



*For Creed  
and  
Creation*

A simple guidebook  
for running a greener church

By Gillian Straine  
&  
Nathan Oxley

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# *Foreword*

## **by the Bishop of London**

The Christian Community in London is growing both in diversity and in numbers. The most recent research suggests that in any ordinary week there are over 620,000 Christians worshipping in more than 4,000 churches.

With few exceptions, our buildings were not designed with today's environmental standards in mind. Many Christians have come to see that attention to this issue is part of being faithful to the gospel.

One of the roots of our present ecological distress is a way of being in the world that has put great pressure on our common planetary home.

Far from being masters and possessors of the earth, we are called to be stewards and participants in a divine creation. Christians are called to conversion of life. We may begin as consumers in our relation to the world but we are called to be citizens and to celebrate and care for creation as it is being renewed by Jesus Christ through the activity of the Holy Spirit.

The way we live now in a wired-up world with an interdependent ecology has a global impact. The Stern Report has explicated the relation between our lifestyle and the experience of poor and vulner-

able people in other parts of our world. It is also clear that the actions of our generation will have large consequences for our children and generations to come.

This booklet reflects these convictions and it is a practical expression of prayer. It has been deliberately designed to indicate changes that can be made with relatively little cost by volunteers as well as more radical changes which are needed, not least in new buildings.

We believe that we are close to a tipping point in popular consciousness and followers of Jesus Christ are being called to play their part to develop a transforming awareness of our peril to which all human beings are exposed and to contribute to a shift into a way of living more wisely.

I am glad to say that this is an ecumenical venture and I am signing this foreword as the Chairman of London Church Leaders Group. A list of those who have endorsed this can be found on page 62.

**The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres**

Bishop of London

Chair, London Church Leaders Group

*The heavens are the heavens of the Lord,  
but the earth he has entrusted to his children*

*The Book of Psalms*

## *What this book is about*

### **And why you should read it**

This book is about creating a greener church in the Greater London area. It is about why and how your church can be a lot more environmentally friendly very quickly and without spending a lot of money.

58% of Londoners say that they are Christian\*. Eleven percent of the Christian population of the UK live in London. As a city, and as Christians, we have a huge opportunity to work together, responding to the challenge of climate change and environmental justice. Most churches are now finding ways to tackle this challenge.

### **Why should we care?**

So why should Christians care about the environment? At the centre of our faith, the gift of the Incarnation is a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Christians believe that in Christ, God comes down and interacts with his own Creation. The Gospels show Him walking about on the Earth, eating, drinking, sleeping, laughing and crying with us, sharing in our humanity and becoming part of our world in the midst of its problems and suffering.

\* 2001 Census

The title of this booklet uses the word Creed, derived from the Latin meaning *I believe*, to affirm that we are grounding our actions to protect creation in our beliefs. As God loves us, it is through our love of God and of all creation that we must learn to live carefully and not to abuse the resources given to us. Climate change, water shortages and pollution are more than just a passing news story; they are real and serious and can have major effects on people's lives, particularly in the poorest parts of the world\*. As Christians, we must act – for we're called to free the oppressed, uphold the weak and respond to the effects of our actions for creed and for creation.

*For the creation waits with eager longing  
for the revealing of the children of God.*

*Romans 8:19*

\* The UN University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) estimate that there will be 50 million environmental refugees by 2010. Source: The Guardian, October 12, 2005.

## **The good news**

The good news is that we can probably cut down substantially on energy, recycle much more, save considerably more water and be generally a great deal kinder to the planet than we are already. Most of us are probably doing a bit towards this and want to do more. But our response to the problem has to change with the times. The people most affected by environmental destruction are also the poorest. We are in a position to change things – and it actually isn't as difficult as we think.

And what we do as individual churches does matter. We reach out to hundreds of thousands of individuals week by week. By beginning to make some of the changes suggested in this book and communicating our efforts to the congregation, there will be a knock on effect in countless homes, offices and businesses across the capital. Christians are becoming an ever increasing voice in the environmental movement and the momentum we have now is a great opportunity for individuals and congregations. But your actions should not be seen as simply jumping on the bandwagon – they are about true justice and responsible living in our global community, God's world.

## **So, why else should you use this book?**

Well, it might save you rather a lot of money, which you can put to better use. It could go towards a charity that you support or towards a fund to make further 'green' changes. A lot of people will be interested to know about what you're doing, and will probably want to

join in. And, what's more, most of the things we suggest are:

- a) easy,
- b) cheap, and
- c) quick, satisfying and even fun to do.

The advice in this book is not exhaustive. It is meant to get you started and give you more ideas about what you can do. At the end you will find where to go for more information, advice and help. So get going!



## *Things to do*

## Introduction

There are many ways to make the church greener - too many to put into a small guide. Here is a selection of the best ones and, more importantly, how much effort is involved. Each suggestion is given three ratings : cost, people power and time. We suggest starting with the easy and quick ideas, but you can always skip to the harder ones if you're feeling confident.

## Cost

In many cases, you can make big savings in electricity or water with minimal expense; some actions are even free! In each section there are suggestions to reduce your church's consumption that require higher investment and will take more time before any financial savings are seen.

