

Local Eco Church Champion role description, Sheffield Diocese

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”

The Fifth Anglican Mark of Mission

This is a voluntary role of a few hours per month. It could be shared. We are looking for a Champion for each of our 12 Deaneries.

Purpose: to promote the A Rocha Eco Church scheme and support new and established Eco Churches in your local Deanery, helping us to become a more sustainable Diocese.

Background: In 2020 Sheffield Diocesan Synod agreed a motion declaring a climate and nature emergency, supporting the A Rocha Eco Diocese scheme and the national Church of England’s target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. We are a Bronze Eco Diocese working towards our Silver award. A network of local Eco Church Champions equipped to support churches in their Eco Church journey, especially for less well-resourced congregations, is part of the A Rocha [Eco Diocese Silver Award criteria](#).

What the role involves:

- You will be actively involved in your church and its Eco Church journey, with hands on experience to share with others.
- Churches in your Deanery may contact you at every stage for advice and help, including registering as an Eco Church. This may simply mean providing encouragement!
- As well as sharing your experience of Eco Church, you will signpost to other support including web-based information (such as the A Rocha website and Diocesan environment pages) and other advice and help as needed.
- You will be available via email in the first instance. As needed, telephone or online conversations and site visits to local churches may also be helpful. Expenses can be reimbursed from our small budget.
- Champions may connect to their local Deanery by introducing themselves to the Area Dean and Deanery Lay Chair, and meeting with the Clergy Chapter and Deanery Synod, depending on the local situation and time available. The Diocesan Eco Church champion will oversee and support this work.

Training and support:

- You will be supported by the Diocesan Eco Church Champion, Margaret Ainger.
- You will be invited to meet with Margaret and other Eco Church Champions four times a year for support and information sharing, usually online.
- You will report back with Margaret's support to the Diocesan Environment Officer (DEO) via the quarterly Diocesan Environment Working Group (DEWG) which they chair.
- The wider team are here for support including the DEO, the Environment Project Support, and our Net Zero Project Manager.
- Our team of Buildings Officers can offer expertise to churches on buildings and land.
- There are webinars on a range of subjects which provide a good background.
- As Champions are established, training and development will be available on the theology of creation care, alongside practical aspects of the Eco Church survey and reducing carbon emissions as relevant to the role. Training may be delivered in-house, via other agencies (e.g. other Dioceses, A Rocha UK, Wildlife Trusts) or external courses

What we are looking for:

- You have a passion for our mission as Christians to address the climate and nature emergencies and feel that churches have an important role to play.
- You will be involved in Eco Church within your home church, with experience in a church with a minimum of a Bronze level award.
- You will have a working knowledge of the Eco Church survey.
- You are a good listener and can appreciate the different traditions and situations of churches in your Deanery.
- You are encouraging and enabling, while also being able to see the bigger picture.
- You are comfortable with emails and websites.
- Ideally, you will be able to offer visits to local churches.

Length of appointment

Review after 3 years

How to apply

Email environment.admin@sheffield.anglican.org indicating why you are expressing an interest in the role and what you would bring to it, and to organise an initial conversation with Margaret Ainger.