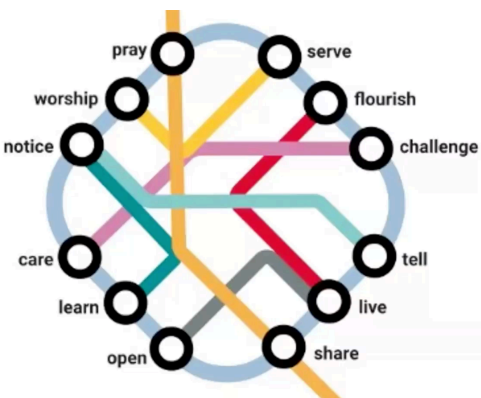


Creation Matters

Newsletter of the Southampton Eco District



A Methodist Way of Life

At our most recent “Creation Mondays” webinar, Holly Adams, Evangelism and Contemporary Culture Officer of The Methodist Church, showed the link between evangelism and creation care set within A Methodist Way of Life. She explained how Notice, Flourish, Live, Tell and Share were all aspects of this relationship. We were challenged to ‘walk the talk’:

“If the world doesn’t see us living green, and speaking out about the climate crisis, they’ll struggle to take seriously our call to love our neighbour.” – Phoebe Parkin, Methodist Youth President 2021

Holly's talk

You can learn about this by watching Holly’s talk on the Southampton District’s YouTube channel. Clips about these 5 elements are available on request.

Active Hope

Church energy projects

The District Grants Committee recommended changes to its policies to accommodate the call for financial support by churches on the path towards Net Carbon Zero. These were accepted by the District Policy Committee and are now in operation.

1. On the District Grant Application Form Policy Statement - under Church Projects, the phrase 'Up to 10% of the cost with a maximum of £30,000' should be replaced by **'Up to 30% of the cost'**.
2. The District Grants Committee can now accept applications for grants, on the same basis, that are in line with the **'District Environment Policy'** and commitment. Any such application should involve consultation with Dr John Evans – our Eco Champion.
3. Recognising the immense, invaluable work of Methodist people over many generations who through their commitment and dedication had built and maintained Church premises in missional outreach, any application for the sale of Methodist property should include an answer to the question under the *Building* section, **'How are the sale proceeds to be used for the direct and creative role of Mission?'**

The **District Environment Policy** is in the framework of the Methodist Church's Action for Hope program to aid steps towards 'Net Zero by 2030'. The first two steps of the policy are:

Step 1: Assess where you are: This is vital to plan how to achieve step 2

Step 2: Green your energy. The District will develop proposals for the infrastructure of the District manse to its improve energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.

The District will also provide guidance to aid circuits and churches in achieving the same goals. District grants, which are available to share the costs of projects with churches and circuits, have an emphasis on mission and so are well suited to Eco Church principles.

This policy may be amended on an annual basis to provide more guidance on ways to tackle these steps.



[Links to information about the emphases of District grants for pathways to Net Zero.](#)

[District Advance Fund](#)

[Grants secretary](#)

[District Environmental Policy](#)

[Action for Hope](#)

Greening your energy

To follow the Methodist Church's vision towards planet friendly church communities, like-for-like replacements of fossil fuel burning heating systems do not seem appropriate. A new heating system should best be matched with the building and its use, so taking the step to understand your pattern of consumption really helps the design of what will match your church's needs. Doing so ahead of crises does lower stress levels.

The District officers are willing to help you with your design.



A simple example of a radiant far infrared heater designed for desk use. This consumes 238 W and heats up in 5 minutes (~90 °C).

"We want instant heat!"

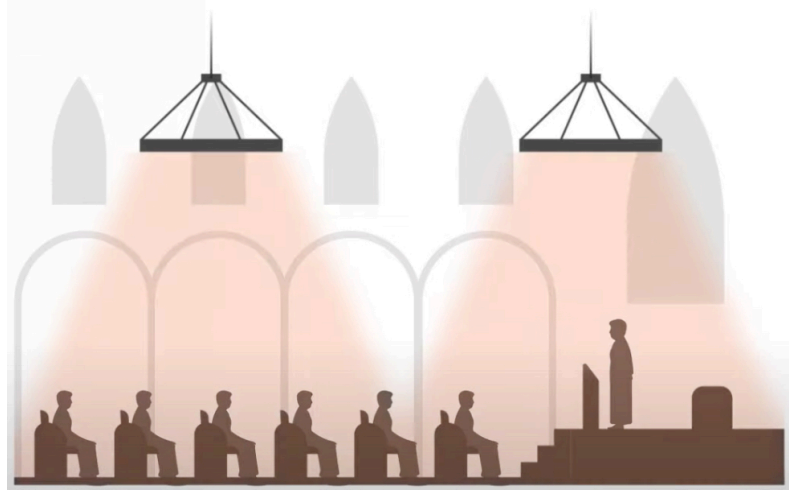
Pendant heaters

Glowing wall heaters

Carbon calculators

Far infrared radiant heating

An alternative to central heating systems with warm air or radiators is an efficient local version. Many of these require lower installation costs and much lower warm-up times. Far infrared transmits across space at the speed of light and can be directed with little loss to areas of a building in operation.