### How much money will you need to spend?



**Absolutely no money needed**



**Cheap (under £20)**



**Middling (£20-100)**



**Expensive (£100+)**

## People power

This criterion will give you guidance about whether the action requires one or two people, or if it is a change of attitude or effort by a larger group. It also indicates where you might consider employing a professional.

### How many people are needed?



**1 or 2 people**



**A small group (5-10)**



**Get a larger group or even the whole church involved**



**Call the professionals**

The people power actions are rated according to the effort it might take a non professional. The actions which suggest using a professional or seeking professional advice are indicated. If in doubt, always employ someone who can do the job properly.

## Time

Is it a one-off quick fix (a trip to the hardware shop, a quick phone call or an afternoon's work), a longer term project requiring discussion and investigation or an annual job to ensure maximum efficiency?

## How long will the action take?



A quick action or change to the way things are done (less than 1 week)

Needs more time (1 week - 2 months)

Long term commitment, which might need more consultation (longer than 2 months)

Do this regularly (annually) to make sure your church continues to be as efficient as possible.

### The actions have been divided up into five sections:

**Your Building and Grounds**, which looks at church buildings and any surrounding land which you might be able to improve and develop

**Lighting** which covers all lightbulbs, fittings and natural light as well

How your community uses **Water** and suggestions to reduce consumption

**Rubbish and how to buy good things** to guide the way that your community can reduce waste, recycle as much as possible and purchase wisely;

...and finally **Other ideas** for more great suggestions which don't quite fit into the other categories.

## Getting to know, fixing and improving

Most sections begin with tips for **GETTING TO KNOW** your church and identify possibilities for improvements.

This is followed by the **FIX** section which includes ideas on how to bring your general housekeeping and maintenance up to date. You can start making the savings by using what you already have in a more efficient way.

This is followed by other ways to **IMPROVE** the way you do things to make even more savings. Remember, if you are in any doubt, employ the professionals and seek advice from someone in charge before making any major changes.

## Before you start

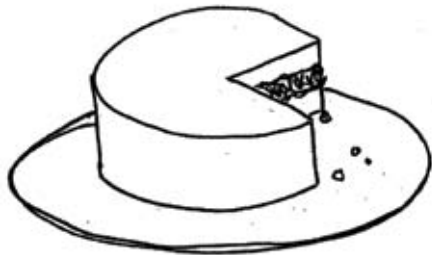
**Here's a tip** – get hold of last month's bills for electricity, gas and water (make sure they're based on proper meter readings, not estimates) and note how many units were used or how much money was spent. Make a wall chart or notice displaying these figures. When you begin to make some of the changes suggested in this book you can, month by month, note your consumption. You'll be able to see what difference you're making straight away.

If you are interested in knowing how much power individual appliances are using you can buy a plug-in energy monitor, available at most electrical shops, to root out your most costly fittings. For, example you can check how much electricity is used when the computer is left on over night or the enormous reduction when using an energy efficient bulb over a standard one.

**Don't keep it to yourself** – announce it in church. Do something good with the money you are saving like giving it to a charity or investing it back into the church.

**A word about safety** – Most of these suggestions don't need any technical skills. But please don't attempt anything if you are at all unsure of safety. If in doubt, it is always best to employ the professionals.

Finally, don't forget to have fun doing this. The best way of doing this is to get some other people involved. We usually find that cake is helpful.



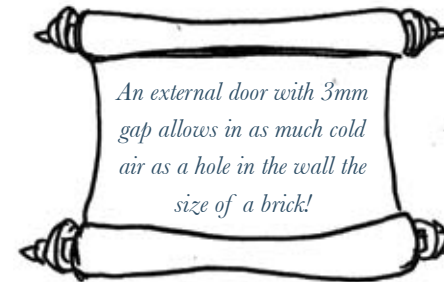
## Your building and grounds

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it*

*The Book of Psalms*

Whether it's a Victorian barn or a modern community centre, getting to grips with the building you are running is a good first step. Now churches can be rather chilly and draughty places, so sorting out your building might do more than lower those energy bills. Outside, if you have any gardens or grounds you may find they are the only green space in your patch of London. They might offer an important place for local people to spend time, along with all kinds of birds, animals and insects.

In this section, we'll tackle energy saving measures, and how to protect the wildlife around your church building. This might be as simple as turning down the heating by one degree! However, there are probably a number of ways you can choose from can cut down fuel bills by as much as 20%. That should put a smile on somebody's face.



## GETTING TO KNOW

Have a good look around your building. Seek out any gaps in the walls, windows and doorways. Make a list! Note the areas which are habitually too cold or too warm. Don't forget, however, that ventilation is very important in a building – don't block or cover "air bricks" which are there to ensure that the building has the required air circulation. If you have any grounds belonging to your church, see if there's space for more trees and plants. Or see if you could develop a recreation area or quiet place for prayer and contemplation.

Additionally, if your church is a registered charity (and most are) contact your energy suppliers and ensure that you are registered for reduced rates. This should automatically make you exempt from the Climate Change Levy.



## Fix

### Heating

Make sure heaters aren't obstructed by furniture. This will allow them to work more efficiently.



'Bleed' your radiators. Many churches are heated by a 'wet' system of radiators and pipework. If air gets trapped in the system then the radiators do not heat properly. Radiators may be 'bled' to remove the hot air trapped inside. Older radiators typically require a valve key to turn the bleeder valve, usually found at the top at one end of the radiator, but often a screwdriver will work.



