

ECO CHURCH

Thankful! Compared with last year, we now have 25 Silver level accredited churches and 72 Bronze level. This is growth from 14 Silver and 58 bronze level churches and reflects the considerable energy, enthusiasm and commitment that is evident amongst our local churches.

We're delighted that in April 25, several more churches have registered with or achieved accreditation with the Eco Church initiative operated by A Rocha (the top Christian Conservation charity in the UK).

[A Rocha UK link](https://www.arocha.org.uk)

This now means we have reached the Silver criterion threshold for the number of registered and awarded churches for the Silver Eco Diocese award.



Further work at the Diocesan office should secure this award by 2026.



ALL SAINTS, BEDWORTH

In support of our Net Zero Carbon 2030 Commitment to cut emissions, we thank God that the work amongst churches is gathering pace. Amongst the highlights is the award of Demonstrator Church status for All Saints Church, Bedworth.



Despite initial opposition, this Listed church secured planning consent to install a rooftop array of 50 Solar PV panels to generate renewable energy. Their work was completed in December and is already reducing energy bills, subsidizing the cost of running the busy community café and other activities. The church is sharing their learning points widely and helping other churches on their Net Zero journey.

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

*Let's take a quick look across the deaneries and start by introducing our wonderful **DERs**.* Please pray for **Nicola Perryman** in Kenilworth and (acting) in Coventry South. Nicola has recently moved from All Saints Church Leek Wootton and is looking forward to new opportunities.

We recently welcomed three new DERs. They are **Phil Hemsley** (Rugby) who is an active contributor to the national Church Energy Advisory Network and who has extensive technical experience to offer, **Robin Rumbles** (working with **Chris Baker** in Alcester) who is keen to support local churches and **Jacqueline Franklin** (Shipston).

Jacqueline is active in her local church in Tysoe and shared her active interest in floristry at the recent **Diocesan Eco Church evening**. **Debbie Cooke** (Coventry East) gave a great account of Eco Churches and their positive impact on their local communities on [Zero Interest](#), our Net Zero podcast series which is available via Spotify. **Rev Charlotte Jackson** (Coventry North) is helping the DBF Property team to evaluate low carbon technology, part of a Net Zero pilot programme, in clergy homes. **Dean Moore** (Nuneaton) brings his considerable experience on forestry alongside the Churchyard Biodiversity and Heritage project in Coventry City churches. **Dr Katie Hartless-Rose** (Fosse) brings a great awareness of all the Edgehill churches and her deanery – she hopes she can, “encourage the smaller rural churches in the deanery who are not sure how to tackle eco church and the footprint tool into completing them.”

We are looking to fill **three vacancies** for DERs so if you're interested, please contact Godfrey Armitage or Colin Angus for an informal chat.

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**DIOCESE OF
COVENTRY**

NET ZERO / CREATION CARE

June 2025

AD = Area Dean C = Clergy All schools listed here are CofE H = Headteacher EH = Executive Head HoS = Head of School P= Principal L: Leader

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
EASTER 7 1 THY KINGDOM COME prayer continues to Pentecost	2 COVENTRY SOUTH DEANERY AD David Hammond	3 Eastern Green, St Andrew – C Jo Joyce	4 St Andrews CofE Infant School, Eastern Green	5 NET ZERO / CREATION CARE	6 CREATION CARE - local Farming Communities & Environmentalists	7 Bishop Sophie Welcome and Installation - Cathedral
PENTECOST 8 Final day of THY KINGDOM COME	9 <u>BISHOP'S COUNCIL</u>	10 Bishop Sophie and her family as they settle in to Bishop's House	11 <u>DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC)</u>	12 <u>BISHOP'S CORE STAFF TEAM</u>	13 NET ZERO – Diocesan leadership, Colin Angus & Godfrey Armitage	14 THE BRIDGE BENEFICE St John, Westwood & St Stephen Canley – C David Hammond
TRINITY SUNDAY 15 Burton Green CofE Academy	16 St James, Fletchamstead – C Mohammad Eghtedarian	17 Earlsdon, St Barbara – <i>C Vacancy, since 10 May</i>	18 St Oswald, Tile Hill – C Ed Backhouse	19 <u>DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP</u>	20 CREATION CARE - Diocesan Environmental Representatives	21 Leigh CofE Academy, Tile Hill
1st AFTER TRINITY 22 St Martin, Finham – C Matt Taylor	23 St James, Styvechale – C Josh Maynard	24 <u>DIOCESAN TRUSTEES; GRANTS COMMITTEE</u>	25 St Mary Magdalen, Chapelfields – C Edward Le Bran Powell	26 Christ Church, Cheylesmore – C Arthur Woo	27 NET ZERO - impact the top 20% of churches as emitters	28 St Christopher, Allesley Park/Whoberley C Andy March /
2nd AFTER TRINITY 29 ORDINATION SERVICES Today at the Cathedral, morning and afternoon	30 <u>St John's CofE Academy, Allesley Park</u> H Laura Stevenson			Revelation 22.2 On the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.		

