

Environment



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL
TRANSFORMING. TOGETHER.

October 2025

Welcome to the October edition of the Diocese of Bristol's Environment Briefing, where we continue to celebrate the inspiring environmental initiatives taking place across our churches and communities.

This month's newsletter is packed with practical resources, inspiring stories, and opportunities to connect. Don't forget our **Next Eco Champ meeting is on the 16th of October at 1300.**

The Climate Change Book Club meets again on Monday 28th October at 7:30pm on Zoom.

We'll be discussing *The Weight of Nature* by Clayton Page Aldern. Email us at environment@bristoldiocese.org to join.

And if you're not yet part of the Eco Champions Google Group, it's a great space to share ideas and support one another. Just drop us a message to be added.

What's in this edition?

1. Church Teams Day
2. Art and Faith in Hotwells
3. Bringing people together in the community -BS3 Jammin'
4. Landscapes Conference
5. Switching tariffs, awards, news and initiatives
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Connections made at Church Teams Day



The event was the second edition of the annual Church Teams Day and was attended by around 70 dedicated Church Officers. Following worship with Bishop Neil, attendees had the option to attend various workshops, each one centred around a different theme to help Church officers thrive in their roles. Ecclesiastical Insurance led a practical workshop focused on helping churches keep their buildings safely open, whilst Archdeacon Becky Waring and Rosy Ashley, Advisor for Parish Development, offered guidance on navigating current cultural shifts. The National Churches Trust and Lydia Nash, Philanthropy & Partnerships Manager, shared insights on how churches can become fundraising-ready. Find out more [here](#)

Diocesan Stories: Art & Faith in Hotwells



Holy Trinity Hotwells is one of the venues featured in this month's **West Bristol Arts Trail**, showcasing local creativity and community spirit. If you're nearby, it's a lovely opportunity to explore art in sacred spaces.

[Arts Trail Bristol - West Bristol Arts Trail Clifton Redland Hotwells](#)

Bringing people together in the community -BS3 Jammin'



On 13–14 September, St Paul’s Church in Southville was transformed into a hub of creativity and collaboration as BS3 Jammin’ returned for its third year. Part of the Humankind Festival, this much-loved event brought together volunteers, surplus produce, and a shared purpose: to tackle food waste and build stronger community ties.

Over the weekend, 800kg of donated fruit and veg was transformed into more than 30 different preserves—from jams and chutneys to cordials and pickles. The atmosphere was full of fun and energy, with people learning new skills, meeting new people, and feeling part of something purposeful.

But BS3 Jammin’ is more than a jam-making weekend. It’s a blueprint for community-led climate action. From composting scraps to redistributing leftovers and setting up a “Jam Shed” for free preserves, the event embodies circular thinking and community building.

Thinking of starting your own version? It’s a meaningful and impactful initiative—but it does take time and coordination. Planning typically begins two months in advance, with logistics, donations, and

volunteer teams carefully organised. If you're interested in bringing something similar to your parish, get in touch with the Environment team.

For more info - [HumanKiND Festival](#)

Creator, Creation & Community: Landscapes Gathering



The first Landscapes conference took place between 30th Sept and 2nd October in the wonderful setting of Ashburnham Place. Landscapes was more than a conference, it was a space to reflect, grow, and act in harmony with creation. Hosted by Hazelnut Community Farm, this gathering explored theology, nature, and community through immersive experiences and deep conversation. It will happen again next year, keep your eyes peeled for more news.

New animation explains green tariffs



Want to switch to a green tariff but confused by the options? We've created a new animation that explains how we've assessed all the options for you and produced some guidance, helping you to choose the best tariff for your church, in line with your Christian values and beliefs. Watch it [here](#) and find the simple guide [here](#).

Have you pledged to make the Great Switch?

The Season of Creation may be over, but there's still time to make the Great Switch. By taking this small, but impactful step towards our net zero mission, your church will reduce your environmental impact. We've conducted rigorous research into energy suppliers, so every church has the information needed to switch. Find out more [here](#).