Clean your radiators. Convector radiators and heaters operate by blowing or pulling air over a heated surface. Ensure they are working efficiently by cleaning the grill and filters of fluff and dust. This makes a real difference!



Get your boiler professionally serviced every year for maximum efficiency. Any smoke, unusual noise or change in the flame colour, size and shape may indicate inefficient combustion – that's a waste of energy.



## Draughts and insulation

Draughtproof doorways and windows. Most materials are available in your local DIY shop but do check the quality of the materials and that they conform to standard BS 7386. There are lots of options: brushes, foam, sealants, strips, shaped rubbers and plastics. If in doubt seek advice and remember to leave adequate ventilation in kitchens and bathrooms.



Replace cracked or broken windows. This will stop heat getting out in cold weather.



Insulate your roof. Up to a third of your heat can be lost through your roof so loft insulation, where possible, is vital. Likewise, an alarming amount of heat escapes through the walls of a building, so cavity wall insulation may be a possibility if there is a gap between your external walls. This type of insulation is quick, clean and relatively cheap (there are grants) and should be installed by an accredited builder. Contact your church or the Energy Saving Trust to find a recommended fitter (see [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk)).



Insulate hot water tanks and piping: this will reduce heat loss and save you money. Look at your water tank and for exposed heating pipes, and make certain that these are insulated.



## Grounds

Get a team together and clean up the area around your church – it will start to look greener already!



## Improve

### Whole building

To save time and money, hold meetings in the smallest practical space and consider having multiple meetings on the same day so that a room doesn't have to be heated more than necessary.



If you've got money to spare, install your own renewable energy technology: put the church roof to good use and install solar panels. Alternatively, find out whether you can get a ground source heat pump system. Other renewable sources in the UK include solar water heating, small scale wind turbines, small scale hydro systems and biomass heating systems. It's not as complicated as it sounds, but the Energy Saving Trust ([www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk)) is a good place to go for advice and grants.



## Heating

Are there areas in your buildings which are too warm? If so, remind people to turn down the heating (a reduction of 1°C can cut energy bills by up to 8%, according to The Carbon Trust).



If it's too hot in a room, turn down the heating rather than opening a door or using a fan. Put up signs so people know how to operate the heating.



Another way to control room temperature is to fit thermostatic radiator valves (TRV). TRVs are fitted on the pipework at the top or bottom of a radiator and allows greater control of the temperature of each radiator.



Get a more efficient boiler. If your boiler is more than 10-15 years old, then it is probably not energy efficient. Make a large reduction in your heating bills and upgrade your boiler to a fuel efficient one, when it is due for replacement. High efficiency condenser boilers convert more than 88% of their fuel into heat, compared to 78% for conventional types (source: EST).



## Draughts and insulation

Put up notices to remind people to draw curtains and blinds at night to stop heat from escaping through the windows.



Install double-glazed windows when the windows need to be replaced and reduce your heat loss by up to half. Secondary glazing will also reduce heat loss and usually costs less than double glazing. But remember to investigate any restrictions on the building.



## The Office

There are lots of savings to be had in the office. A photocopier left on overnight can use enough energy to produce 1500 copies, so switch it off when not in use. Likewise, shut down computers when they are not being used; contrary to popular belief, this won't reduce their lifetime. Leaving things on standby wastes a lot of energy.



## Grounds

Encourage more wildlife into your grounds by putting up bird feeders, bird boxes and bat boxes. You could also leave an area to grow wild and provide a home for local insects and plants.



If you have room, plant a tree! This is not only a very public sign of your church's commitment to the environment and fun for younger people, it will also provide a habitat for birds and insects.



Use fewer chemical weed killers and pesticides which are both highly toxic and expensive. Search the Internet for green alternatives if you can – or use natural methods.



If you have a quiet spot, why not develop a place for contemplation and prayer surrounded by God's creation.

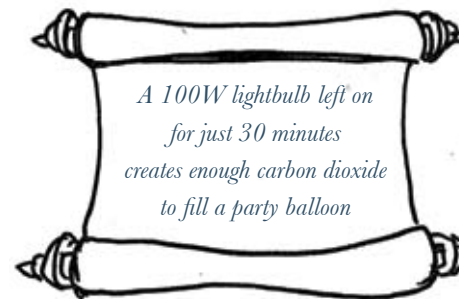


No grounds around your building? Why not rent an allotment space to grow organic vegetable to sell? Again, this is a great enterprise for the children and youth groups.



## Lighting

Lighting a church building can be a complicated business. As well as architectural lighting, you may have to consider security lighting, stage lighting, and lighting so that everyone can see the hymn sheet or even the overhead projector screen. We can't do without lighting, but you can reduce your bills and save energy easily just by following some very simple tips.



### GETTING TO KNOW

Go around your buildings, both inside and out, and note the position and condition of all the light fittings. If you habitually leave lights on during the day, consider whether it is really necessary – can they be switched off? Could any areas of your buildings benefit from rearrangement to make best use of the natural light available through windows?

## Fix

### Whole building

Turn out the lights: it's very rarely cost efficient to leave lights on, even fluorescent tubes. Put up notices reminding people to turn out lights when they leave a room.



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Clean the windows: make sure windows and any skylights are regularly cleaned so that you are using as much natural light as possible.



