



CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Creation Care Resolution of Intent 2026

"Better Together" | Focus Three - Creation Care

BACKGROUND

Cirencester Deanery Synod recognises the global climate and biodiversity crisis as a matter of profound urgency for the future of God's creation and all its people.

The Fifth Mark of Mission, affirmed by the Diocese of Gloucester and the wider Church of England, calls us "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

This calling is rooted in Scripture from its opening pages. The declaration that God saw his creation was good recurs six times in the book of Genesis, and having made us part of that creation, God entrusts us with its care. We are interdependent with creation: we depend upon it, and it depends upon us.

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15)

In conversation with children and adults across our parishes, it has become clear that words alone are not translating into action urgent enough to meet the scale of the crisis. Terms such as "net zero" and "climate change" have become contentious in some quarters and can act as barriers to progress rather than catalysts for it and weighing present costs against future benefit remains a genuine challenge for individuals, parishes and government alike.

"Oh! That I had someone to hear me!" (Job 31:35)

Many in our deanery have heard the stark warnings set out by scientists in the People's Emergency Briefing. Its message is unambiguous: Act. The time to speak up is now. We are carrying these voices further. These are the voices of today. They are asking to be heard. They will inherit what we leave behind. What mark we will leave?

DEANERY CREATION CARE RESOLUTION

We resolve to develop a Deanery Creation Care Plan that will enable us to:

Recognise that care for God's creation is integral to Christian discipleship and the Church's Marks of Mission, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, this Synod resolves to develop a Deanery Creation Care Plan which will:

1. **Speak with hope and urgency about Creation Care**, working through Deanery Synod and in partnership with our Diocesan Synod to encourage action on reducing carbon emissions, protecting and restoring the natural environment, adapting to the consequences of climate change, and responding to its impact on people and communities;

2. **Encourage practical action across the deanery**, including encouraging every benefice to engage with A Rocha's Eco Church programme, in line with diocesan aims, with the ambition that 75% of the deanery's parishes are registered with Eco Church and have achieved at least a Bronze Award by December 2027;
3. **Encourage every parish to report annually** on its progress in Creation Care, including through its Annual Parochial Church Meeting; and
4. **Ask the Deanery Creation Care Committee** to support and encourage this work and report annually to Deanery Synod on progress.

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT

Cirencester Deanery has three core focus committees, one of which is dedicated to Creation Care. This committee will oversee and enable progress across all three resolutions above.

Support will be available to all Eco Church representatives, and to parishes currently unable to provide one.

If you have a particular interest in this area, we warmly invite you to join the Creation Care committee.