

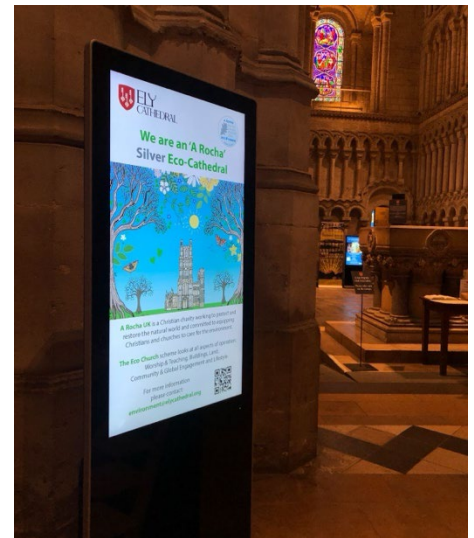
Further information for very large church buildings

This resource will help you answer multiple questions as you go through the whole Eco Church survey.

Why?

Cathedrals, priories, minsters, abbeys and other large churches hold prominent roles in communities. Their influence and opportunity extend far beyond their immediate worshipping community to thousands of visitors who make the church or cathedral a destination or who visit 'accidentally'. We therefore encourage you to ensure that the life and functions of such places, which may not be addressed explicitly in the Eco Church survey – being a visitor attraction, concert venue and business, etc. as well as a place of worship and sanctuary – are considered as you seek to embed creation care in all aspects of church life. There is further information on the [Church of England website](#), that all very large churches may find helpful.

Pictured is a digital noticeboard from [Ely Cathedral](#).



What?

This resource complements the other overview documents. It acts as a prompt as you progress with your Eco Church awards, to encourage you to think creatively and ambitiously as you implement changes and take action to care for God's Earth in your unique setting. For example, when you write your environmental policy and plan for net zero, it will need to be robust and detailed to encompass all aspects of the 'church' life.

How?

Take the following guidelines into consideration as you answer each survey category:

Buildings and Energy

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Worship and Teaching

Reflect on how the teaching and pastoral care you provide for your congregation, volunteers, staff, choristers and visitors address environmental issues and theology. You might consider preaching themes, events or festivals to integrate theological topics, e.g. responding to eco-anxiety, which many young people experience. Consider the space within your building, the music played, as well as the preaching programme and liturgy to explore how you may further speak of God the Creator and celebrate his creation.

Pictured is an example from **St James's Piccadilly** showing their eco-contemplative worship gathering outside.



Buildings and Energy



Historic England, **The Church of England**, **The Methodist Church** and other denominational resources are available to help you take steps toward reducing your carbon emissions. There are many cathedrals and large listed buildings that have already made great strides in this area. You will need to consider the wider aspect of the building category, for example how your cafe and gift shop are managed and source supplies.

Pictured is an example of **Portsmouth Cathedral's** solar panel array. Also read about **Bath Abbey's** innovative eco-friendly underfloor heating system.

Land and Nature

Green spaces are invaluable havens for both people and nature in urban settings. Cathedrals and large churches are often destinations for quiet sanctuary and have huge potential by offering space for all of creation. We would encourage you to consider how the space around your building can be a joyful means of community engagement and mutual learning.

Pictured is an example of a clearly communicated wildflower area at **Worcester Cathedral**.



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Community and Global Engagement

Cathedrals and large churches have such an opportunity to be hopeful advocates and leaders for climate and nature justice in their contexts – given their public and civic role you may like to reflect on how best to work in partnership with the local community and inter-faith groups over environmental matters. How can you engage with local political and community leaders; how might you communicate to your many visitors – including those from schools – about God and the church's love and care for the natural world; and how you might you be a mentor to help other churches on their Eco Church journeys?

There are resources such as [Gaia](#) and [Threads Through Creation](#) that can be a springboard to community engagement through their integration into talks, a wider programme of activities or festivals, for example. Pictured is an example of a group from [St John's Waterloo](#) joining a peaceful march of witness for nature.



Lifestyle



Recognising that a cathedral or very large church may have a different relationship with its worshippers to that of a parish church, we encourage you to think about how you might support your congregation and visitors to consider their lifestyle and what it means to live sustainably. As well as sharing information through various communication channels you may consider how events, art and music might challenge and promote engagement. Large churches have their own, often very large, community of staff and volunteers. Consider how you communicate with this group of people and how you involve them in environmental reflection, decision making and activities.

Pictured is the Oil Fountain installation by [Luke Jerram](#) from [Bristol Cathedral](#).

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Celebrating your Eco Church progress

Communicating what you are doing and why is an integral aspect of Eco Church. Cathedrals and large churches are beacons through the prominent positions they play in the community. We strongly encourage the communication strategy about creation care to be broad and to encompass all media channels as well as signage within your spaces. Sharing what you've achieved and are doing not only inspires others, it conveys a clear message about the urgency to respond to the climate and nature crisis underpinned by a biblical mandate. [Pershore Abbey's Eco Church webpage](#) celebrates and shares their activities and progress around their creation care journey.

Pictured are ways to engage with visitors as part of Community and Global Engagement: Creation Spotter's Trail from [Bristol Cathedral](#).