### Light fittings

Clean lights and their fittings to get maximum efficiency – it's worth it.



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Replace blackened, flickering or dim fluorescent lighting tubes with tri-phosphor coated ones which not only give more natural, brighter light but can save up to 30% on bills.



Turn down unnecessary lights. Think about how the church is lit and then reduce any constant lighting in the church during services and when the church is open as much as you can.



## Improve

### Light fittings

Replace old-fashioned filament bulbs with nice new energy saving ones, also called Compact Fluorescent lights (CFLs). These can last up to twelve times longer, and they can reduce your lighting costs by up to three quarters - that's a saving of £100 over the lifetime of a 100W bulb! They fit into standard light fittings and are sold by wattage in the same way as filament bulbs. They use a lot less energy so select a lower wattage CFL when replacing the old bulbs. CFLs are widely available in hardware shops and supermarkets, and the newest ones look the same as ordinary bulbs.



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If replacing or installing new fluorescent tube lighting, opt for the smallest diameter on lighting tubes as they use less energy – e.g. if the tubes are 38mm (1.5”), replace them with the slimmer 26mm (1”) ones.



Replace tungsten halogen display and security lights with high pressure sodium or metal halide lamps to reduce energy use.



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Consider installing movement sensors or timer switches in entrances and toilets to reduce lights being left on unnecessarily. Look into fitting dimmer switches where possible to control light intensities.



## Water

*“In church if wet”*

*Typical church announcement*

It is a truth universally acknowledged that if you are organising an outdoor church event, it will rain. Despite this, water is our most precious resource – indeed, life without it would simply not be possible. For humans, it is not only a necessary commodity but a source of relaxation, beauty and refreshment. Written in a dry environment where water was often scarce, the Old Testament is full of the imagery of water, representing the abundance and love of God. Its life giving power is nowhere more apparent in the Christian church than during baptism. Saving water now will provide for future generations, especially in London where we are currently suffering from water shortages. Since November 2004 there has been a below average rainfall in every month except four ([www.thameswater.co.uk](http://www.thameswater.co.uk)) and it is a little known fact that London receives less rain than Dallas, Rome or Istanbul!

On top of this, we all generally use more water than we should. Each Londoner uses 156 litres (or about 300 pints) of water daily compared to a national average of 150 litres\* – that’s more than two baths’ worth! With rising populations the strain on our national resources is set to increase. So how can we as a church save water?

\* source: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

## GETTING TO KNOW

Check for leaks in your church using the water meter: turn off all the taps and the outside stop valve, where the water enters the building. Take two readings a couple of minutes apart – if there is any movement in the reading, you may have a leak!

## Fix

### Sinks

Get some washing up bowls for any sinks used for washing up.



Make sure all sinks have plugs to reduce any unnecessary running of taps.



Put up notices at sinks reminding people not to leave the tap running.



Only boil what you need. Put up a sign by the kettle reminding people to only boil the required volume of water. This saves water and electricity.



Check all the taps and fix any dripping ones that you've been meaning to fix for ages.



## Improve

### In the toilets

Get a “hippo”. You can buy a wide range of devices which fit inside your cistern and reduce water usage. For example Thames Water make the Save-A-Flush (bag full of harmless crystals) which can save about 1 litre per flush or a Hippo (for cisterns with a volume greater than 9 litres) to save up to 5000 litres per person per year. Contact your water provider to find out what is available in your area. Or use a brick.



If replacing taps, install spray taps or taps with a timer that turn off automatically.



### Outside

Collect rainwater to water those floral displays. This does not require any special equipment – just a bucket outside would do! Even better, install a water butt.



## Rubbish and how to buy better

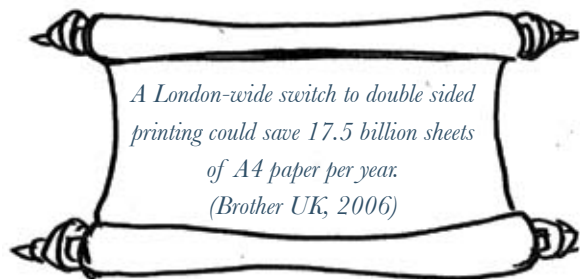
What we buy and what we end up throwing out must be tackled as one problem. Waste is a growing problem in the UK, especially in London where the number of available landfill sites is reducing. This means that the cost of waste disposal for the country is set to rise - we also have a habit of exporting our waste to less fortunate countries.

In general, waste production is not a huge problem in church communities. However, we probably buy and use stuff we don't really need, producing unnecessary waste. Reuse things where possible. And then, at the end of the day, recycle what you can.

It may cost a little extra to buy recycled and ecologically safe products, but it's a good way to show that we place the care of the planet ahead of the finances. And in the long run, as the demand for ethical products grows, their cost will reduce.

### GETTING TO KNOW

Find out how your church disposes of its waste and where it recycles. Get to know what your church purchases regularly.



## Improve

### Recycling and waste

If your church already recycles – great! Ensure that the recycling points are clearly marked with a list of everything that is recyclable, so you don't have to be an expert to do it.



If your church does not yet recycle, contact your local council. Many offer free collections of paper, glass and tins.



Assign responsibility for going to the recycling point or putting out the waste for collection.



