

A ROCHA TIP FOR MARCH

**The Great British Spring Clean
Friday 13-Sunday 29 March**

The nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together.

See if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own - after church on Sunday or with your young people.

Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it.

Taken from A Rocha website



CHURCH GROUNDS

In March, church gardens and churchyards come alive with spring, featuring daffodils in bloom, early perennials and green shoots.

These, spaces, or walled gardens, often feature early spring flowers, freshly tidied beds, and active wildlife, making them perfect for quiet reflection or nature walk.

If you only have a small outside space, maybe consider putting out small tubs or hanging baskets on your building or handrail planters on your railings

Children and young people

If you have children or young people in your fellowship, maybe they could have their own dedicated space in your church grounds to grow and maintain their own flowers or even grow vegetables.



RECYCLING - paper

Most of us are now in the habit of recycling paper, whether that is letters, envelopes, flyers, magazines, newspapers etc.

Most papers can be put in your recycling bin at home and church, but it might be worth checking on your local Council website just to check what you can and cannot put in.



You might be surprised!
You may not be able to recycle all paper and card.

COPIER PAPER

Does your church or workplace have a photocopier or printer - did you know that you can now buy Recycled Copier paper!



Several companies and shops now stock or supply Recycled copier paper - below is one company who does this.

Why not do a bit of research and try some out.

Woodland Trust Office Paper is produced to the most demanding environmental standards. Every sheet of Woodland Trust paper sold contributes directly to the work of the Woodland Trust. Energy for paper production is generated from waste material, resulting in zero CO2 emissions from fossil fuels. Excess heat from paper production is piped to a community heating project

WORLD WATER DAY - 22nd March

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.1 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.

A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Every year, UN-Water – the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation – sets the theme for World Water Day. In 2024, the focus was on Leveraging Water for Peace; in 2025, on Glacier Preservation.

In 2026, the theme is Water and Gender.

The global water crisis affects everyone - but not equally.

Where people lack the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, inequalities flourish, with women and girls bearing the brunt.

This World Water Day, it's time to centre women and girls in water solutions.

Because where water flows, equality grows.



**View from
Llanfair Uniting Church,
Penrhys, Rhondda Valley,
Wales**

I took this photo during a visit there in December. A bit too chilly for worshipping God outdoors on that wintry day, but as I gazed across the valley, it reminded me of this passage from Isaiah - "Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it." (Isaiah 42:5, NRSVA).

I wonder what views you have from your church?

**Cawsand,
Cornwall**



Whatever the view from your church, you can probably still see the sky and some kind of land - the passage from Scripture reminds us that it is God who created the 'heavens' making them expansive and 'the earth' beneath our feet with all that is produced from it.

When you are next beside your church building, why not take a moment alone, or with other folk you are gathered with, to look up at the heavens and look down at your feet planted on the earth, giving thanks to God for His mighty awesome work of Creation?

Then take a few breaths - in and out - feel the air around you and ponder on the tender work of God - for we are His people, and we stand on Holy ground... In gratitude to God for creating you, and all you see around you, deepen and lengthen your breaths. A simple breathing reflection you could try is breath in and be thankful to God, then as you exhale, make it a simple prayer seeking God's Word for you to care for Creation more tenderly... Then over time, and through conversations with people in your church, you might consider taking the Eco Church survey to take steps to tend Creation and you might like to host a service outdoors over the coming months?

By Sara Iles Facilitator of Go Worship! Go Out! Go Wonder!



Go worship!
Go out!
Go wonder!

A resource to equip churches to connect to God through nature

As many of you may recall, during 2024 - 2025, I worked with a team of people from across our churches and nations to develop a resource to support people to connect to God through nature. This is called Go Worship! Go Out! Go Wonder! This is a booklet that will help you to take steps towards being an accredited Eco Church (like the Congregational Churches in Wivenhoe, Newark and Market Harborough) and to discover ways you can connect to God through nature. I am working closely with Linda Cooke from CF Church Support and the contact details are below. We would love to hear from you.

As the days warm up and get longer, how might your church seek new ways to deepen your relationship with our Creator God?



Bumblebee photo by
Chris Iles,
Wildlife Conservation
volunteer

Copies of Go Worship! Go Out! Go Wonder! are available from the office in Nottingham or download it here:

<https://www.congregational.org.uk/green-spaces/go-worship-go-out-go-wonder>

If you are thinking of trying something new, you can apply for a Starter Grant from the CF.

For more information about grants look on our Website page ---

Congregational Federation
Grants for Growth - Events and Opportunities

Perhaps you would like to invite us to support your church in facilitating a service outdoors? If so, please do get in touch - we would love to hear from you!

If you are already active in hosting worship outdoors, it would be lovely to chat to you about it and see some photos of your gatherings.