National Church Recognition: Church Commissioners Win PRI Award



The Church Commissioners for England have been honoured with a Special Asset Owner Award at the PRI Awards 2025, recognising their leadership in integrating human rights into investment practices. This award highlights the Church's commitment to ethical stewardship and responsible investment. Read more about the PRI Awards

[:The Church Commissioners for England: Integrating human rights into responsible investment | PRI](#)

Harvest & Energy Saving: Simple Steps for Winter Warmth

As we celebrate Harvest, it's a good time to think about how we care for our buildings and resources. A webinar from Parish Buying offers practical steps to reduce energy use in churches this winter—covering boiler settings, draught-proofing, water saving, and more. These simple actions can make a big difference without costing the earth.

Watch the webinar [here](#):

The Big Plastic Count

**WE NEED A
STRONG
GLOBAL
PLASTICS
TREATY
THAT CUTS
PLASTIC
PRODUCTION
BY AT LEAST
75% BY 2040**



Despite lobbying setbacks, the UK Government showed ambition in recent treaty talks. The Big Plastic Count helped raise awareness and push plastic pollution up the agenda. Read the update [here](#)

Eco Church: Bee-Friendly Bulbs for Spring

The North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust's offer of free spring-flowering bulbs for community planting has now been fully booked—an encouraging sign of how many groups are eager to support pollinators and brighten their local spaces.

If your church missed out this time, don't worry. You can still take inspiration from the initiative by planning your own spring planting project. Even a small patch of pollinator-friendly flowers can make a big difference for bees and biodiversity.

For more details click [here](#):

Grants

The Science Museum Group Wroughton Solar Park Sustainable Futures Grants

Supports charitable and community activities that focus on science, technology, engineering, maths and the environment such as renewable energy, ecology or habitat conservation. Grants of between £1,000 to £20,000 are available for projects that benefit communities within a 10km radius of Wroughton Solar Park.

Find out more [here](#):

WECA - Decarbonisation Grant

If your church is a registered charity and is in the boundaries of the WECA region, you may be eligible for a decarbonisation grant of up to £15k. The deadline of October 22nd for applications is fast approaching, projects need to be completed by March 2026. Find out more [here](#)

Chippenham - Climate Grant

Climate grant which is available to local charities and community groups. Groups can apply for up to £3,000 per year and the Council has providing funding for solar panels, engagement events, energy efficiency, adaptation plus gardening equipment and development. The next deadline to apply is 2nd October. Here's all the [information needed to apply](#).