Composting your flower and garden waste is an excellent way to help protect the environment, save money and improve church grounds. For more information, see local council or groups such as the Community Composting Network (see the Resource section).



Recycle toner cartridges – this can be done through charities or you can get your old cartridges refilled.



## Buying

Look at the ethical alternatives for what you buy. For example, there are many recycled products available, such as paper and toilet rolls. Also consider buying more durable items – they may be more expensive but they last longer. Adopt a policy to buy fair trade products such as tea and coffee, or try to find organic and local food sources. Buy ecologically sound cleaning products and look into using concentrated products which will go further.



## Utilities and banking

Get on to green electricity. It might even be cheaper than your current supplier. Contact your gas and electricity suppliers to find out what they can offer you. Join a scheme with your current provider, or transfer to a green electricity company. You don't have to get a new meter, rewiring or a visit from an electrician, and you receive exactly the same service through the National Grid as before. Additionally, many companies give excellent energy efficiency advice and run systems where you can 'offset' your carbon emissions.



A community energy scheme (CES) provides heat and or electricity from one central source to multiple buildings. There are several different types of sources available and benefits include low cost heating and power and improved efficiency. Find out if there's a local scheme that you could join - or start your own one!



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Investigate ethical banking which will ensure that your money is not being invested in companies that destroy the environment or support war. Look up banks with ethical policies.



## Other Ideas

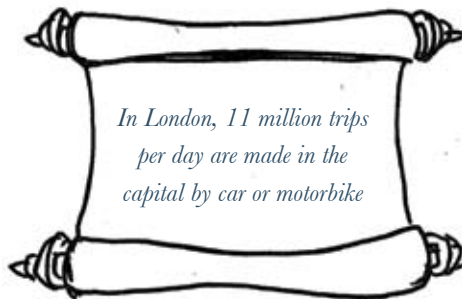
Here are some more suggestions that just didn't fit in the other section. However, this list is in no way exhaustive!

1. Elect or ask for a volunteer who would be the “Environmental Champion” for your church. They would be responsible for overseeing the suggestions in this booklet and monitoring how effective they have been. If your church is large, this job could be handled by an Environmental Committee.

2. Install bike racks. You may find everyone gets a little fitter!

3. Advertise the public transport routes to your church in a prominent place.

4. Advertise the public transport routes to your church in a prominent place.



5. Invite a speaker to talk about climate change, recycling, energy reduction or any connected topic to encourage enthusiasm for the changes and new ideas.

6. Hold a special service to pray for the environment.

7. Invite a group from your local school to do an environmental project with you.

8. Make it a church policy to only use washable crockery and cutlery.

9. Establish and maintain an environmental noticeboard.



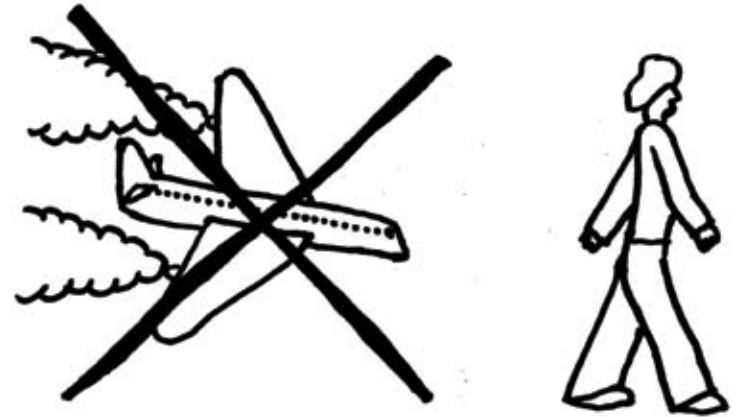
# Communication

Let people know what you're doing. Get them involved.

Here are four good reasons why you should talk to people about what you're planning to do, and tell as many people as possible about what the church is achieving:

1. People (including people who don't belong to the church) will think more highly of the church because it is doing something about an issue that's important to them.
2. People will want to help you. If they don't, tell them again what you're doing, gently but enthusiastically, about once a month, until they do.
3. When they do things at church, people may start to take a different attitude to their home life too.
4. It's the best way to make it part of the life of the church and community.

But the main reason is because you don't want to do all of this on your own, and hide your lamp under a bushel. What you've done, even if it's just changing the lightbulbs or buying recycled loo rolls, is important and people should know about it.



**SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT  
PLEASE DO NOT FLY  
WHEN YOU CAN WALK**

## Who you should talk to

**Everyone.**

But, more specifically:

### The congregation

**The Sunday School.** Organise a special Sunday School lesson on the environment. Ask the children to think of ways they might like to help.

**The youth group** (if you have one). Get the youth group involved in some of the more complicated tasks – they may appreciate being asked to help out.

### Volunteers and other hard working people

**People who make the tea and coffee.** Talk to them about kettles and boiling water; fairtrade tea and coffee; and ask them for their ideas.

**Whoever writes the church newsletter.** Put a series of articles in about what you're doing. Encourage different people to contribute their own ideas and stories.

**Churchwardens, vergers, helpers, elders, stewards or other important people.** They often know more about the building than anyone else.

