

The Methodist Church

East Anglia District

We, as a Methodist District, are working with [A Rocha UK \(ARUK\)](#) which is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and is committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. We agreed our Environmental Policy at the September 2021 Synod, to work towards becoming an Eco District.



The EcoDistrict scheme was developed by the Methodist Church in close cooperation with A Rocha, the programme encourages every church to incorporate 'Caring for Creation' into all their activities and is now enshrined in the Service Section of the Methodist Way of Life.

What is an Eco District?

An Eco District links closely to the Methodist Way of Life which encourages us to help people in our communities, and beyond, to care for creation and all God's gifts and to challenge injustice.

Summary of our progress to date.

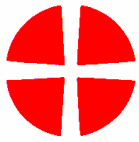
A questionnaire with an explanatory email has been sent out to all our churches to determine the current status of EcoChurches throughout the District, by our District Administrator Danielle, who distributed these via Superintendents and Circuit Stewards. To date 72 responses have been received and we are delighted that we have 21 Churches that have a named Environment Champion.

Why sign up to EcoChurch?

EcoChurch is an award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth and that caring for creation is an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

We would like to congratulate and celebrate those East Anglia churches who have already signed up to become EcoChurch, especially those who have already gained awards and we are really encouraged and delighted that Bungay Emmanuel Church, which is part of the Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership, has achieved its Gold Award and congratulate them on their work and again we were thrilled to hear and applaud the Bury St Edmunds Circuit for their work towards becoming an Eco Circuit.

We recognise that we are at the start of our journey but were disappointed that we did not hear back from 3 circuits and realise that we as a District have a lot of work to do before we can apply for our own Bronze Status. For those Circuits or Churches that haven't yet done



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so, please check out [Eco Church survey](#) where you will find clear information on how you can register.

During the audit we found that only 40 Churches, which completed this, responded that they had a focus on eco-matters with Special Sundays, with hymns, songs and liturgies, or prayers and preaching etc. We would like to ensure that all local preachers have access to materials to support theological reflection on our care for God's creation.



Whether you are currently involved or not, there are two special Sundays which your church could celebrate this year. [Climate Sunday](#) and we have Environment Sunday, which will be on Sunday 4 June 2023, which has long been a focus for caring for creation. Each year A Rocha produces a special resource pack for those leading worship. These links are on our website <https://eangliamethodist.org.uk/we-care/environment>



<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/>

Lorna Burroughes

Service Group Co-ordinator

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

eangliamethodist.org.uk/we-care/environment

Lorna Burroughes – February 2023