The units may be pendant, wall mounted glowing radiant sources, wall or ceiling mounted hot panels (~300 °C), or free standing/ or mounted lower temperature panels (~90 °C). Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit are considering these.



The combination of speed, direction and efficiency has been estimated to reduce energy consumption for space heating in churches by about 50%. Links to videos of case studies are in the left margin. The "Pendant Heater" case study includes an energy appraisal of the type recommended by Adrian Frost in his webinar on "Understanding Carbon Calculators."

What's going on?

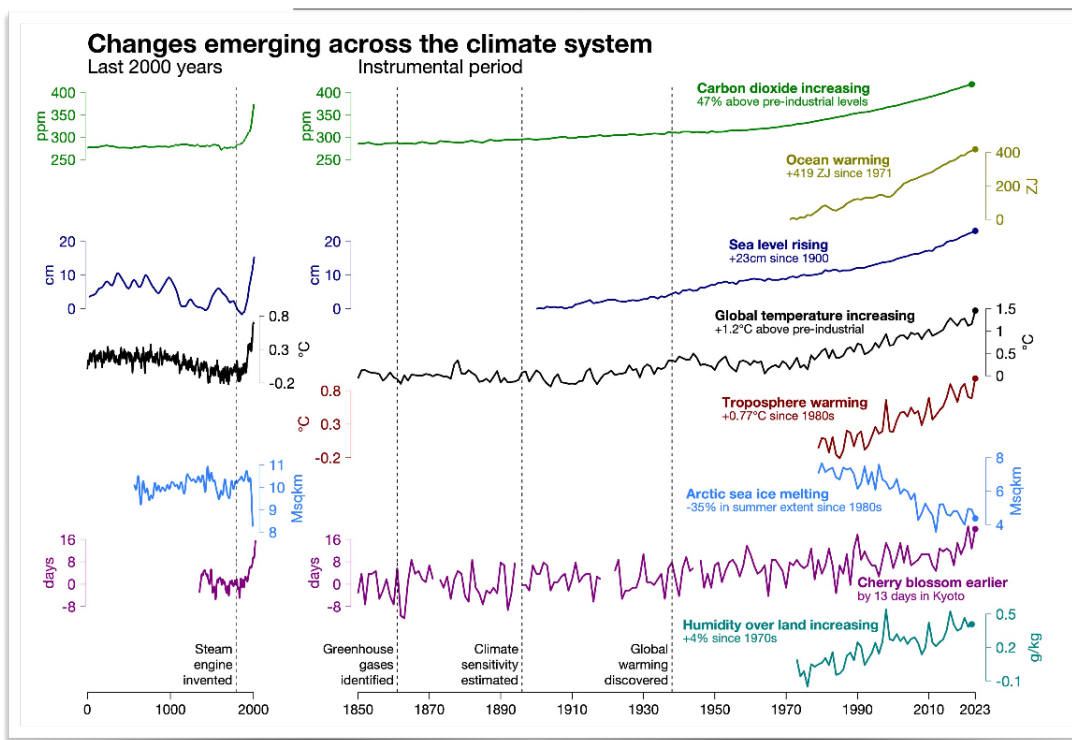
Creation Mondays

Creation Mondays webinars

Creation Monday webinars are scheduled on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. The program is available on Eventbrite. Please book in advance to receive details of the appropriate link on Zoom. There is plenty of time for small group discussions following the main address

The next webinar is to be given on Monday, February 12 by Ho Lim, who has led the Gold Award Eco Church team of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church, and Tim O'Brien, Net Zero Worker of the Yorkshire North and East District. Their timely topic is “**Understanding Sustainable Buildings**”.

How are things going?



Creation Matters is the newsletter of the Southampton **Eco District group**:

To order your own copy and to provide news items contact

ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk

Ed Hawkins is a climate scientist with a great skill for communicating the state of our climate emergency. I often wear my warming stripes tie for Climate Sunday services, and Hilary has made an inspiring warming stripes blanket. It is worth the time to look through his recent synopsis of climate trends, and pausing for thought and prayer.

John Evans, Eco District champion