**The flower arranging people** (if you have flowers).

**The cleaner** (if you have one). Talk to the cleaner about lighting and eco-cleaning products.

**The person who does all the odd jobs.** Talk to them about lights, taps and draughts.

**The people who lead services.** Ask them to bring up the environment in sermons or at church meetings.

**The people who say “hello”** at the door before the service.

**The Church council** or any other organising committees you may have.

IT IS THIS MAN'S JOB TO  
WASH OUT THE JARS AND  
CANS AT THE COUNCIL  
RECYCLING DEPOT



AND SO HIS BITTERNESS  
CONTINUES, DAY AND NIGHT

www.cartoonchurch.com

Even more people to talk to...

### **The local community**

The kids from **the local school**, and their teacher, when they come in to visit.

**The slimming club** who use the church hall on Wednesday evenings.

**The churches of other denominations** round the corner. Are they doing anything similar that you can look at? Have they had similar problems or triumphs?

Someone you know from **the local mosque/temple/synagogue** (if there is one). What are they doing about this?

Any **local businesses** you know and get on well with. How can they help?

**Your family, your friends, your colleagues** and everyone you care about....

### **Other important people**

**The local paper.**

**The local council** – try the environment department for advice, encouragement and information.

## What to tell them, and how

The main thing is to keep it simple and positive. You don't have to tell everyone at once, but make sure word gets around.

### Here are a few ways to spread the word about what you're doing:

- Drop it casually into the conversation with someone
- Put a notice in the church newsletter or on the website (if you have one)
- Announce (for example) your switch to “green electricity” during the notices in church
- Send out a press release to the local paper and follow it up with a quick call
- Phone up the local radio station and set up an interview
- Tell the most talkative person you know
- Put a poster up somewhere where people gather before or after services
- Hold a party to celebrate an achievement, and invite as many people as possible
- Help the Sunday School or youth workers to make up an activity that links into this, and tell them why it's happening
- Hold a service with appropriate readings and prayers
- Use prayers and sermon material about the environment during a normal service (see the Resources chapter for ideas)

## *Some Top Tips*

**Keep it personal** – this is about the local community as well as “the planet”.

**Help people to help** – make sure people know that they're making a difference.

**Appeal to emotions** – remember that people want to be inspired.

**Be careful with language** – avoid being overly negative, and help people to see that their actions are really important.

**Thank people** – even if they haven't done much to help.

**Use your imagination** – use images, not just facts and figures.

**Use reminders** – notices and hints help people to remember things if they're busy.

**Try before you buy** – let people try out new behaviours in a safe and supportive environment.

**Don't rely on money saving** – messages about money

aren't very inspiring on their own, unless you're an accountant.

**Don't preach too much** – even if preaching is your job!  
People get tired of being told they're not doing things right.

**Start small** – get your foot in the door with little changes, then follow up with bigger ones.

**Label people positively** – talk to them as if they already care about the environment, and they may believe you.

**Pick your moment** – find an opportunity when people are open to change.

**Make it a pleasure** – use your imagination to make sure the changes are fun, or reward people.



## *Resources*

### **(Nearly) all the information you'll ever need**

We hope this book will just be the start of a much longer journey. But don't worry – there are people out there just itching to give you more help and advice. Here's a selection of the best ones. (Please note that the inclusion of resources in this section does not amount to an endorsement)

Telephone Action line for Enquires: **Faiths and the Environment – an information service from the Conservation Foundation**. 020 7591 3118

The excellent **Rough Guide to Saving Energy** is available from [www.roughguides.com/savingenergy](http://www.roughguides.com/savingenergy) and is free to download. It has more details on most of the activities recommended in this book.

**The Carbon Trust** advises organisations on how to save money by reducing energy use, and offers free energy surveys. Find out more at [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk) or call 0800 085 2005.

**The Energy Saving Trust (EST)** has a wealth of advice on renewable energy grants, local advice, energy efficient products, lighting, loft and cavity wall insulation and building improvements. See [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk) for more or call 0845 727 7200.

**Energywatch** is an independent gas and electricity watchdog providing free and impartial advice. Among many services it can advise on the best electricity and gas providers for you and give advice on how to change suppliers. For more information call 08459 06 07 08 or [www.energywatch.org.uk](http://www.energywatch.org.uk).

**The National Energy Foundation** is an independent educational charity which disseminates information on the efficient and safe use of energy. There are good sections on renewable energy, energy efficiency and low energy lighting. Contact: [www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk), [info@nef.org.uk](mailto:info@nef.org.uk), or call 01908 665555

**Shrinking the Footprint** is the Church of England's national environmental campaign. Churches are committing to reducing their use of natural resources and cutting carbon dioxide emissions to 40% of current levels by 2050. Has yours joined in yet? [www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org)

**Creation Challenge** is the name of **The Methodist/URC Environmental Network**. This organisation reflects the belief that it is our duty to take on the challenge of caring for God's creation. On the website you can find many resources including the environmental policy statements for the Methodist Church and the URC, green news, detailed reports and you can subscribe to their newsletter. [www.methodist.org.uk/static/econetwork](http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/econetwork)

**Sharing God's Planet**: a Christian vision for a sustainable future (Church House Publishing). A report on the causes and consequences of human damage to the environment and suggestions of how humans can respond. It includes discussion points, practical advice and activities for churches.  
[www.chpublishing.co.uk](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk)

**The Conservation Foundation** promotes positive environmental news, action and awareness through helping different organisations to collaborate on environmental causes. This includes The Parish Pump Programme, an excellent and free publication, which brings news and information on sustainable living, provides funding for community projects and organises events.  
[www.conservationfoundation.co.uk](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk)

**Church Care** – Church of England advice source for all aspects of church maintenance including heating and lighting. It also gives specific advice on the role of DAC advisors.  
[www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk), [enquiries@ccc.c-of-england.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ccc.c-of-england.org.uk)  
Council for the care of churches,  
Cathedrals and Church buildings division,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London SW1P 3NZ 020 7898 1866

**Eco-congregation** is an ecumenical initiative offering prayers, learning materials, advice and much more. They also give awards to Churches and much more detailed information on how the church can consider the wider world in its mission, purchasing, use of land and buildings, and spiritual life.

