

## Creation care support and training for leaders

This resource provides further information about questions 10 and 11 of the Worship and Teaching category:

Our ministers, leaders, preachers and intercessors can preach/teach confidently about creation care and environmental issues.

Those responsible for pastoral care (or the equivalent) in our church are aware of and feel equipped to respond to environmental concerns including eco-anxiety.

### What?

Creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to the Christian faith, life and worship. It is important that our ministers, leaders, preachers and intercessors feel equipped to preach/teach/ pray confidently about caring for God's Earth and environmental issues. There are others in your church who may also lead and teach on this, such as an Eco Church team member or Eco Ambassador.

### Why?

- Because creation care is a clear and evident part of our church's identity.
- Because we want to embed creation care in the preaching at our church.
- Because we want our worship, statements of belief and music to acknowledge and celebrate God's creation.
- Because we want to celebrate special days and seasons relating to creation care.
- Because we want our worship to provide opportunities to lament the destruction and damage to creation and to confess/repent of our part in this.

### How?

While training is an integral aspect of professional development and feeling equipped, it can be useful to consider appropriate support and supervision. This may be via a network of 'green apostles' or 'Eco champions' but may be via a geographical network, perhaps cross-denominationally. Whatever its form, a mutual support group can be invaluable for information sharing and as a source of ongoing motivation.

The following links and resources may help to equip your team with an understanding of climate change and creation care theology as well as equipping them to respond to environmental concerns including eco-anxiety.

In addition to these suggestions, your denominational group may offer training which you can access, either as a member of clergy or a layperson.

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### Theology training

Most **denominations** offer forms of ongoing training and development to clergy; sometimes this is also available to lay people or those in other roles within the church.

Some **theological institutions** offer short courses or longer-term training or professional development.

Explore theological educational institutions and approach your regional representative to find out more about what is available in your area.

**Christian Rural and Environmental Studies (CRES)** is a two-year certificate programme to study rural and environmental issues from a Christian viewpoint.

### Further resources

Please also refer to our [Preaching, Prayer, Worship, Small Groups](#) resources on our [resources page](#).

### Liturgy

[Greening the Lectionary](#)

[Time for Creation liturgy from the Church of England](#)

[Creation care in baptism liturgy from the Diocese of Norwich](#)

[Prayer resources from Cafod](#)

### Eco-anxiety

[Borrowed Time](#) a small group resource from Green Christian

[Climate and pastoral care: processing grief for the planet](#) from Climate Sunday

[Eco-anxiety blog](#) from A Rocha International

### Climate change and carbon

[Carbon Literacy Training](#)

[Centre for Alternative Technology](#)

### Nature

Many conservation charities and organisations offer information to develop skills, knowledge and understanding about how we can support nature.

[Eco Church Land resources](#)

[Field Studies Council](#)

[Caring for God's Acre](#)

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### Other organisational resources

There are many opportunities to develop knowledge from podcasts and webinars to online workshops and meetings. Here are some other organisational resources to check out. Don't forget that webinars are often recorded and can be a source of information and deepening understanding without committing to a course or paying for content.

A Rocha International

Equipping Christian Leaders in an Age of Science (ECLAS)

Green Christian

Katharine Hayhoe

### Denominational environmental weblinks

Church of England

Methodist

URC

Salvation Army

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)

Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN)