

Diocesan Environment Officer – volunteer role description

Purpose

To support, encourage, challenge and inspire the individuals and structures of the diocese in relation to creation care issues.

Personal Qualities

- A passion for the environment, and a good knowledge of core issues and concepts within creation care, including the role Christians and the Church can play in making a difference.
- An understanding of the Diocese of Coventry's holistic message of reconciliation to God, people and planet.
- A strong and confident communicator, able to relate well at all levels and build relationships.
- The ability to build confidence and competence in parishes, helping them feel supported and empowered to engage effectively with creation care.
- It is an Occupational Requirement (Schedule 9 part 1 of the Equality Act 2010) of this post to have a committed Christian faith.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop a clear understanding of the theological and biblical principles of creation care and be able to communicate these effectively to a range of audiences and contexts.
- Be an informed and knowledgeable advocate and champion for environmental issues, keeping up to date with local and national environmental issues and organisations.
- Using a range of media, develop and maintain tools, resources and information to further enable parishes to engage with creation care issues and provide comprehensive signposting to these. This may include newsletters, case studies, videos and prayer and worship resources.
- Chair the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG) and encourage engagement with the Group across the diocese.
- Speak with and deliver talks to relevant groups such as congregations, PCCs, deanery synods, deanery chapters, and diocesan synod, setting out the theological and practical imperatives for proactive engagement with creation care.
- Research and co-ordinate the provision of appropriate environmental training across the diocese, including developing and delivering training where relevant.
- Promote the Eco Church scheme, encouraging parishes to register and supporting parishes to make necessary changes to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold level awards.
- Provide support and encouragement to the network of Deanery Environmental Representatives (DERs) and (where relevant) parish eco champions.
- Develop and maintain links nationally and regionally across the Church of England and other Christian charities (for example A Rocha UK, Christian Aid and Green Christian), exploring options for sharing best practice, systems and training.
- Network with other DEOs, including by attending the annual DEO conference.
- Attend the Creation Care Steering Group.

Key Relationships

- Parishes across the diocese of Coventry
- Deanery Environmental Representatives
- Creation Care Steering Group Chair
- Net Zero Carbon Project Officer
- DAC Secretary, DAC Chair and Church Buildings Team
- Diocesan Communications team
- Diocesan Secretary
- Church of England DEO network

Location

The role will require travel across the diocese, for which travel costs can be reimbursed. This includes areas not well served by public transport.

Commitment

It is anticipated that the role will take around 1 day per week - the exact hours will vary due to the nature of the role and will necessarily include some evenings and weekends. The role may be combined with part-time employment or a part-time clergy office.

Budget and Expenses

This is an unpaid volunteer position. A small annual budget is provided for the work of the Diocesan Environment Group and Diocesan Environment Officer (budget subject to Diocesan Synod approval). Travel and other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed, subject to the DBF's expenses policy. The budget is managed in conjunction with the Diocesan Secretary.

Appointment Details

The appointment is made by the Bishop of Coventry, to run until the end of 2027 with a potential to extend for further terms. Appointment will be subject to the safer recruitment process, including the provision of references.