER FILTERS
AQUA OPTIMA BRAND
ONLY



POUCHES & PUMPS
TRIGGER HEADS,
PUMPS & POUCHES FOR HOME
CLEANING, PERSONAL CARE



USED CARTRIDGES
AIR FRESHENER,
PRINTER INKJET
(SORRY, NOT LASER CARTRIDGES)



BOTTLE TOPS
MILK BOTTLE &
OTHER PLASTIC
CONTAINER TOPS



TOYS & GAMES
BROKEN & DAMAGED IN
PLASTIC, METAL, WOOD,
CARDBOARD OR PAPER

Community Engagement

- ✓ Sussex Green Living - single use plastics
- ✓ Supermarkets - soft plastics
- ✓ St Mark's Church - hearing aids, glasses, corks, postcards, candles, bras, cards and postage stamps



For more information and drop off locations visit:
sussexgreenliving.org.uk/single-use

Work in Partnership To Make a Difference

Churches, groups, schools, councils, businesses and individuals

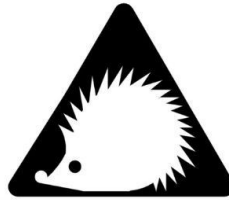
Woking REPAIR CAFE

Don't throw it away, Bring it to the Cafe!



WEAct

Woking Environment Action



woking
hedgehogs



#USEYOURVOICE



Global Engagement

- Climate change hits those in low-income countries the hardest
- Increasingly extreme, unpredictable weather destroying bananas, coffee & cocoa crops
- Even less for essentials such as education, medical treatment and even food
- Demand climate justice choose Fairtrade

**STAND WITH FARMERS
TAKING ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS.**

CHOOSE FAIRTRADE.

Climate change is destroying the livelihoods of farmers and workers already pushed to the brink by unfair trade. Choose Fairtrade so they can earn enough to take on the climate crisis, farm sustainably and meet their everyday needs.

[fairtrade.org.uk](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**CHOOSE THE WORLD
YOU WANT**



Petitioning

To bring about climate justice, we need change at all levels

Use your voice - discuss, write to your MP

Promote campaigns and petitions

- **Tearfund**
- **Christian Aid**
- **Fairtrade**



www.restorenaturenow.com

Personal Lifestyle

Household and personal actions do make a difference.

Wild Christian

- Monthly email - something to think about and practical actions



Creation Care

- Encourages households of all ages
- Easy-to-use free online questionnaire
- Ideas for next steps towards an award

creationcare.org.uk





Creation Care

Encouraging households to care for God's world



Worship & prayer



Home



Food



Garden



Possessions



Travel



Community & global engagement

icons designed by Freepik, Pause08 and Iconixar from Flaticon

creationcare.org.uk

Worship and Prayer



Current Score 18
Award Level Bronze

Update Answers

Home



Current Score 220
Award Level Gold

Update Answers

Garden



Current Score 90
Award Level Silver

Update Answers

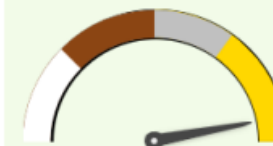
Travel



Current Score 80
Award Level Bronze

Update Answers

Food



Current Score 157
Award Level Gold

Update Answers

Possession



Current Score 144
Award Level Gold

Update Answers

Community and Global Engagement



Current Score 136
Award Level Gold

Update Answers

Award Level

Bronze
Commended

View Certificate

Eco-Friendly

- Actively enjoy God's creation every day
- Walk, cycle, public transport or car share where possible
- Switch to renewable energy, ethical bank and savings
- Create nature and wildlife friendly areas
- Use your voice - discuss, sign petitions, write to your MP
- Use and waste less, compost more
- Sell, donate or share, repair, reuse and recycle





- Helps individuals and organisations
- Measure, reduce and offset carbon footprint
- Support our global neighbours through community carbon offset projects

climatestewards.org



Together We Can



Climate change can seem overwhelming but together we can do simple things to help our planet & reduce our bills

We Need to Act Now

- 2023 hottest year on record
- 1 in 6 UK wildlife species at risk of extinction, 1 in 10 in 2019
- Pollinators decreased by 18%
- A climate catastrophe is unfolding
- Called to campaign for change
- Make every difference we can



Keep in Touch



bit.ly/aruksignup



[@HorshamEcoChurches](https://www.facebook.com/HorshamEcoChurches)



eepurl.com/hENwET

horshamct.org.uk/eco-churches



Thank you

