



December 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the Diocese of Bristol's environment briefing, where we celebrate the environmental efforts from across the Diocese.

What's in this edition?

1. [Join us for the next Eco Champions meeting](#)
2. [Take the Eco Church survey](#)
3. [£10,000 Net Zero Decarbonisation Grant still available](#)
4. [Discover how you can support the Climate and Nature Bill at its second reading in Parliament](#)
5. [Download a new Environment Awareness calendar](#)
6. [And find out how to have an eco-friendly Christmas this year](#)

Next Eco Champions Meeting

Join us for the next meeting on Thursday 30th January, 12 - 1.30pm on Zoom. The agenda and meeting details will be sent in the New Year.

Eco Church survey

Eco Church have a new survey out for you to fill out which will guide you to assess your progress towards an Eco Church award.



[Complete the survey here](#)

£10,000 Net Zero Decarbonisation Grant

Funding is still available for churches to implement recommendations from their energy efficiency reports. If your church hasn't yet taken advantage of the free energy audit, get in touch with the environment team to get started, or if your church has had its report but the PCC is struggling to implement the recommendations outlined, please get in touch and we can come out to the church to get an action plan together.

[Get in touch with the environment team](#)

Reflections on COP29 - Bishops call for leaders to be bolder

Following COP29, the Bishop of Norwich Graham Usher and Archbishop Julio Murray call on leaders to be bolder in working for climate finance that offers hope.

The Anglican Communion delegation, which included Archbishop Julio Murray from Panama, called for negotiations at COP29 in Azerbaijan to prioritise peace, to listen to the wisdom of indigenous communities, and to work for justice, in particular for climate finance.

[Read the full statements here](#)

Support the Climate and Nature Bill

The Church of England is supporting the Climate and Nature Bill as it progresses through Parliament and nears a crucial stage—its second reading—on Friday 24 January 2025.

The campaign group behind the bill, Zero Hour, now needs your help to ensure at least 102 MPs attend the second reading and vote in support of the CAN Bill to ensure it continues to the next (committee) stage.

You can email your MP at the button below to ask them to support the bill.

[Email your MP](#)

New 2025 climate calendar out now

A new interactive calendar which marks days and weeks of the year celebrating the environment has been published.

The 2025 Environment Days and Key Events Calendar features key days, weeks and months which are associated with the environment, climate change awareness, and reaching net zero carbon.

Please note there are links behind most of the awareness days on the calendar taking you to websites with more info and there's also a Google calendar QR code to add the dates direct to your Google calendar (if you have one!)

[Download your copy of the 2025 climate calendar](#)

How to have an eco-friendly Christmas

As Christmas approaches, it can seem like we spend the season swimming in an ocean of plastic and single-use items, but it's surprisingly easy to have a more environmentally friendly and sustainable Christmas.

Here are some tips to help you decorate your church, give gifts, and make it magical for children while helping to care for God's creation!

[Read the eco Christmas blog post](#)

Talking net zero with Julian Atkins



What does net zero actually mean? What responsibility does the church have in reducing its climate impact? And where do we even start?

While many of us want to take part in climate action, the prospect can seem overwhelming due to the vast scale and complexity of the problem, the urgency for immediate action, and the abundance of information making it hard to know where to start.

In a new video for the Benefact Trust, Julian Atkins, Net Zero Programme Director at the Church of England, answers questions about net zero and what this means for your church and the Church of England.

Around the world

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A new report published by the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#), said governments are underestimating the link between biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change, [BBC News reported](#). [Carbon Brief](#) also covered the findings.

NO DEAL: The UN desertification COP16 summit hosted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia ended without an agreement on a legally-binding response to drought, [the Financial Times reported](#).

ARID CONDITIONS: A drought has been linked to the death of 80 elephants at the Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa, [the Mail and Guardian reported](#).

RENEWABLE POWER: The IEA said tapping less than 1% of Africa's potential for enhanced geothermal systems could meet the continent's electricity needs in 2050, [Semafor reported](#).

FOSSIL PHASEOUT: The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved California's "landmark plan" to end the sale of petrol-only vehicles by 2035, [Reuters reported](#).

Latest climate research

- Major declines in Antarctic sea ice in 2023 increased ocean heat loss and storm frequency in previously ice-covered regions, [a new study in Nature found](#).
- A new paper in the [International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control](#) found that the global cement sector could produce "net-negative" cement and meet its 2050 carbon neutrality target early if [bioenergy and carbon capture and storage](#) (BECCS) is integrated into cement operations.
- [A new study in Science](#) found that more than half of Alaska's population of common murre, also known as common guillemots, died during an "extreme" marine heatwave event over 2014-16, with an estimated four million of the seabirds lost.
- 8 million - The number of homes in England that could face flood risks by 2050, according to the UK's Environment Agency, [the Financial Times reported](#). This means one in four English homes could be at risk of flooding by the middle of the century. The government body said 6.3 million homes already face flood risk in England.

Has this newsletter been forwarded to you? Sign up here if you want the Diocese of Bristol environment briefing sent direct to your inbox every other month.

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From the environment team - Thank you for being part of the journey in 2024.

Wishing you a joyful, restful, and eco-friendly Christmas! Hopefully, we all can make 2025 even more impactful!



[Visit our website](#)



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