

Harrogate Deanery Synod – Speaker Notes
15th February 2022 – Holy Trinity Knaresborough
Speaker: Jemima Parker – Environment Officer

Saving Carbon: Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero.

How to start your church's journey

Jemima, reminded us that the General Synod has asked Churches to become Net Zero Carbon by 2030; a challenging target. Two areas of measurement will be:

- Energy use in buildings
- Travel fuel for clergy and other staff

The presentation explored what is meant by net carbon emissions and showed how churches can measure their own carbon emissions. There are two tools:

- Online parish returns – an energy foot printing tool. Data can be included in annual reports. <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool>
- 360 carbon calculate tool, which can be found on the Climate Stewards website. <https://360carbon.org/>

All Hallows Church, Bardsey, has embraced the six steps to carbon net zero and has used both the above tools. <https://www.bardseyekparish.com/environment>

Jemima presented the '**Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero – Church toolkit**'.

- Step 1 – Measure and Monitor
- Step 2 – Plan and Prepare
- Step 3 – Essential Energy Actions
- Step 4 – Essential Travel Actions
- Step 5 – Carbon Offsetting
- Step 6 – Stepping Out and Up

The toolkit contains several practical solutions and strategies to assist Churches in achieving carbon net zero by 2030. <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/saving-creation> The accompanying slides contain further links to tools and practical solutions to achieve this target.

Overview of key actions in each step:

Step 1 – Measure and Monitor. Discussed above.

Step 2 – Plan and prepare.

- Create a vision of what our churches will look like if they have net zero carbon emissions.
- Use the interactive tool in the toolkit to shape this vision.

- Use 'A practical path to net zero carbon: A checklist for your church'.

Step 3 – Essential Energy Actions.

- Take steps to reduce energy waste e.g., repair leaky roofs, insulate pipes, fit draught excluders, fit thermostats.
- Switch over to a 100% renewable energy tariff e.g. The Green Journey. 250 churches in the Diocese already get their energy from the Green Journey scheme.
- Decarbonise heating systems. Switch to electricity e.g., consider installing air source heat pumps.
- The DAC has written a sustainability policy and advisors are available to offer guidance and advice.

Step 4 – Essential Travel Actions

- Cut travel by half
- Use shared travel e.g., public transport or car share
- Use video conferencing to reduce travel
- Install car charging points
- Introduce electric car leasing schemes

Step 5 – Carbon Offsetting

- It is unlikely that we will get below 10% carbon emissions by 2030.
- Planting more trees is a means of offsetting that remaining 10%.
- Climate Stewards offer ways to reduce emissions <https://www.climatestewards.org/>

Step 6 – Stepping Out and Up

- This is a reminder that these initiatives are about caring for God's creation.
- Share with your community.
- Run an award scheme with local businesses
- Initiate carbon conversations – talk about it!
- Acquire an award via Eco Church www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/eco-church-awards and access their resources for advice and support <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>
- Sign up to God's Green Fingers <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment>

Jemima concluded by informing members that there is a requirement for an Environment Officer in each episcopal area. The Bishop has tasked us to fill the vacancy in this area.

Question: **How much renewable energy is there in the country** for people to purchase?

Answer: Plenty. Nationally 50% of energy is produced by renewables e.g., on windy or sunny days.

Question: Paul Arundel, St Oswald's Church, asked, if we have to persuade people e.g., the PCC, is there any **financial support** or incentive?

Answer: The Church Building Fund has a pot of £80K. It can award grants up to £5K to each church for building or maintenance repairs or to improve energy efficiency. Harrogate Churches Repair

Fund might also help with the cost of replacing lighting.

www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/funding

Church of England webinar series on funding and all things net zero carbon www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon

Question: Revd Mike Resch, St Mark's Church, asked, are there conversations going on with **English Heritage**?

Answer: Historic England is on board. The Church Buildings Council which advises the DAC came to Wetherby to review their proposals. They agreed to putting PV on the church roof, and installing ground source heat pumps/air source heat pumps. Less keen on wind turbines on the church tower. To be discussed further in March 2022. The DAC Sustainability Policy and Guidance can be found here: www.leeds.anglican.org/dac/sustainability

Training offered by the diocese on environmental matter can be found on the Diocesan Learning Platform and here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/training-opportunities

The Area Dean gave a huge 'Thank You' to Jemima Parker, for all her work in the Diocese.

Closing prayer The Area Dean, closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting finished at 9.03 pm.

FUTURE DATES

Monday 16th May – speaker and venue TBC

Tuesday 18th October – speaker and venue TBC

ALL MEETINGS SCHEDULED – 7pm for 7.30 pm – 9 pm

Please send agenda items and apologies to Helen Camm, Deanery Synod Secretary

secretary.harrogatedeanery@leeds.anglican.org

MAIN LINKS SUMMARY:

1. The Six Steps to Net Zero Church Toolkit, Video, Case studies and Template Plan on the Saving Creation page here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/saving-creation
2. The DAC Sustainability Policy and Guidance can be found here www.leeds.anglican.org/dac/sustainability
3. The Eco Church Award Scheme ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/ and our guide to Eco Church here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/eco-church-awards
4. Funding options www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/funding

5. Church of England webinar series on funding and all things net zero carbon www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon
6. Training offered by the diocese on environmental matter can be found on the Diocesan Learning Platform and here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/training-opportunities
7. You may also like to join the mailing list for *God's Green Fingers*, the environment e-newsletter which I produce every couple of months with news, events and a ready to print magazine article. Sign up here <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XxcL4od>