**Parish Environment Champions – Role Description**



It is recommended that each parish nominates an individual as their Environmental Champion. This should never mean that the rest of the congregation assume that they don’t have to think about creation care!

Parish Environment Champions act as a point of contact with their Deanery Environment Champion. Champions are also invited to be part of a diocese-wide network for briefing and mutual encouragement.

**Role**

The task of a Parish Environment Champion is to help their church and congregation in fulfilling God’s command to care for creation.

Activities and concerns which a church is encouraged to engage with may include:

* Participating in Eco Church. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>
* Working towards becoming a carbon-neutral church
* Environmental campaigning and action e.g. events reaching out to the local community
* Raising awareness of issues such as low-carbon travel, recycling, and biodiversity
* Encouraging and promoting lifestyle changes such as travelling more sustainably, avoiding fast fashion and embracing a more plant-based diet (alongside exploring methods of sustainable agriculture).
* Considering how our buildings can become more sustainable
* Cutting energy and carbon, water use and waste
* Caring for wildlife and ecology in the churchyard
* Encouraging your church’s use of food to be LOAF: local, organic, animal-friendly and Fairtrade

**Are there any Requirements?**

No prior knowledge is necessary. However, Parish Environment Champions should be interested in the environment, be enthusiastic about the role, and have good communication skills.

**Parish Environmental Policy**

Every parish is also encouraged to write an environmental policy, in line with the policy of the Diocesan Synod. A template is available on the environment webpages of the Newcastle Diocesan website. <https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/mission/environment/environment-getting-started>

We can’t do everything at once: what will your church prioritise first? What is most important or will have the greatest impact? It may be helpful to get a group of volunteers to form an environmental group, or to work with your PCC to set some achievable goals.

**Appointment**

The appointment of this role should be made by the PCC (or DCC). This helps ensure that the actions the Environment Champion and/or Environment Group make have the backing of the wider church and leadership. The first step is to look through the bullet list above, and to agree the initial points to work through within your church’s context. Do remember to consider the scope of the role, and how others will be asked to get involved.

It is advisable to set a time limit for the role. Whatever the expectation, the commitment should be clearly communicated. This in turn will help the appointee make good strategic long term aims and decisions.

Please let Tim Mayfield tim.mayfield@btinternet.com know who your Parish Environment Champion is. Then they can be kept informed about training opportunities and resources.

**More information**

You are not on your own. There are lots of tools and online resources for your church via the Church of England Environment Programme: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme>

And if you’d like to find out more, contact the Bishop’s Advisor on the Environment:

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*Revised Revd Tim Mayfield*

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