PRAYER DIARY

PRAYER

Make us tenderhearted and hard-headed so that, as a society, we care for our countryside and its wildlife.

Help us remember: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.



BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

Millions of people in our world face hunger through climate change, soil degradation, poverty and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. John records that Jesus fed the hungry crowds and afterwards declared that he is the Bread of Life ... we can bring both practical and spiritual support to others. Let us be sustained by Jesus the Bread of Life, as we enable others to have bread to meet their hunger and receive life.

Martin J. Hodson & Margot R. Hodson
Green Reflections (BRF, 2021)

SPECIFIC DAYS IN JUNE 2025

1 – Coventry South Deanery Area Dean, David Hammond; Tim Pollard, Lay Chair David will be moving to Devon to become Warden at Lee Abbey this summer.

2 – St Andrew's, Eastern Green –Please pray for us for our 150th events this year for opportunities to connect with more people, especially families in our area. Please pray for our Reader Sue Masters and Church Warden Nick Tooby. Please also pray for our school St Andrew's Infant School, their Headteacher Allison Underhill and the whole school community.

3 – St Andrew's CoFE Infant School, Eastern Green H – Allison Underhill

7 – Book your ticket via link: [Service of Welcome and Installation of Bishop Sophie Jelley Tickets, Sat 7 Jun 2025 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

14 – The Bridge Benefice – St John's Westwood & St Stephen's Canley We thank God for His faithfulness and for those creating spaces through events, groups, and services, helping many new people connect with the church. Please pray for the preparation and launch of our new Connect Groups starting in September—that they become places of belonging and spiritual growth. C – Erin Gilmour, Caroline Hammond (to end of June) R – Andrew Smith L – Steve Elton

15 – Burton Green CoFE Academy EH – Chris Errington; DH – Stella Villiers

16 – St James's, Fletchamstead R – Helen Kearney, Tim Pollard

17 – St Barbara's, Earlsdon We give thanks for the life of our Church, witnessing to our parish and supporting and encouraging each other. During this time of vacancy we pray that God's guidance will draw to us the person that is right for us and for our community. C – Jeremy Bevan

18 – St Oswald's, Tile Hill

21 – Leigh CoFE Academy, Tile Hill EH – Lynn Lee; HofS Sarah Tyrell

22 – St Martin's, Finham Giving thanks for the provision of an assistant chef in our busy Revive Coffee Shop. Praising God that finally we have switched on of our solar panel systems to power our church and connected buildings. Praying for our local secondary school and creative ways to engage with the students to support mental health and opportunities to share faith C – John Samuel, Liz Goodwin R – Andrew Barclay

23 – St James's, Styvechale We thank God for the success of our youth weekend away. We pray for our young people that they may continue to grow in Christ. We also pray for our small groups, that they would continue to grow and be a place of community R – Barbara Carr (PTO)

25 – St Mary Magdalen, Chapelfields

26 – Christ Church, Cheylesmore Thankful for our new worship setup, bringing us closer to each other and making us feel more as one; and for some new arrivals, some of whom have chosen to stay! We're struggling with the repairs to the Lodge, whether we can rent it before it becomes a Christian community with the new Renter's Rights Bill coming. Still struggling financially and numerically. We've love to form links to our local schools, currently we have none. R – Tony Price

28 – St Christopher's, Allesley Park & Whoberley We thank God for the growth in our midweek congregation and continued multigenerational nature of our church community. We pray for new Children, Youth and Families' Minister, for fruitfulness and growth in this area of ministry as we build on existing foundations, for more CYF to come to know Jesus. R – Nic Thorpe

30 – St John's Academy, Allesley Park H – Laura Stevenson

C = Clergy R = Reader L = lay leader H = Headteacher EH = Executive Head HofS = Head of School

This month's deanery focus is on **Coventry South**. It's great that **Caring for God's Creation** is central to the mission and vision of so many of our churches in this deanery. Five of these churches have achieved Silver level accreditation and two have Bronze level. Three more are working towards their awards. We've highlighted in this Prayer Diary our hope of recruiting Deanery Environmental Representatives (DERs) in Coventry South, as well as in Southam and in Warwick & Leamington deaneries.

