

Being an eco-church is not a phase that we are going through. It is not an optional add-on to our discipleship. It is not a fashionable project that will be here today and gone tomorrow. Here at St Paul's we have always understood, from centuries of biblical Christian understanding, that we are stewards of God's own creation; trusted by Him to care for this planet as part of our worship.

A growing number of members of our church are increasingly concerned over rates of biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change, and we are hearing God's call to play our part in changing our own lifestyles and campaigning for environmental protection.

As people who take seriously the command of Jesus to 'love our neighbour' we know that that includes the poorest people on earth who are most affected by environmental damage, as well as the generations to come who will inherit the earth from us.

This leaflet details some of our work and ways that you can be involved, and we would love you to join in!

Rev. Ruth Bushyager



Find out more

To find out more about how you can get involved, visit

<http://bit.ly/caringforcreation>

Further resources

A Rocha <https://arocha.org.uk/>

Operation Noah

<http://operationnoah.org/>

Tearfund

<https://www.tearfund.org/>

Local green initiatives

Food Float – locally produced food <https://foodfloat.org/>

Dorking Community Fridge – redistributing good surplus food for free

<https://dorkingcommunityfridge.co.uk/>

Dorking Repair Café – repairing textiles, electronics and bikes to reduce waste <https://www.facebook.com/dorkingrepaircafe/>

Dorking Solar Group – supporting renewable energy <http://dorkingsolargroup.org/>

Dorking Community Orchard <http://dorkingcommunityorchard.org/>

Surrey Wildlife Trust <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/>

Brockham Oil Watch - a non-political group of local residents concerned about the threat of unconventional hydrocarbon extraction in Brockham and beyond <https://brockhamoilwatch.org/>



ST PAUL'S
DORKING

Caring for creation

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Why we should care for creation

The Bible teaches us that the earth is the Lord's (Psalm 24 v 1), and that all things have been created through and for Jesus (Colossians 1 v 16). If we love the Lord our God, we should cherish and protect his creation.

Caring for creation is also a key part of loving our neighbour. When creation is damaged through climate breakdown or pollution, people suffer. And the poor, those whom the Bible tells us we should particularly care for, are the most affected. Failing to look after creation is failing to love our neighbour.

The news about climate breakdown, wildlife extinctions and pollution can seem overwhelming. In a time of fear, the church has the opportunity to bring hope. As a church, we can demonstrate love for our neighbour and care for God's creation through every aspect of our church life, including:

- worship, prayer and teaching about caring for creation
- making sure our church buildings do not damage the environment
- managing church land in a way that allows our wild neighbours to flourish
- engaging with our community and the world on issues such as climate breakdown, pollution & species loss
- encouraging our church family to live in a way that cares for God's creation

What has St Paul's Dorking done as a church?

Over the last few years we have made a number of changes to improve our impact on creation, including:

Worship and Teaching

- Creation Matters small group Bible studies
- Sermons on caring for creation

Buildings

- Switched to green electricity
- Replaced energy-hungry lights with efficient LEDs

Land

- Developed a management plan for our church land
- Encouraged native wildflowers

Community and global

- Co-organised Dorking Eco Fair, highlighting the work of local organisations that care for the environment
- Introduced food waste collection in the church kitchen

Lifestyle

- Encouraged members to audit their carbon footprint
- Held a 'Swish' clothes swap event



Creation Care

Encouraging households to care for God's world

We want to see every member of St Paul's take action to care for God's creation. We have developed the Creation Care award scheme to encourage households to make changes to care for God's earth. Wherever households are on their creation care journey, we want to provide ideas for their next steps, and recognise progress that's made.

The scheme covers seven areas of life:

- Worship and prayer
- Home
- Garden
- Travel
- Food
- Possessions
- Community and global engagement

There are three levels of awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze. To find out more, visit

<http://bit.ly/caringforcreation>

or speak to a member of the Eco Church team.