

A



UK

ROCHA

Caring for God's Earth

Goals for today

- Learn about A Rocha and the Eco Church Scheme
- Explore the survey categories
- Learn about what support there is for you in your journey
- Give it a go!



A close-up photograph showing a variety of hands from different people, including children and adults, holding small green seedlings with dark soil. The hands are arranged in a circular pattern, with the seedlings pointing towards the center. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "Why should Christians care about the environment?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the right side of the image.

**Why should
Christians
care about
the environment?**





ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Summerbridge Methodist Church

When you've answered all the questions and achieved enough points across each category, you'll be able to apply for your award here. Check out the linked resources alongside the questions for help and inspiration.

If the 'Apply for your award' button hasn't appeared then please check you have answered all the questions (e.g. you've answered 33 of 33 questions).

Please use the 'comments' page at the end of each section to tell us about other things you have done for this category and any challenges you encountered. This helps us process your award application and is a great source of inspiration for other Eco Churches, especially when you apply for silver and gold awards.

Worship and Teaching

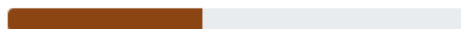


Silver

You've answered 7 of 10 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

Buildings



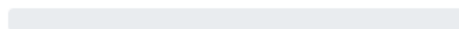
Bronze

You've answered 32 of 33 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

☒ Is your church responsible for the premises in which it meets?

Land



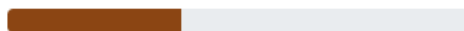
No Award

You've answered 0 of 16 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

☒ Does your church have influence over any land? This includes church gardens, car parks, paved areas, flower-beds or planters, churchyards.

Community and Global Engagement

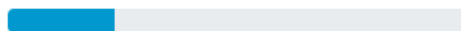


Bronze

You've answered 26 of 27 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)


Lifestyle



No Award

You've answered 14 of 15 questions.

[Fill in this section](#)

A group of people are gathered around a dark wooden table, each with an open book, likely a Bible. The focus is on the hands and the open pages of the books. One person on the left, wearing a white shirt, points to a specific passage in their book. Another person in the center, wearing a green top, has their hands resting on their book. To the right, a person in a dark blue shirt is also reading. In the foreground, a hand with a gold ring is visible, resting on a book. The text "Worship and teaching" is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

Worship and teaching

WORSHIP & TEACHING



This is a printable version of the Eco Church survey for your reference.

Please note you cannot apply for an Eco Church award using this copy. you need to register your church and **apply through the Eco Church online app.** For more information on the Eco Church process look at our website and watch our sign-up tutorial at the top of the FAQ page for help registering.

1. Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth (e.g. Creation Time, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday etc.) are celebrated in our church:

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

2. The hymns and songs (and liturgies if used) in our church services enable us to celebrate God's creation:

- ☐ At least quarterly ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out ☐ Not applicable

3. Our church prays for environmental issues

- ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly (8) ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never

4. Caring for God's earth is preached in our church

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

5. Our church hosts guest speakers from A Rocha UK or other Christian environmental organisations (e.g. Christian Aid, Tearfund, Green Christian, The John Ray Initiative) to talk about environmental issues

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out



A man in a green trench coat is holding a clipboard and a pen, looking up at a stone building with Gothic windows. Another person in a red jacket is partially visible behind him. In the background, two other people are standing on a set of stairs. The scene is outdoors, with a stone wall and a tiled roof visible. The text "Managing your buildings" is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom right.

**Managing
your buildings**

BUILDINGS

Is your church responsible for the premises in which it meets? *On the Eco Church app, you can answer 'no' to this question, in which this section then is marked as 'not applicable' and doesn't contribute to your award application.*

☐ Yes ☐ No

1. We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our church premises:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

2. We have set sufficient targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our church premises and achieving year-on-year improvements in energy efficiency:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

3. We offset the carbon footprint of our church premises for those things we can't reduce:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

4. The electricity supplied to our church premises is generated from renewable resources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff':

☐ Yes ☐ Some ☐ No ☐ Need to find out ☐ Not applicable (no external supply)

5. The gas supplied to our church premises is generated from renewable sources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff':

☐ Yes ☐ Some ☐ No ☐ Need to find out ☐ Not applicable (no external supply)



A photograph of a cemetery. On the left is a stone building with a doorway. The ground is covered in green grass and many small white and yellow wildflowers. Several gravestones of various shapes, including crosses and upright slabs, are scattered throughout the scene. Trees and a hedge are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

