

# Wardens of Creation?

Churchwardens' Training Event 30 June 2021



# Wardens of Creation?

Why bother about the environment?

The challenge of climate change

Six priorities for the Church

A practical path to net zero carbon 2030

Resources to help

Making Creation Care part of your church's life



# Why bother about the environment?

## The Fifth Mark of Mission



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Environment Programme

'To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

## Vision 2026



Being Witnesses in Creation ...

... to the generosity of God in His Creation

... to our responsibility for our common home

... by meeting human need from Creation

# The challenge of climate change

The background of the slide is a photograph of an industrial facility at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a deep orange and red, with a bright sun partially obscured by a large, dark plume of smoke or steam rising from a smokestack. Other smokestacks and industrial structures are visible in the distance, silhouetted against the glowing sky.

## The General Synod 2030 net zero carbon target

Parishes, schools, cathedral, diocese to make an action plan for 2030 net zero  
work toward year-on-year reductions in emissions  
diocesan synod and cathedral chapter to address progress every 3 years

## Our diocesan starting point



# The challenge of climate change

## 2019 Energy Footprinting Tool results

61/271 Blackburn diocese churches responded = 22%  
(28% nationally)

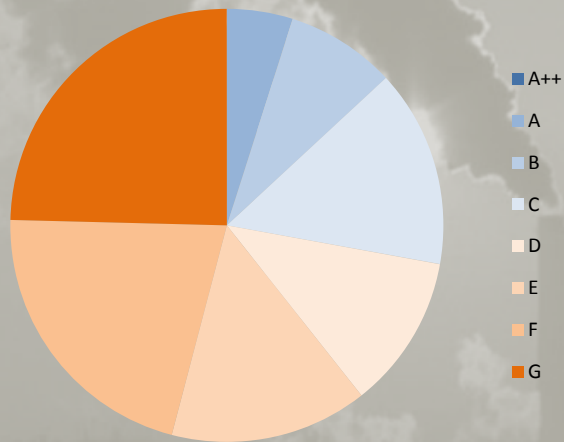
Average carbon footprint of Blackburn respondents was  
15.25 tonnes (10.23 tonnes nationally)

75% Blackburn respondents have gas as part of the energy supply  
(47% nationally)  
6% on electricity alone (34% nationally)

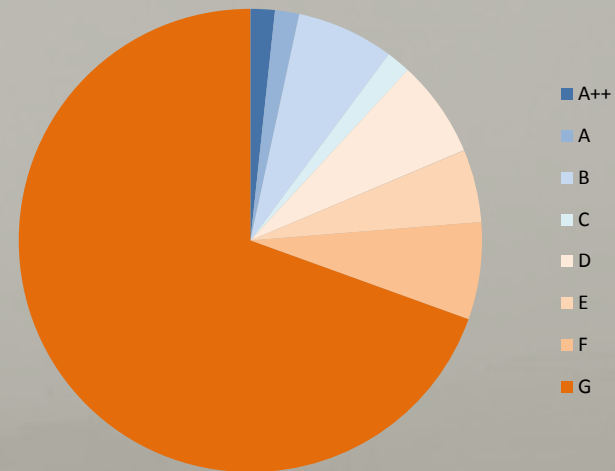
# The challenge of climate change

## 2019 Energy Footprinting Tool results

Emissions/sq m



Emissions/pers hr



# Six key priorities

Maintain  
Cut waste  
Buy renewable  
Go electric  
Generate  
Offset

Our collective approach to net zero is underpinned by six principles:



## Well maintained

Reduce heat loss by keeping on top of basic maintenance and ensuring the building is wind and watertight. Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent water from entering the building and warm air escaping. Fix any broken window panes and make sure opening windows shut tightly.



## Buy renewable

Switch to 100% renewable electricity, for example through Parish Buying's energy basket, and 'green' gas. Whilst this does not reduce the energy you use, it means it comes from a cleaner source. It is the simplest thing you can do to cut your net carbon footprint.



## Waste less

Waste less electricity, waste less gas/oil, tackle any food waste, reduce leaks and wasting water, and avoid unnecessary purchases. Read the "Practical Path to Net Zero" and "Energy Efficiency Guidance" for a wide range of ideas.



## Electric not gas/oil

Burning oil and gas to heat our churches is contributing greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. We need to 'decarbonise' our heating. Where possible, move to electric heating, using electricity that comes from 100% renewable sources. There are many options such as heat pumps, pew heaters, and infra-red panel heaters and chandeliers.



## Generate more

For some churches, there are opportunities to generate electricity onsite from solar PV panels, or very occasionally wind turbines or small-scale hydro.



## Offset the rest

Once you have made real reductions in your energy use, you can offset the small remaining amount through Climate Stewards or other reputable schemes to become 'net zero'. Churches with grounds can also consider if there is an area where they could let vegetation or a tree grow, as a natural way to capture carbon from the air.

# A practical path & a checklist

for starting, moving ahead getting to zero

with fabric, heating & lighting people & policies

## CHECKLIST

### Part A - Where do we start?

These are actions that nearly all churches can benefit from, even those primarily used only on a Sunday.

They are relatively easy and are a good place for churches to start, when trying to move towards 'net zero'.

