

Creation Matters

[Southampton Eco District Events](#)



Our series of webinars called “**Creation Mondays**”, begins again in October. All are welcome to join through the Southampton Eco District events page of The Methodist Learning Network on Eventbrite.

The first session is directed towards those contemplating or having registered for Eco Church. It is to be given by **Emma Nash**, who is the Mission and Community Engagement Officer of the Methodist Church. Emma’s title is ‘**Baby Steps to Bronze.**’

On December 16 **Hamish Leese**, the Action for Hope Implementation Officer of the Connexion, will be helping us on our journey to **Net Zero by 2030.**

For those churches looking at an Eco Church expedition beyond **Beyond Bronze**, **Jim Gillings** and **Rose Gosling** will share their experiences and practical suggestions. Jim is at Salisbury Methodist Church who gained a Silver Award in October 2023; Rose is at the Summerbridge Methodist Church in North Yorkshire, and her church achieved a Gold Award in 2020.

Active Hope

Creation Care



[Creation Care website](#)

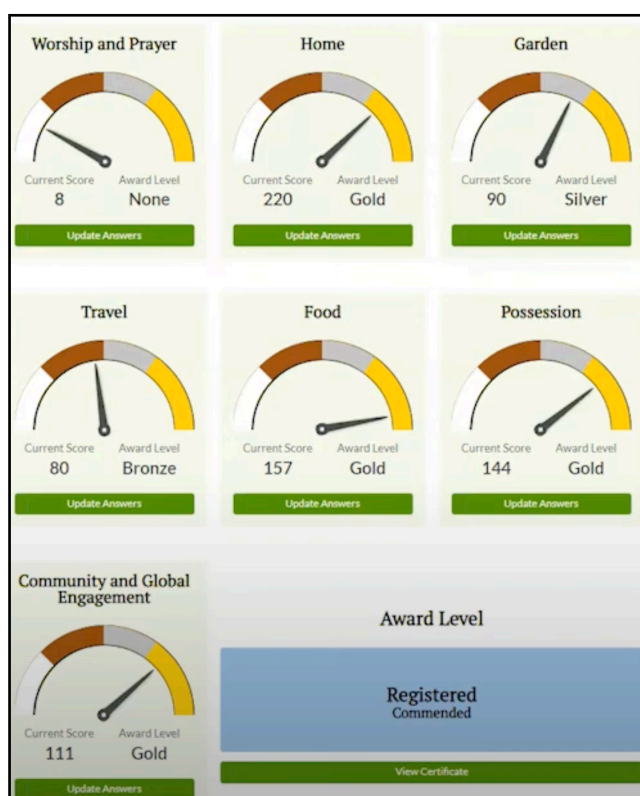


[The Connexion Magazine](#)



Families Pastor Maggie helps Lily to make grass seed models

Creation Care is an Eco-Church-like survey based guide centred on households. It is therefore very relevant to the Lifestyle theme of Eco Church. There are 7 areas, and like Eco Church, there is a dashboard to help monitor progress. Individual households can register, and churches may also do so.



Romsey Methodist Church is featured in the current Connexion Magazine for its strong link between creation care and outreach (page 8). In going 'Beyond Gold', by promoting Creation Care, church steward Peter Manning, commented:

"It seems logical for us to encourage the people our church connects with, along with the wider community, to strive for greener households while we continue to make our church more sustainable,"

Families Pastor Maggie Blair really understands that creation care is a core value for young members of the church family.



Woodfalls Methodist Church

We are delighted to report that Woodfalls Methodist Church in the Salisbury Circuit received an Eco Church Bronze Award on June 26, having registered in February 2023. Here is a piece of their story written by Anita Tanner.



We probably started our journey with recycling. We learnt a couple of local charities which raised money from recycling basic things like crisp packets, wrappers etc. so thought it would be good to help them, whilst saving the planet. We are pleased that people from the village now regularly bring recycling when the building is open. We now support several charities with our recycling, including saving printing cartridges for MHA - which I thought a lot of Methodist Churches would do, but I have learnt since they don't - so hopefully more will after reading this !! It is very easy, you get sent a box and when it is full you take it to a post office and send it free of charge and eventually they let you know how much it has raised which is usually about £20-£30 as different cartridges are worth different amounts of money.

We heard about Eco Churches at a Circuit Meeting. So when one light went wrong in the church, we replaced them all with LEDs as we knew that would help the planet, and help us on our Eco journey. Also we found that we had holes in the church toilet windows and a door and two other windows weren't double glazed, so we replaced them, so we weren't wasting heat, and it will hopefully help our energy bills.

We then thought we'd tried to get the church as energy effective as we could afford at the present time and so completed our first surveys. We have made notes of things to do in the future, but we now need time or more volunteers and in some cases money to move towards silver.

Four churches in the Salisbury Circuit are registered., most recently Bemerton, in March. Like Woodfalls, Amesbury have received a Bronze Award, and Salisbury a Silver.

This year Bedhamton Methodist Church in the East Solent and Downs Circuit and Woolston Methodist Church in the Southampton Circuit have also received Silver Awards. Congratulations to those churches.

Please contact us to give us the story from your church - these experiences provide inspiration for

What's going on?

Net Zero by 2030

Action for Hope



Eco Community booking

Action for Hope is set within the Environment priority of the Justice Seeking Church. It has been nurtured by the Action for Hope Implementation Officer, Hamish Leese, and also by the Climate Change Action Priority Collaboration Group.

The launch of the Methodist Church Eco Community is to take place on Tuesday, November 12 (7-9 pm) as an on line gathering, bookable on Eventbrite. This new venture will include three events:

- * November 12 -Eco Justice 'Hearts and Minds'
- * February 10 -Eco Practice 'Habits and Behaviours'
- * March 13 -Eco Culture 'Societies and Systems'

There is a new Connexional job advertised centred on Net Zero and Property to provide Hamish with support!

A new Eco Church survey

Eco Church survey

As of August, over 7600 churches had registered for Eco Church, with over 830 being Methodist ones. The proportion of those Methodist churches with awards is 53%. Twelve Districts have registered to be Eco ones, with three having received Bronze awards.

The original survey was initiated in early 2016, but the world has moved on since then and the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises is more keenly perceived. In October a new survey scheme will be introduced to replace the current one. Important aspects of this are:

- Churches have until the end of 2024 to apply for a new award using the existing scheme.
- The new survey has different paths depending upon the nature of a church's frequency of use and the utility services available at the site.
- There is a stronger emphasis on carbon assessment and carbon plans. It is also very likely that the basis of carbon assessment expected for silver Eco District/Circuit awards will be at least that of the Climate Stewards Personal Calculator. For a Gold award, the fuller 360 Carbon scheme is expected to be appropriate.

For more information on any aspect of the newsletter.

John Evans, Eco District champion

Climate Stewards

360Carbon

Creation Matters is the
newsletter of the
Southampton

Eco District group:

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