



## Parish Environment Champion

It is recommended that each Parish nominates an individual as their environmental champion who will also act as a point of contact with their Deanery Environment Champion.

The role of Environmental Champion is very useful and important to help your church become greener and more sustainable. It can be helpful to have a nominated person who ensures that environmental issues are championed. This should never mean that the rest of the congregation assume that they don't have to think about creation care!

### Role

The task of a Parish Environment Champion is to help their church and congregation in fulfilling God's command to care for creation – in the practical context of the parish and church.

Activities and concerns which a church is encouraged to engage with – supported by its Environmental Champion/Eco group – may include some of the suggestions below:

- Participating in [Eco Church](#).
- Working towards becoming a [carbon neutral church](#)
- Environmental campaigning and action e.g. events reaching out to the local community
- Raising awareness of issues such as low-carbon travel, recycling, and biodiversity
- Encouraging and promoting lifestyle changes
- Considering how our churches, vestries and offices, halls etc. can become more sustainable
- Cutting energy and carbon, water use and waste
- Caring for wildlife and ecology in the churchyard

### Are there any Requirements?

No prior knowledge is necessary; however, Parish Environment Champions should be interested in the environment, be enthusiastic about the role and have good communication skills.

### Parish Environmental Policy

Every parish is also encouraged to write an environmental policy, in line with the policy of the Diocesan Synod. A model template with lots of ideas of actions to select from is available on [the environment webpages](#) of the Newcastle Diocesan website. We can't do everything at once! What will your Church prioritise first? What is most important or will have the greatest impact? It may be helpful to get a group of volunteers to form an environmental group, or to work with your PCC to set some achievable goals.

### Appointment

The appointment of this role should be made by the PCC (or DCC). This helps ensure that the actions the Environment Champion and/or environment group makes have the backing of the wider church, congregation and leadership. The first step is to look through the bullet list above and to agree the initial points to work through within your church's context. Do remember to consider the scope of the role, and how others will be asked to get involved.

It is advisable to set a time limit for the role. Whatever the expectation, the commitment should be clearly communicated. This in turn will help the appointee make good strategic long term aims and decisions.

Please let Tim Mayfield, [tim.mayfield@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.mayfield@btinternet.com) know who your Parish Environment Champion is, so that they can be kept informed about training opportunities, resources and supported by the Deanery Environment Champions and the Diocesan Environment Working Group.

### More information

You are not on your own, there is lots of tools and resources for your church available through the [environment webpages](#) of the Newcastle Diocesan website and the [Church of England Environment Programme](#). For more information get in touch with the Diocesan Environment team:

The Revd Mark Nash Williams     [Environment@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:Environment@newcastle.anglican.org)  
The Revd Tim Mayfield             [tim.mayfield@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.mayfield@btinternet.com)