In another exciting development, five churches in Coventry South are joining in with the **Coventry Diocesan Churchyard Biodiversity and Heritage project**. With over 70 churches across the diocese; this exciting project has secured significant external funding in its development year, with the prospect of securing further funding for another five years 'broadening community engagement to manage our churchyards as green space.'



The Energy Footprint Tool

Praise God for the growth in engagement with the [Energy Footprint Tool](#): 74% churches across the diocese completed their returns in 2024. This helps all of us to determine how much is spent on energy and where to focus resources on reducing waste. Please note that 2024 use details are to be input as a Parish Return by 30th June 2025, slightly earlier than for last year.

For those interested, an access level course is available – [Carbon Confidence in an Hour](#) – see Equip Hub for details. Over 40 people have attended so far. Register to **Boost your knowledge about climate crisis** and discover how you can help to **care for God's creation**. Check here for details: <https://www.equiphub.org.uk/courses-events-and-resources/carbon-confidence/>



ALSO FOR PRAYER

Churches Count on Nature is 7th – 15th June. Pray for good weather for those surveying! ([The Churches Count on Nature](#)). [The Great Big Green Week](#) is also taking place the same week, promoting swaps.

The branch from God the tree that reached across Italy
has already bloomed.
It might have liked
to hasten becoming heavy-laden with fruit,
but grew weary at the heights of its blossoming ----
and now will yield no more.
It felt only the spring of God's presence,
and only His Son, the Word,
came to fruition.
All strength turned
toward this beaming boy.
All came bearing offerings
for Him;
all of them, like cherubim,
sang His praises,
And He gave off a soft fragrance
as the Rose of all roses,
and was a circle
surrounding the homeless,
wandering in disguises and changes
among all the rising voices of time.



Rainer Maria Rilke
'Prayers of a Young Poet'

A Way to Pray - from A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, a prayer resource developed by young leaders. "Māhuri" means young tree or sapling. When you see a young tōtara tree, you can see all of the potential of what it will become, but it is yet to reach its potential.

[A Way To Pray - Prayer practices inspired by He Māhuri Tōtara](#)

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti Me te aroha o te Atua Me te whiwhingatahitanga Ki te Wairua Tapu Āke, āke, āke, āmine **May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all Forever and ever, Amen** 2 Corinthians 13.14

[He Māhuri Tōtara Programme](#) | [Eco Church Aotearoa](#)

from 'God, the maker of the heavens' Sam Hargreaves, Resound Worship:

God, the maker of the heavens
And the planet that we share
Show us how to live, like Jesus
Lives of gratitude and care
Make us mindful of the footprints
From the lives that we pursue
Make us partners in your mission
You are making all things new.

The diocese has **grant funding** available to churches, to strengthen our ability to reach net zero carbon emissions. As mentioned, All Saints Church in Bedworth received significant grant funds. Their eco-lead has started *Churches seeking Net Zero* as a Facebook community page. Six other local churches have accessed Net Zero Quick Wins funding from the diocese, enabling them to invest in infrastructure upgrades, added insulation, secondary glazing and LED lighting systems. Combined with better controls, these measures will reduce carbon emissions whilst also helping churches to save energy and money. **The Grants Committee** will be meeting on 24th June, there are currently two Net Zero applications that are scheduled to be considered if the technical reviews go well.

Extract from: John Pritchard in [The Intercessions Resource Book](#) (2018, SPCK) –

For the Environment

Ever-caring God, we thank you for those organisations that are dedicated to the conservation and flourishing of our good earth and its wildlife. We pray for them – the National Trust with its swathes of moorland and coast, Friends of the Earth, [the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust], the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), [Natural England, the Environment Agency, The Woodland Trust], the RSPB, and RSPCA, A Rocha and many others. And especially we pray for the farmers who do so much to sustain the beauty, diversity and productivity of the land, and often get little thanks.

MAKE US TENDERHEARTED AND HARD-HEADED SO THAT, AS A SOCIETY, WE CARE FOR OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND ITS WILDLIFE. HELP US REMEMBER: GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE, AND INDEED, IT WAS VERY GOOD.

- Each month we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is **Coventry South**. In July we will be praying for Shipston Deanery, Warwick & Leamington Spa in August, and in September, Coventry East Deanery. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.
- **Coming up** – the **Themes** for the next 3 months are, Generous Giving (July), Parish Support-Diocese (August), and Healthy Communities-Together for Change (September). Do consider sending me your prayer suggestions, and any other jottings.

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