



Rev Dr Mark Powell, Melbourne church, Derbyshire



Wildlife garden, St Carherine's Church, Burbage

# ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

## DENOMINATIONAL SCHEMES

While Eco Church is a scheme to help grassroots church communities improve their environmental impact, it helps to have some support from your denominational leaders! Further information about Eco Diocese, Eco District etc can be found at: [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/)

## SUPPORT A ROCHA UK

We are pleased to be able to offer **Eco Church** free of charge to churches in England and Wales. Please consider supporting us so that we can continue to do so. Your donations will help us to develop Eco Church and other projects such as our urban and rural nature reserves, Wolf Fields and Foxearth, and our network of conservation partners. For more information, please visit [arocha.org.uk](http://arocha.org.uk)

To support us, please visit [arocha.org.uk/donate](http://arocha.org.uk/donate), or call the office on **020 8574 5935**.

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# ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Your Church Caring For God's Earth



[ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)



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## WHAT IS ECO CHURCH?

From meditation to insulation, from location to invocation, loving God and his creation should impact everything in our church lives.

This is why A Rocha UK has developed Eco Church – an award scheme for churches of all denominations in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that they care for God's earth.

With a whole suite of supporting resources, Eco Church will help you 'go green' in all areas of your church life, from worship to building management, outreach to personal lifestyle.

And the work you do will all count towards a prestigious Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church Award.

We really hope your church will take part in this exciting initiative, which will challenge and equip you to care for God's world in all areas of your life together.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

You complete a unique online survey about how your church operates in different areas of its life and work. Your answers will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more your church does, the more points you get!

If your score doesn't gain you an Eco Church Award straight away, don't worry – the idea is to complete suggested tasks in order to gain the points necessary for an Award. For example, you can switch to a green energy company or use Fairtrade for your tea and coffee supplies to gain Eco Church points.

The survey takes you through five key areas of church life:

- ➔ Worship and Teaching
- ➔ Management of Church Buildings
- ➔ Management of Church Land
- ➔ Community and Global Engagement
- ➔ Lifestyle

It takes into account whether or not your church has buildings or land. You can save your survey responses at any point and return to update them as your church completes additional actions.

Our free, Eco Church resources will give lots of support and advice about how to make the changes your church needs to become an Eco Church. Once your survey indicates that you have enough points for an Award, you can apply to become an Eco Church!

The award has three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold – and you will receive a certificate and (optional) plaque from A Rocha UK. At Bronze and Silver level, we will require a letter of confirmation from your church leader that the survey responses are a true reflection of the current work and witness of your church. A Gold Award will be granted following a visit to your church by an Eco Church Assessor.

## HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET AN AWARD?

The survey takes about 20 minutes to fill in – but the amount of work your church does to qualify for an Award and the time that takes is up to you! A Bronze Award will take less time than a Gold Award – but if you are going for an Award, we say "go for Gold!"

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Taking part in Eco Church is absolutely free! You can register your church, complete the survey, apply for your Award and receive your certificate without any charge from us. However, there may be costs attached to the work that your church decides to do in order to become an Eco Church. You also have the opportunity to purchase an Award plaque so that you can display your Eco Church status for all to see! We would also encourage your church to consider making a donation to A Rocha UK, so that we can continue to offer Eco Church as a free service.



## HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

We are delighted that you want your church to be involved in caring for God's earth! To start your journey towards an Eco Church Award, please visit

➔ [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)

You will need to register your church to be able to save your survey and apply for an award. This only takes a few minutes to do and will allow you to go back into your survey and change your answers as your church completes the work required to achieve an award.