

Eco Chaplain role description

The overall purpose of the role is to encourage and support churches in your area to respond to the climate and ecological crisis, by advocating for environmental action, resourcing others, and helping churches on their Eco Church and net zero journey.

The role will be managed by the Diocesan Environment Officer and supported by the Net Zero Adviser, the Environment and Net Zero Working Groups, and will mean being the named 'port of call' in your area for parishes who would like further help as they take action on climate change. We ask that each Chaplain commits to the role for a minimum of two years.

The Diocese of Norwich achieved its Bronze Eco Diocese Award in November 2023 and we are aiming to earn a Silver Award by the end of 2026.

We will offer a couple of training sessions to help with initial resourcing and connecting with ourselves and others. Times and date TBC.

You will be commissioned by one of our bishops in a special service and will have the opportunity to renew this commitment annually.

*Responsibilities - what will you be doing? **Not all of these things, but some** – you will decide what your strengths and skills will work best with:*

- Encourage churches to register for Eco Church and choose three net zero actions
- Help mentor churches or gather groups of churches for knowledge-sharing, and peer to peer learning and encouragement
- Support churches to advocate locally and nationally on climate and ecological issues by sharing relevant campaigns
- Encourage churches in your area by going to their events such as Eco Fairs, talks etc.
- Keep in touch with the NZCA & DEO for the purposes of sharing stories, receiving support, and feeding back any learnings
- Become the named individual on environment-related issues for your area
- to take part in continuing the conversation within the Facebook group and encouraging others to do so plus attend forums etc.
- Report back to the EWG on behalf of all the Eco Chaplains on an ad hoc basis

Eco Chaplains will have considerable autonomy and flexibility to work locally, depending on both local area dynamics and the particular passions and background of each person. The core of the role is to support and encourage areas on environmental initiatives.

Person specification

- A passion for creation care – desiring to help others embed the fifth mark of mission, prayerfully, pastorally and prophetically
- Some knowledge of the impact of climate and biodiversity crises
- Comfortable engaging with people – a natural networker
- Working knowledge of digital communication – emails, online meetings, presentations
- Enthusiasm and a “can-do” attitude

We commit to supporting Eco Chaplains by:

- Keeping the website up to date so that information is readily available.
- Facilitating a quarterly peer-support network meeting.
- Being available for email or telephone conversation as needed.
- Reimbursing travel expenses
- Continuing to provide events, training and support across this area of work so that Chaplains have material to work with.

Safer Recruitment

- This is an advisory role, supporting people in parishes so that they can take the lead on activities
- this is not a regulated activity role, as in you will not be working directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults. Therefore, an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS) is not required.
- Each applicant will need to have the support of their Incumbent and provide at least one character reference
- If you speak in a church service, you will only do so with the authority of the incumbent
- On appointment, each Chaplain will need to complete the following safeguarding (online) training, within three months of taking up the position:
 - **Basic Awareness**
 - **Foundation**
 - **Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse**

Barbara Bryant & Ed Cotterill
Diocesan Environment Officer and Net Zero Carbon Adviser
July 2025