**Managing
your land**

LAND

Does your church have influence over any land? (e.g. churchyard, community nature reserve) ☐ Yes ☐ No *On the Eco Church app, you can answer 'no' to this question, in which this section then is marked as 'not applicable' and doesn't contribute to your award application.*

1. The land at our church is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants):

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

2. We encourage native wildlife on our church land through provision of the following:

☐ Bird Boxes ☐ Bat Boxes ☐ Bug Hotel ☐ Hedgehog Boxes
☐ Other (please tell us in the additional comments) ☐ None ☐ Need to find out

3. Stocked wildlife feeding stations are present on our church land (e.g. bird feeders, bird tables):

☐ Yes, all year round ☐ Yes, winter only ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

4. Our church land contains a pond or wetland area that is good for wildlife:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out ☐ Not applicable (no space for a pond)

5. We grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc.:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out





**Community
and global
engagement**

COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



1. Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local MPs, AMs or council leaders)

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

2. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, AM, local council or Public Service Board on environmental matters:

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

3. Our church arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services:

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

4. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local sustainability movements like Transition Towns:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

5. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings, Fairtrade events etc.):

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

6. Our church is involved with local conservation work (eg. at an A Rocha UK Partner in Action or RSPB/Wildlife Trusts nature reserve):

- ☐ Yes ☐ Some members are involved ☐ No ☐ Need to find out





Lifestyle

LIFESTYLE

1. Our church has appointed an individual or group to champion the cause of our church community becoming more environmentally sustainable:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

2. Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church

- ☐ Often ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

3. The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Need to find out

4. The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit:

- ☐ At least annually ☐ Less often ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

5. Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:

- ☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

6. Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle:

- ☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out

7. Our church hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes):

- ☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never ☐ Need to find out





HELP!



Worship and Teaching

You can move through the survey questions simply by clicking on the question numbers below.

Current Score: 63/110

1 ✓	2 ✓	3 ✓	4 ✓	5 ✓	6 ✓	7 ✗	8 ✗
9 ✗	10 ✗	Comments ✍					

Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth (e.g. Creation Time, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday etc.) are celebrated in our church

Question 1 of 10

- ☒ At least annually
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Need to find out

Resources



W1 - Special Sundays



W1_1 - Get outside for Lent



W1_2 Stations of Creation



W1 Dyddiau Sul Arbennig Sy'n
Ymwneud â Gofalu Am Ddear
Duw - Special Sundays (Welsh)



[Back to category list](#)

[Next question](#)

