

# Becoming an Eco-Church

(Updated 18 May 2022)

We believe that care for God's creation and urgent action to tackle climate change form part of our Christian calling and responsibility.

At Wesley, we are committed to showing our care for God's creation in all we do. We have recently embarked on our [Eco-Church](#) journey to help us learn more about how we can do this - as a community, in our building, in the city and the world around us, and in our own lifestyles.

We were delighted to gain a Bronze Eco-Church award early in 2021.

We are now working across all groups and generations in the Wesley community to raise awareness, to encourage and inspire change, and to do everything we can to care for God's creation.

We hope this will be transformative for us as a church community and also for the lives of our members, visitors to the church centre, the wider life of our city, and beyond.

November 2020	First meeting of Eco Group
January 2021	Church Council agrees to registering with Eco Church Joined MakeCOP26Count programme
February 2021	Initial Eco Church audit undertaken Greener energy tariff agreed for future contracts
March 2021	Training taken on political engagement with MPs prior to COP26 Talk given to Churches Together in Chester City Centre on Make COP26 Count
April 2021	Climate Service on 25th with talk by Deborah Tomkins of Green Christian Eco conversations with Splat
May 2021	Gained Eco Church Bronze award
June 2021	Church agrees to order eco cleaning materials and office supplies
August 2021	Online Eco survey on the website ready to complete.
September 2021	Meeting with Chris Matheson MP
October 2021	Eco Conversations mini-series on Zoom EcoHarvest service including talk about the new Greenway Grocer project and display of prayer boats for COP26

November 2021	UN COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow Eco Conversations mini-series
December 2021	Church members shared greetings on symbolic 'tree' rather than sending numerous individual cards
December 2021 onwards	Weekly 'eco-tips' started to be contributed to the weekly church bulletin. From March 22, these have also been shared with the whole North Cheshire Methodist circuit.
April 2022	Further meeting with Chris Matheson MP
May 2022	Two members of the group attended the Chester and Stoke on Trent Methodist District Synod as observers, and shared their experiences of the eco-church journey with others from across the District.  Process of tendering for professional consultation on reduction of carbon impact of whole Church premises.
July 2022	Another eco-service planned.

A small eco-group began working in 2020 and this has led to some significant steps. As a first task, we undertook the audit of energy and fittings within the Church buildings, as well as of materials such as cleaning products used on the premises. We also analysed the frequency of themes of creation and environment within our services, as well as looking at issues of personal lifestyle and political engagement on environmental matters. On the basis of this audit, we were delighted to gain a Bronze Eco-church award early in 2021 and are now working to hopefully gain a Silver and eventually, perhaps, a Gold award! We are trying to help members to think about the environmental impact of their own lifestyles. A survey was conducted in 2021. To find out more [click here](#).

The group have worked closely with SPLAT (the Church's children and young people's groups) and aim to involve them as much as possible in projects undertaken. SPLAT are very enthusiastic about this. We are also working with the support of the Church leadership team and the administrative committee.

2021 saw an important date with the COP 26 conference in Glasgow. The eco -group worked towards this with a Climate Sunday service held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, which had Deborah Tomkins of Green Christian as the speaker. An eco-harvest service was held on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, just before COP 26. The convenor of the eco-group regularly attended training from the 'Make COP 26 count' organisation.

Steps are now being taken towards a full professional audit of the Church premises, and the work of the group within the Church is becoming more widely known through Methodist, ecumenical and local channels.

Further details of Eco-Church can be found at <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>, and those of Make COP 26 Count at <https://www.uspg.org.uk/cop26> .