		Already done / up-to-date	Not applicable	Not a priority right now	Explore further / get advice	Priority
<b>The building itself:</b>						
A1.	Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent damp entering the building and warm air escaping.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A2	Fix any broken window panes* and make sure opening windows shut tightly, to reduce heat loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A3	Insulate around heating pipes to direct heat where you want it; this may allow other sources of heat to be reduced in this area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A4	If draughts from doors are problematic, draught-proof the gaps or put up a door-curtain*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A5	Consider using rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Heating and lighting:</b>						
A6	Switch to 100% renewable electricity (for example through Parish Buying's energy basket) and 'green' gas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A7	Match heating settings better to usage, so you only run the heating when necessary*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A8.	If you have water-filled radiators, try turning off the heating 15 minutes before the service ends; for most churches this allows the heating system to continue to radiate residual warmth*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A9.	If you have radiators, add a glycol based 'anti-freeze' to your radiator system and review your frost setting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A10.	Replace lightbulbs with LEDs, where simple replacement is possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A11.	Replace floodlights with new LED units.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A12.	If you have internet connection, install a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A13.	If your current appliances fail, then replace with A+++ appliances.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>People and policies:</b>						
A14.	Complete the Energy Footprint Tool each year, as part of your Parish Return, and communicate the results.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A15.	Create an Energy Champion who monitors bills and encourages people to turn things off when not needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A16.	Write an energy efficiency procurement policy; commit to renewable electricity and A+++ rated appliances.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A17.	Consider moving PCC meetings elsewhere during cold months, rather than running the church heating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# A practical path & a checklist

Energy champion  
 Actions done  
 Actions to do  
 Who's responsible  
 Target date  
 PCC review

## IDENTIFYING NEXT STEPS

Checklist completed by:	Date of the PCC meeting checklist results will be reported to?
Date completed:	

A) Actions we have marked as 'Already done' which have positively impacted our carbon footprint are:

1	
2	
3	

B) **Priority Actions:**  
 Identify the next step for those actions which you have marked as a priority.  
 Who will be responsible for taking these forward. By when?

Action	Who's responsible?	Target date for completion	Date of review by PCC
1			
2			
3			
4			

C) **Further Actions**  
 Identify any actions which you have marked as 'explore further'.  
 Who will be responsible for exploring these. By when?

Action	Who's responsible?	Target date for completion	Date of review by PCC
1			
2			
3			
4			

*If more space is required for creating your 'Next steps action plan', please use additional sheets or your own document template.*

# Resources to help you

Net zero guidance  
Webinars  
Funding sources  
Parish Buying

Diocesan Environment  
Officer  
DAC Advisors

## Church of England guidance and support, to help you take action:

### Net zero carbon church suite of guidance

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

### Case studies

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/towards-net-zero-carbon-case>

### Net Zero Webinars

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon>

### To calculate your carbon footprint

- Energy Footprint Tool: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/energyfootprinting>
- 360 Carbon: <https://360carbon.org/>

### Sources of funding

<https://www.parishresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/>  
(Section 4 "National List of Charitable Grants")

### Parish Buying (for switching to green electricity, energy audits, and LED lighting)

<https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/>

### Find your Diocesan Environment Officer

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/deo-map>

### Your DAC Secretary

Details available via your diocesan website. Many DACs have heating and sustainability advisors, who give free advice.

## External partners offering useful resources

### Historic England

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/energy-efficiency-and-historic-buildings/>

### A Rocha (Eco Church)

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

### SPAB

<https://www.spab.org.uk/advice/knowledge-base>

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Queries: [catherine.ross@churchofengland.org](mailto:catherine.ross@churchofengland.org) Cathedral & Church Buildings Division



# Part of your church's life

Worship & prayer  
Buildings  
Land  
Community & World  
Lifestyle

**ECO**  **CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



The Good Shepherd  
Tatham Fells

## Environmental Champion

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, is part of the united benefice of East Lonsdale in Tunstall Deanery. Its people are Being Witnesses in Creation by developing their role as responsible stewards.



In 2014 our boiler needed replacing and on the advice of the Diocesan heating advisor we invested in a biomass boiler to benefit from the government's Renewable Heating Incentive scheme. In doing so we are using a renewable resource and supporting a local supplier. Before the installation our church was heated only on Sundays; the rest of the week it was cold and damp with algae growing on the south side of the tower and in the windows. Now it is maintained at a minimum temperature of 14 degrees, the damp has disappeared and the whole fabric benefits as a result.

In autumn 2018 our PCC decided to enhance the local wildlife. We joined the Caring for God's Acre movement and began to involve members of the community and local schoolchildren. We quickly and cheaply installed home-made compost bins and insect and bird boxes. With advice from the Bowland Wildflower Meadow Officer we deferred cutting grass in the old part of the churchyard until the end of the summer. As a result a considerable number of plant species have flourished, including two types of orchid. Within the first six months birds occupied boxes placed on the church, the adjacent village hall and nearby trees. Owl boxes were placed in a neighbouring wood and children made bird boxes for the local school. As yet swifts have not taken up the offer of nesting in boxes specially made for them despite the lure from recordings of swift calls. A wood pile serves as a hedgehog hotel and ladybirds hibernate in the church tower. Information about Caring for God's Acre is displayed in church encouraging everyone to record sightings of flowers, insects, animals and birds. We arranged a talk for the community on bees and had one planned on bats until Covid 19 intervened. Each year a service celebrates caring for God's creation.

Our church has good links with the local voluntary controlled church school, resulting in staff and pupils being keen to be involved in the joint work. Several church members are on the governing board and have ensured that a section on collaboration with the church and recognition of our joint environmental responsibility is written into the school improvement plan.

Tatham Fells church is situated in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty so we start with an advantage on environmental matters but not one which we take for granted. We hope that some of the work can be adapted in other church situations. We have sought to respond to the challenge of stewardship of creation in offering our hymn of praise for the beauty of God's earth and skies.

Contact: John Wilson: [j.r.wilson@cantab.net](mailto:j.r.wilson@cantab.net)

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Environmental Champions are witnesses to the generosity of God in his Creation; to our responsibility for our common home; through our meeting human needs from Creation.