



CARING FOR EACH OTHER CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

I would like to invite you to leave the busyness of life and come on a walk up my local mountain, Arennig. All the struggle in the ascent fades away as a clear panoramic view unfolds at the top. We are overcome with awe...

...do you hear that stream?

It flows down the weathered crags of the ancient mountains, over the tender brows of green and purple hills where skylarks soar. Cascading into the deep valley and fusing into the undisturbed lake below. Take a deep breath, all is calm; all is tranquil.

The flowers, the clouds, the breeze, each detail of this magnificent creation, resonates the glory of our Creator God. What a privilege to steward over this incredible planet: To live off, learn from, wonder at, rejoice in and conserve.

Yet sadly, it is clear we are not stewarding as we should, and the whole world is suffering.

What can we do about this? Fear is a bad motivator-love is better: for nature, for future generations and for the Creator.

We have received immeasurable love from our faithful Father and Creator, let us reflect this love and worship Him by protecting His planet. Let us celebrate every milestone and keep going together for Him, His world, and His people.

Written on behalf of the St Asaph Youth Forum by Joseff Griffiths from Penedeyrn Mission Area.



Caring for each other; caring for God's creation

In this short guide, split into sections, we pose a number of simple questions to help you make small changes in the way you live, work, shop and worship. In turn, these changes will contribute to the development of a fairer and more sustainable world.

Use the booklet as a prompt for prayer and discussion and, with our sisters and brothers across the Church in Wales, you can have your efforts recognised with an official Eco-Church designation. There is further information to help with this at the end.



"If we're not prepared to pay properly for our goods, someone is suffering; someone else's child isn't going to school; someone else isn't able to visit a doctor. Our choices make a difference."

*Lis Perkins,
Just Shopping*

Community and Global Engagement

"The fields of the poor may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away." – Proverbs 13:23

01. Does your Church serve Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar?
02. Do you host a Traidcraft stall to promote global awareness of where our food comes from and the welfare of those producing it?
03. Do you promote and engage with initiatives that seek to support those in need in your local community and in poorer communities across the globe?
An example of this could be buying locally produced, seasonal produce from a local independent supplier.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐



Lifestyle

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it."
– 1 Corinthians 12:26

- 01. Do you encourage members to reduce waste by following the principles of 'reduce, re-use and recycle'?
Think of practical examples, such as installing a water butt, choosing washable dishware over plastic or paper and by providing recycle bins, etc.

Yes

No
- 02. Do members of your congregation car-share to come to Church meetings and services, or arrange to walk to Church together? Are facilities available for people to safely store bicycles if coming to Church by bike?

Yes

No
- 03. Have you considered the ethical implications of your decisions, both as a Church and as individuals in the congregation?
For example, in your decisions on investments, use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, sourcing of food, etc.

Yes

No

Land

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." – **Genesis 1:31**

- 01. Have you installed bird and bat boxes, a bug hotel, a hedgehog box or an insect box in the Churchyard?

Yes

No
- 02. Have you considered altering your grass-cutting regime to encourage the conservation of grassland, wildlife and wildflowers?

Yes

No
- 03. Do you use harmful chemicals in pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers in the Church grounds and could you change your maintenance regime to enable you to stop using them?

Yes

No





Buildings

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."
– Psalm 24:1a*

- 01. What is your current heating source and, if you are considering replacement, have you considered low-carbon options, such solar panels or ground heat-source instead of using oil, LPG or other fossil fuels?
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- 02. Have you opted into the Parish Buying electricity procurement scheme, to benefit the Church not only financially in terms of bulk-buying but also in terms of carbon footprint?
The energy supplied comes from 100% UK-sourced renewable sources –
<https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/index.php/categories/energy/energy-basket>
- 03. Have you installed energy efficient lightbulbs or LED light fittings?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐

Worship and Teaching

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." – Luke 12:48b

- 01. Does your Church pray for the world and the environment?
- 02. Do your Church newsletters include regular features on environmental matters?
- 03. Do environmental issues feature as a regular theme in your lives as a Church community living out our faith?
E.g. A Lent course, a small group discussion, taking part in global campaigns initiated by Christian Aid or other charities.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐





Pledges...

What can I do now?

01. Ring your energy supplier or ask your Church to join the Parish Buying Scheme, and switch to a 100% renewable tariff – this will instantly reduce your carbon footprint
02. Pledge to buy produce for your church and at home under the LOAF principles:
 - a. **L**ocally produced
 - b. **O**rganically grown
 - c. **A**nimal friendly
 - d. **F**airly traded
03. Pledge to walk, cycle, or use public transport rather than the car, or to car-share, whenever possible.
04. Turn down the thermostatic radiator valves/heater controls, especially in rooms you don't use.
05. Find out more about the challenges associated with climate change and what you can do about it.

The next step...

Congratulations! Having worked through this guide you are well on your way to registering as an Eco-Church and gain your first award. Why not take the next step and register with Arocha UK:

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

There are plenty of resources on our website to help.

Visit: dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/eco-church/