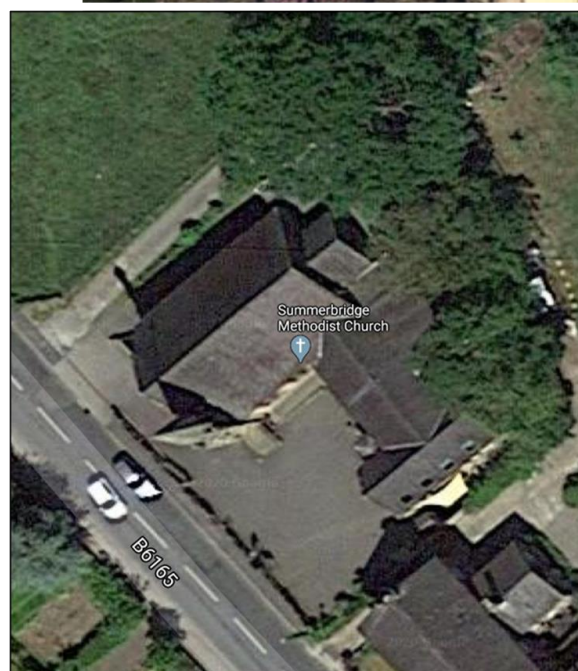
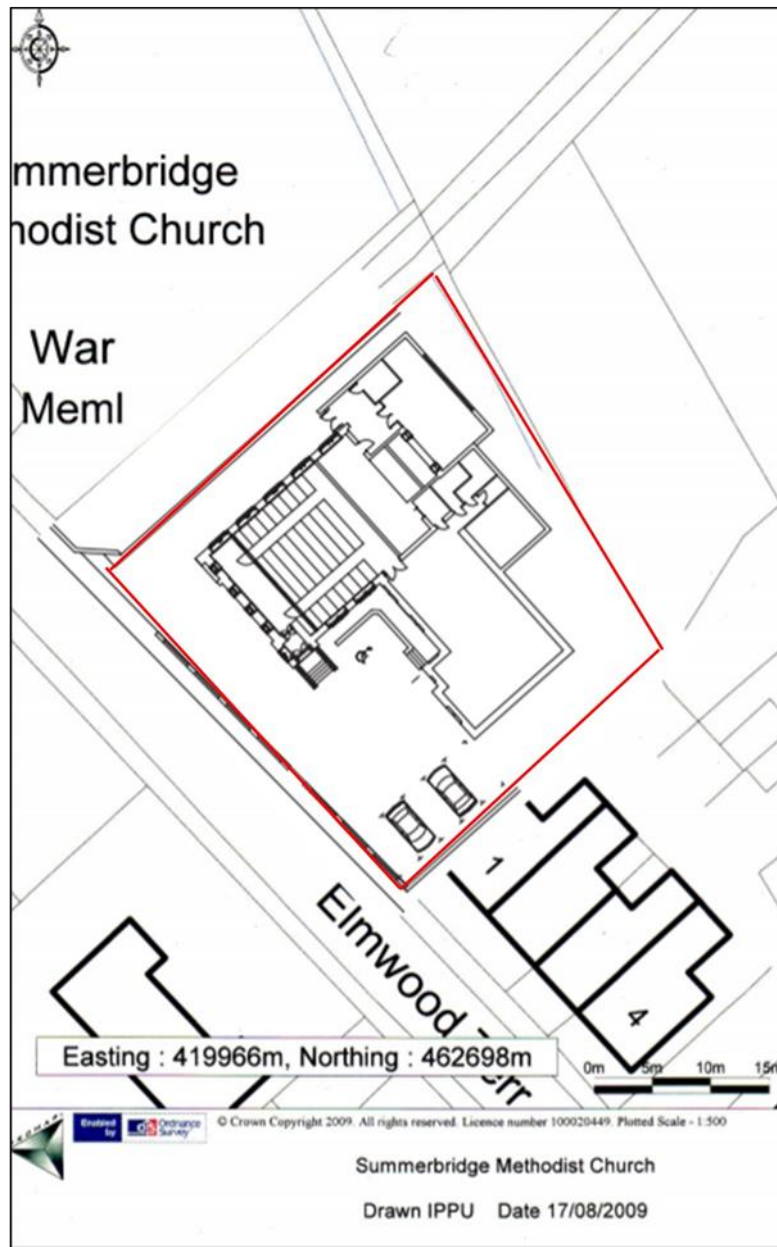
CASE STUDIES





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM









RECYCLING AREA

Summerbridge Methodist Church

We are collecting a number of difficult to recycle items and passing them on via local organisations so they can be made into new products. We would love it if you could support us. We need your...

- | | |
|---|---|
| Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes | Chocolate bar and sweet packaging |
| Disposable contact lenses and cases | Pens, markers, highlighters, Tippex |
| Crisp packets | Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers |
| Pringle tins | Beauty/personal care packaging |
| <u>Empty</u> medicine blister packets | Black plastic packaging (Clean please!) |
| Make up containers—lipstick etc. | Plastic Cheese packaging inc. Babybel |
| Soft, clean plastics—bags, clingfilm etc. | Manual razors, blades and plastic packaging |
| Batteries | Light Bulbs |
| Print cartridges | Ferrero Rocher packaging (No paper/card) |

We also collect stamps/ foreign coins for Leprosy Mission; glasses (no cases) for the Lions; items to be sold for charity by weight; clothes for refugees and Foodbank donations. Thank you!



Go
for
it !

- **Pick a category**
- **Find a partner**
- **Chat together about how your church would approach this category.**
- **What are you already doing?**
- **What could you do?**
- **What might be the barriers and how might you overcome them?**



Question Time



**BUT WAIT,
THERE'S
MORE!**



While Eco Church is a scheme to help grass-roots church communities improve their environmental impact, it helps to have some support from your denominational leaders!

The Methodist Church, URC and Church of England have worked with A Rocha UK to create schemes for their regional groupings.

Eco Diocese

For dioceses in the Church of England and the Church in Wales to support local parish churches to achieve Eco Church awards.

Register for Eco Diocese

Eco Circuit

For Methodist circuits to demonstrate their commitment to embedding environmental care into their churches.

Register for Eco Circuit

Eco District

For Methodist Districts to demonstrate their commitment to supporting circuits and local churches participating in Eco Church.

Register for Eco District

Eco Synod

For URC synods to visibly demonstrate their support for local URC churches to gain Eco Church awards.

Register for Eco Synod