See [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org), contact Jo Rathbone on 02476 853061 or email [ecocongregation@rase.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@rase.org.uk)

**Sources of general DIY advice** covering all aspects of buildings, heating, plumbing and lighting:

[www.diynot.com](http://www.diynot.com)

[www.diydata.com](http://www.diydata.com)

Also, chat to your local DIY shop who may be able to give good advice too.

## Water

In 2006, water companies in the South East of England joined together with the Environment Agency in the **Beat The Drought** campaign. At [www.beatthedrought.com](http://www.beatthedrought.com) you can find help and advice on current drought, any local water restrictions and advice on how you can help.

**Waterwise** is a UK body working to reduce waste water in the UK and to build water efficiency projects. They supply water saving tips and efficiency devices.

1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BT,  
020 7344 1838, [www.waterwise.org.uk](http://www.waterwise.org.uk)

## Recycling and Waste Advice

**[www.recycle-more.co.uk](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk)**

Gives advice on all aspects of recycling. It covers nearly every material that it is possible to recycle and will advise on local service providers.

Valpak Ltd, Stratford Business Park, Banbury Road,  
Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 7GW  
08450 682 572, [recycle-more@valpak.co.uk](mailto:recycle-more@valpak.co.uk)

**The Community Composting Network** runs a diverse range of projects that help communities to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and encourages both home and community composts.

For more information see [www.communitycompost.org](http://www.communitycompost.org)  
or contact 67 Alexandra Rd, Sheffield, S2 3EE,  
0114 258 0483, [info@communitycompost.org](mailto:info@communitycompost.org)

## Ethical purchasing advice

**[www.getethical.com](http://www.getethical.com)**: this website provides advice on the best ethical, Fair Trade and environmentally friendly products and services.

Unit 3n, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London. N1 3QP,  
[sales@getethical.com](mailto:sales@getethical.com)

**www.bigbarn.co.uk:** A UK food website which will help you to locate good, safe and accountable local sources.  
College Farm, Great Barford, Bedfordshire, MK44 3JJ, 01234 871005, info@bigbarn.co.uk

**www.greenchoices.org** provides detailed information on sustainable living covering many subjects including food, DIY and energy.

## Renewable Energy Advice

Both the Carbon Trust and The Energy Savings Trust offer good advice on renewable energy sources. In addition, the following may be helpful:

**The Centre for Sustainable Energy** engages with both individuals and communities seeking to source environmentally sound energy. They give advice on alternative sources of energy as well as energy savings advice. The CREATE Centre  
Smearton Road  
Bristol BS1 6XN  
0117 929 9950  
info@cse.org.uk  
www.cse.org.uk

**The Low Carbon Building Programme** run by the EST gives advice and grants towards installing a wide variety of

sustainable energy sources. For more information  
www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk  
08701 261 444, info@lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

## Green Electricity

Again, both the Carbon Trust and the EST provide information on green electricity but the following may also be of use:

**www.greenprices.com**

is a European website with the aim of stimulating more demand through giving information and news on the green electricity market.

**www.greenelectricity.org**

gives extensive information on green electricity and can help you to source suppliers in your local area.

**ww.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables**

is a government site with in depth information on energy including renewable sources.

## Community energy

In addition to EST, **the Centre for Sustainable Energy** (www.cse.org.uk) has a section on community action which is designed to encourage and support community energy projects.

## London Information

### [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

This is the official website for the mayor of London, the London Assembly and the Greater London Authority. Here you will find information on many aspects of London living including environmental matters. It also sets out The Mayor's Green Procurement Code. This is a commitment through which London businesses are encouraged to purchase goods made from recycled materials and is worked out through London Remade ([www.londonremade.com](http://www.londonremade.com)) which aims to stimulate the demand for recycled products and material by providing advice on green procurement issues and helping user to source suitable suppliers.

Contact 020 7061 6350, [info@londonremade.com](mailto:info@londonremade.com).

The website of **your local borough council** on environmental matters in your area. Use Directgov ([www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)) to find contact details.

**London Biodiversity Partnership** is a group of public, private and voluntary organisations committed to conserving and enhancing the capital's wildlife and natural places. This site includes advice on preserving and enhancing the habitats and local news.

[www.lbp.org.uk](http://www.lbp.org.uk)

**The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy** – Here you will find out what the Mayor is doing about biodiversity in the capital. There are policy statements, reports and reviews on the importance of

biodiversity and advice about how Londoners can get involved.  
[www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/biodiversity](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/biodiversity)

### [www.capitalwastefacts.com](http://www.capitalwastefacts.com)

Information and data about recycling and waste in London

**London Community Recycling network** ([www.lcrn.org.uk](http://www.lcrn.org.uk)) is a London not-for-profit organisation to support and promote community recycling in the capital.

