

## Stroud Deanery Environmental Ambassador report to Deanery Synod May 2024

### Diocesan update

#### Net zero project officer posts

These posts described in my previous report where Gloucester diocese will be working together with the dioceses of Hereford and Worcester have been advertised. The person appointed in each of these dioceses will cover a different specialist area: Worcester – church buildings -interviews have taken place and an appointment made, Gloucester – clergy housing, advertised with interviews at the end of the month, Hereford –church schools, appointment process underway. They will each work across their own diocese on general net zero work.

#### C of E Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

The information for the calendar year 2023 can now be entered on the Parish Returns Portal. The form has changed slightly this year following feedback, and a good deal of debate. The form is simpler in the hope that it will encourage even more churches to use it. Collecting the basic data about carbon usage is central as the diocese moves towards net zero by 2030. By using the EFT churches can track their progress year on year and we are strongly encouraged to do so as indeed many of you are already. The diocese has committed to prioritising and supporting the decarbonisation of places with heavy energy use. They are NOT expecting small rural churches to be net zero.

#### Helping churches and individuals reduce their carbon footprint

Carbon Awareness Lechlade Lechlade June 8<sup>th</sup>

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/carbon-awareness-training-november-2023-2-2/>

Ecochurch drop in with sustainable heating demo Chedworth 15<sup>th</sup> October

[EcoChurch Resourcing: EcoChurch drop-in with sustainable heating demo – Diocese of Gloucester \(anglican.org\)](#)

There are plans for some funding to be available for what Cate Willams describes as ‘quick wins’ such as changing to energy efficient light bulbs and under pew heating – keep a look out for further details/

### Stroud Deanery

#### Eco Church

Since the February Synod meeting, Holy Trinity Brimscombe and Holy Trinity, Stroud have gained a Bronze Eco Church award. Thanks to the Eco teams there for all the progress they have made.

A Rocha are currently testing an updated Eco Church survey following detailed revisions. This stage will be completed during May. These are first changes since the survey was introduced in 2016. There will still be the five main categories but there will be more emphasis on ensuring the actions churches take have the most impact in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. Any further changes will be incorporated before finalising the survey and letting churches know further details with timescales. There will be a transition phase from the existing survey to the new one to give churches time to complete any work in progress. If you are church with a survey underway then this might be a good time to check up on the last few things and press the ‘SEND’ button.

#### Church yards

Rebecca Charley, Strategic Lead for Biodiversity and Nature Recovery for Stroud Council is interested in making sure that churchyards are included in the planning. I will be arranging a time when she can meet with us to look at ways this might be done. Further details to follow

#### Sustainable Church Flowers

Church flowers arranged sustainably are: foam free, seasonal and local. This is a topic that a number of parishes have been working jointly with some churches in Cirencester deanery since last October under the guidance of Beth Bruce-Gardener, Deanery Eco Ambassador (sustainable flowers). There will be a Flower Festival ‘Glorifying God Sustainably with Flowers’ at the beginning of July in Cirencester Parish Church with participants from fourteen church from the two deaneries. This will showcase what can be achieved using the above sustainable criteria and include examples and lots of information on how to do it! A poster with further information is attached. Please encourage any interested flower arrangers and indeed others to visit.

**Parish Returns** this year are asking each church for the name of the Eco Church lead which will I hope make communication of all things Eco much easier. My contact details are on the deanery web site. Always happy to help!  
Jennie South