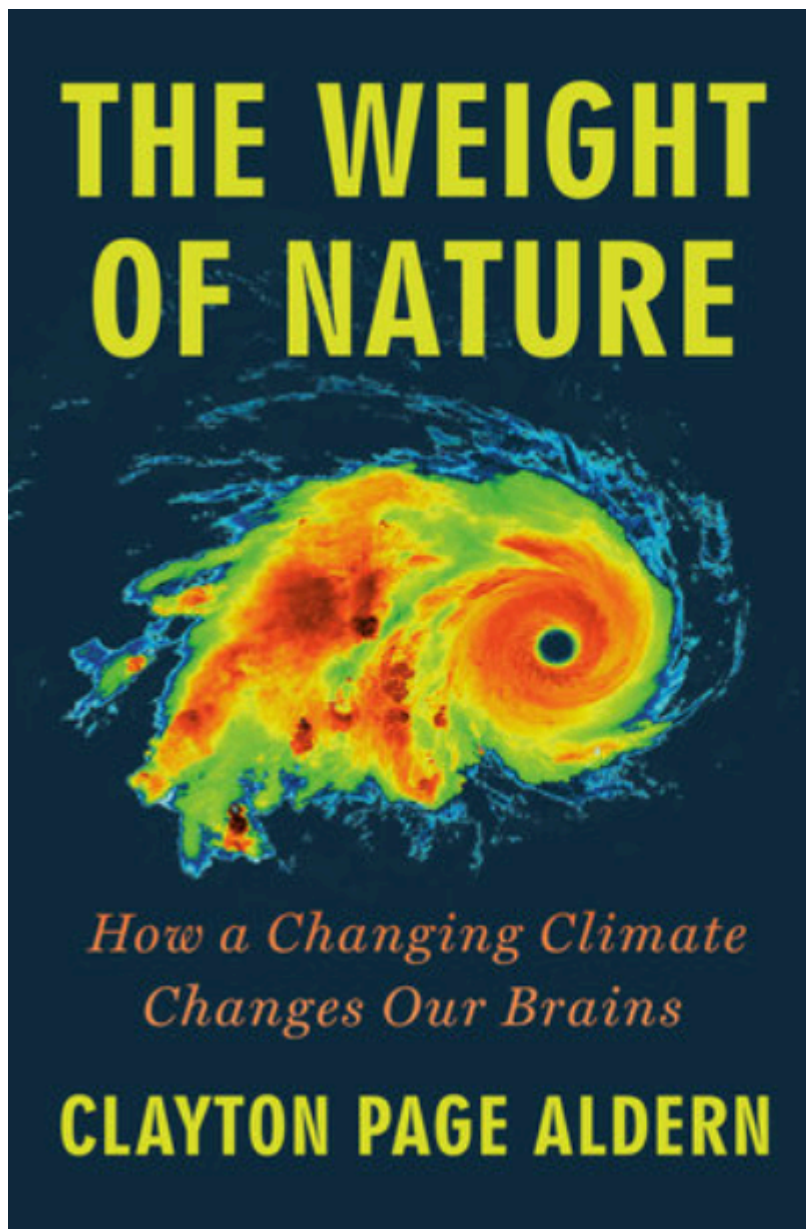
Grants for Bat Management

There's a small grant (£1000) available for places of worship that covers the management of costs. Find out more [here](#). To receive the grant, you need to create a positive community engagement activity inspired by nature. Wildlife engagement activities help connect people to nature on their doorstep and encourage the community to interact with their local place of worship where they may not have done so before. You may use some of the funding to hold the community engagement activity.

Upcoming Events

Climate Change Book club - 27th of October - 7:30pm

The Diocese of Bristol's Environment team are starting a climate change focused book club. It will be a relaxed, the last Monday of every other month on Zoom, it will provide opportunities to connect, unwind, and share ideas. Our first gathering will feature 'The Weight of Nature' by Clayton Page Aldern, a thought-provoking exploration of how climate change is shaping not just our planet, but also our minds and communities. With vivid storytelling and sharp insights, Aldern weaves science and human experience into a compelling call to pay attention to the world around us. Let us know if you would like to be part of it by emailing the [environment inbox](#).



GreenScreen Film Season

A short season of films responding to the climate crisis, hosted at The Space in Keynsham.

Subscribe for 10 films (£30) or drop in (£5).

More info [here](#)

Warm for Winter Workshops – Free Support for Community Groups

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Subscribe for 10 films (£30) or drop in (£5).

More info [here](#)

Warm for Winter Workshops – Free Support for Community Groups

Warm for Winter workshops



Mastering Heating Controls



1x 1.5 hour session

Learn:

- parts of the heating system,
- adjusting boiler temp
- optimise controls
- and much more!

Tackling damp and mould



2x 1.5 hour session

Learn:

- types of damp
- how condensation damp forms
- ventilation basics
- how to contact your landlord
- and much more!

As colder months approach, South Gloucestershire Community Energy Network (SGCEN) is offering free Warm for Winter workshops to help communities stay warm, safe, and informed. These sessions are designed for churches, community groups, and local organisations supporting people through winter.

Workshops are delivered free of charge and cover what is outlined in the picture.

[Warm for Winter workshops - South Gloucestershire Community Energy Network](#)



The next Chippenham Community Environmental Forum - Thursday 16th October in the Town Hall in the High Street. The aim of the Forum is to work together with councillors, organisations, sustainable businesses and local groups to help our local environment. They can offer support and advice for your eco activities and information on local environmental action, news and events. Find out more [here](#)

God Bless,
The Environment Team



[Visit our website](#)  

The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited. Company no. 156243. Charity no. 248502

Our mailing address is:

Diocese of Bristol

First Floor Hillside House, 1500 Parkway North, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8YU

0117 906 0100

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