



## **Eco Champions: Role Description**

### ***The World is ... Beautiful ... Good ... Home***

#### **Introduction**

The biblical story begins with God and the beautiful world he created: the heavens, the earth, sky, water, land, an abundant array of living creatures, and finally, human beings. It is ordered, it is abundant and at every step of God's creative masterpiece, we read, 'And God saw that it was good.' Later, we find our place and role in this glorious creation: 'God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.' (Gen 2:15 The Message). In other words, human beings are called to care for God's earth. This caring enables the flourishing of all life forms, including us! When we take care of nature, nature can take care of us. This planet is 'our common home' (Laudato Si, 2015). As the former Pope, Francis, writes, we 'ourselves are 'dust of the earth (Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.' (2015, p. 1).

Douglas and Jonathan Moo give us the following description of the practice of creation care:

Creation care is first and last simply about being human. It's about becoming who we have been created to be as God's image bearers in the community of creation, living as God calls us to in all of life – in our eating and sleeping, our working and playing, our planting and harvesting, our buying and selling, our loving and dying. The biblical vision is a holistic, all-encompassing one, and it includes us all (2018, p. 86).

So, creation care can never be an 'add-on' or 'one more thing to do'. It is integral to our way of life and pervades every aspect of it.

Finally, Eugene Peterson writes, 'Creation is not an impersonal environment. It is a personal home – *this* is where we live. The work of the Holy Spirit in creation no longer is confined to asking the questions, "When did this take place? How did this happen?" We are now asking "How can I get in on this? Where is my place in this?" And praying, "Create in me ... "(Ps 51:10),' (Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places 2005, p. 23).

***Would you consider enabling your parish to embed creation care practices into its way of life? Could you be someone who assists in making sustainable decisions or sharing information on eco-friendly matters both in your parish and diocese? If yes, then do please consider being an Eco Champion.***



## **Eco Champions: Role Description**

Thank you for showing an interest in becoming an Eco Champion and seeking to help your communities to take a holistic approach to caring for God's creation, our common home. Creation care is part of every aspect of parish life: it can never be an 'add on', something we do that is on top of everything else. It is a good work that is embedded in all that the church does for example, from worship and prayer, evangelism and pastoral care to youth ministry and mission.

As you know, the planet is experiencing unprecedented environmental challenges. There is an urgency to tackle it to the best of our ability. One way that the local church can respond to these challenges and incorporate creation care into the fabric of parishes is by registering as an Eco Church. Its online survey enables a congregation to gain a holistic understanding of how it is currently caring for God's creation in different areas of its life and work and what it can do in the future. As an Eco Champion you can help your church to start this process.

Here in the Diocese of Canterbury, we are seeking to grow parish and/or deanery Eco Champions to help promote care for God's creation. Our aspiration is for at least one Eco Champion in each deanery.

As Eco Champion you are supported by the Diocesan Environmental Officer and the other Eco Champions. You also have access to the expertise of our Net Zero team. You will not be on your own!

Eco-Champions are also a point of contact to:

- encourage sharing of good practice between churches within the deanery
- encourage PCC's and Deanery Synods to include the environment in their meeting agendas and to plan how they might reach net zero emissions
- help disseminate the facts about the environmental crisis and raise awareness of learning opportunities
- network with the Diocesan Environmental Officer and other Eco Champions in the Diocese, sharing information and experience

Further background information is available through the following links

- [General Synod net zero carbon motion](#)
- [Eco Church website](#)
- [Eco Church survey questions](#)
- [Eco Church resources](#)
- [Canterbury Diocese 'Care for the Environment Strategy'](#)
- [Climate change factsheet](#)



If you have any questions, or to find out more, contact:  
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