



**'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (1 Corinthians 10:26)**

The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Environmental Policy and as Bishop Tim says:  
*'We have a collective responsibility to care for God's creation.  
It is an integral part of loving our neighbours and following God faithfully.'*

As a church, we continue to think through the implications of better stewardship and are working towards achieving the **Eco-church Bronze Award**.

**What good things has the Church been doing?**

- More efficient heating - reducing carbon and saving money
- Re-furbished toilets (with dual flush and low-use taps), saving water and avoiding expensive repairs
- Greater use of LED lights
- Improved insulation in the Simeon Room
- The garden is being managed organically and nest and bug boxes are being put up
- Solar-powered opening ceiling windows in the Guinness Suite
- We are thankful for God's creation more often in our prayers and worship.
- Advertising events relating to Climate Justice with Churches Together and the church uses Fairtrade products
- The toilets are twinned with places in Africa to improve sanitation abroad.

For more information: go to [www.ccwinch.org.uk/environmental-and-stewardship](http://www.ccwinch.org.uk/environmental-and-stewardship)

## What things can we do ourselves? Surprisingly simple things...

### Energy

- Turn the thermostat down a notch
- Use energy-saving light bulbs
- Switch off appliances at the wall
- Switch to a renewable energy supplier

### Travel

- Use public transport/walk/cycle for short journeys (for assistance you could visit Winchester Bike Hub run by Heather Evans from Christ Church)
- Car share
- Avoid flying as much possible

### Cut down on single use plastics

- Buy a re-useable cup
- Choose natural fibre clothes
- Avoid over-packaged foods
- See '5 easy steps' at [www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Plastic\\_Free\\_Living.pdf](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Plastic_Free_Living.pdf)
- **Try the Plastic free Lent Challenge** - [tinyurl.com/pflent19](http://tinyurl.com/pflent19)

### Shopping

Every purchasing decision we make influences the manufacturers and retailers.

Try to buy **LOAF**:

- **Local** to reduce food miles
- **Organic** to protect the health of the soil and those who grow our food
- **Animal-friendly** - humane conditions for God's creatures
- **Fair Trade** to enable communities to thrive

See 'New LOAF for Lent Course'

- [tinyurl.com/newloaflent](http://tinyurl.com/newloaflent)

### Gardens and window boxes

- Garden organically and encourage pollinator insects
- Plant some butterfly and bee-friendly plants (see [tinyurl.com/beegarden19](http://tinyurl.com/beegarden19))

### Take action

- Join a local environmental group, e.g. WinACC ([www.winacc.org.uk](http://www.winacc.org.uk))
- Choose a campaign (e.g. climate justice, farm animal welfare, sustainable transport, post-Brexit environmental standards).
- Policy makers, councillors and MPs need to hear from Christians!

### Helpful information

'Why should Christians care for the environment?' TearFund - [tinyurl.com/tfecocare](http://tinyurl.com/tfecocare)

'The Joy in Enough Confession'- [tinyurl.com/joyinenough19](http://tinyurl.com/joyinenough19)

'Awakening to the New Economics' - Green Christian - [tinyurl.com/gcneweco](http://tinyurl.com/gcneweco)

For lots of practical ideas, see <https://ruthvalerio.net/>

or contact the Environmental/Stewardship team via the office or Connection Point.

For local advice, contact [www.winacc.org.uk](http://www.winacc.org.uk)

### Pray!

Above all, as Spring approaches let us take time to look at the beauties of God's creation, enjoy the song of the birds, the flowers coming into bloom, marvel at the stars spread across the heavens, and pray.

**God of all creation, we pray for a world where inequality and exploitation are no more - a world where our planet and people thrive. We pray you would send us out to care for your creation, love our neighbours and protect vulnerable people, finding purpose and joy in responding to Your call. We pray for justice and renewal in all the earth, in Jesus' name. Amen.**