

## ***The value of Deanery Environmental Representatives***



We are very grateful to the volunteers in our Diocese who are serving as Deanery Environmental Representatives. The purpose of this important role is to inspire, support and advise local parish churches, promoting an appreciation for and a greater sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Coventry Diocese was recognised by A Rocha for an Eco Diocese Bronze Award in 2019 and we are working towards a Silver Award.



***This advisory document is designed to help you understand the role.***

Representatives have considerable autonomy and flexibility to work locally, depending on both deanery dynamics, the passions and background of each representative and the time you are willing to offer. The core purpose of the role is to support and encourage Deaneries to promote environmental initiatives.

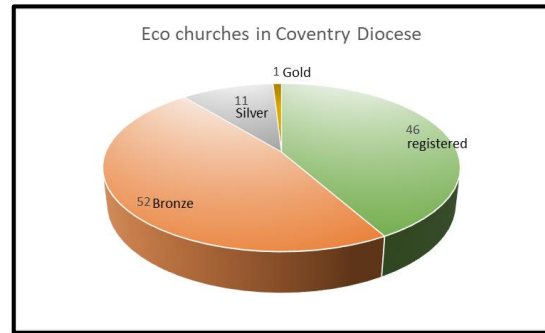
Another aspect of the DER role is to encourage good practice to reduce carbon emissions in line with the CofE commitment to achieve Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2030.

## ***What sort of things do Deanery Environmental Representatives (DERs) do?***

- Working towards Eco-Church awards with their local church and encouraging other churches to develop an interest to do the same.
- Keeping open communications with other DERs (via the Diocesan Environmental Group).
- Encouraging grant applications to (1) promote environmental sustainability e.g. encouraging biodiversity and (2) to introduce net zero measures.
- Participating with and promoting any appropriate training, particularly those endorsed or provided by the Diocesan Office team.
- Signposting to churches the support that is available from peers within the Deanery as well as from resources available in the wider Diocese.
- Keeping up to date with and reminding the Deanery to keep environmental issues on the agenda.

***As a DER, what resources can I access?***

- You have access to the Diocesan Environmental Officer and to the Net Zero Carbon Project Officer, via email or telephone conversations as needed.
- The DEO will maintain awareness of relevant resources including details of local and regional organisations that are working towards our common aims of Creation Care and promoting environmental issues.
- The Diocesan Office team will arrange regular peer-oriented meetings where you can network with other DERs, the DEO and appropriate Diocesan Office staff.
- You will be offered resources to signpost you to relevant examples of good practice that you might want to introduce or develop locally.
- You will receive invitations to training and outreach events which support your areas of interest.



*A Rocha accreditation, December 2023*

***What else might be considered within the role?***

Depending on personal and local considerations, you are free to do any of the following:

- Provide articles for adoption or adaption in parish magazines or local websites.
- Support a neighbouring church with Eco-Church through informal conversation.
- Convene a deanery eco group or one-off deanery eco event. (Speakers / facilitators may be available from the wider Diocese.)
- Speak to (or arrange an outside speaker) for Deanery Synod or Chapter meetings.



***Who should I express my interest to?***

We currently have up to three vacancies for Deanery Environmental Representatives to join the Group.

If you are keen to promote positive approaches to enhance our response to environmental challenges, please contact Godfrey Armitage, Diocesan Environment Officer, or Colin Angus, Net Zero Carbon Project Officer. Either of us will be happy to talk informally, without commitment.

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