The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London. N1 6HT,  
020 7324 4690, [info@lcrn.org.uk](mailto:info@lcrn.org.uk)

### [www.recycleforlondon.com](http://www.recycleforlondon.com)

Recycling information for the capital.

Contact: Great London Authority,  
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA  
0845 3313131, [contact@recycleforlondon.com](mailto:contact@recycleforlondon.com)

## Other Resources

### **The Climate Change Communication Initiative**

is a website providing information about climate change. It is led by Defra in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, the Carbon Trust, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Environment Agency, the UK climate Impacts Programme and the Department of Transport. An excellent source.

[www.climatechallenge.gov.uk](http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk)

**Friends of the Earth** – An environmental campaign group with excellent resources and information on many topics including biodiversity.

[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

**Fairtrade Foundation** – For information on Fairtrade providers and their suppliers and advice on how to get your church involved:

Room 204, 16 Baldwin's Garden

London EC1N 7RJ

020 7405 5942 (general), 020 7440 7676 (resources order line)

[mail@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:mail@fairtrade.org.uk), [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)** is a secular organization that works with eleven of the world's faiths to encourage people through development projects to follow more sustainable lifestyles. [www.arcworld.org](http://www.arcworld.org)

**A Rocha** is a Christian nature conservation organisation. It runs a number of projects focusing on scientific development, practical conservation and environmental education. They also produce annual resource and worship packs focusing on environmental issues and awareness for churches.

A Rocha UK,

13 Avenue Rd, Southall, Middx UB1 3BL

0208 574 5935

[uk@arocha.org](mailto:uk@arocha.org), [www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk)

**The Christian Ecology Link** is a multi-denominational UK Christian organisation for people concerned about the Environment. It works to bring a Christian perspective on environmental matters and publishes resources (Anglican and Roman Catholic), arranges events and provides updates on what other churches are doing.

3, Bond Street, Lancaster, LA1 3ER, UK.

01524 33858, [info@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:info@christian-ecology.org.uk)

[www.christian-ecology.org/uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org/uk)

**CAFOD – the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development**

Romero Close,

Stockwell Road,

London SW9 9TY

020 7733 7900

[cafod@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cafod@cafod.org.uk), [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**Christian Aid**

35 Lower Marsh

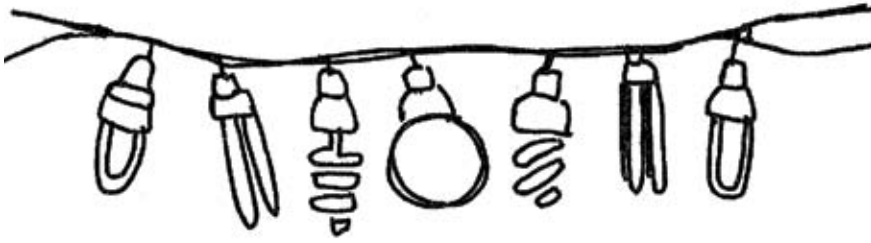
Waterloo

London SE1 7RL

020 7620 4444

[info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org)

[www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)



## *Further Reading*

*How many lightbulbs does it take to change a Christian?*

Church House Publishing, March 2007.

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The City Bridge Trust

# *About the City Bridge Trust*

## **Sponsors of this book**

The Trust's origins can be traced back to 1097 when William Rufus, second son of William the Conqueror, raised a special tax to help repair the wooden London Bridge.

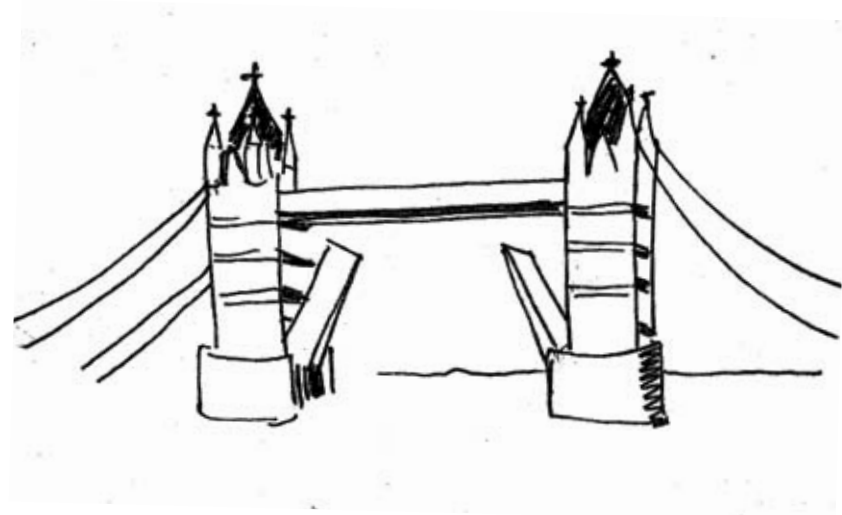
From early times the Church encouraged the building of bridges, an activity so important that it was perceived to be an act of piety, a commitment to God which should be supported by the giving of alms. For centuries London's citizens had made 'pious gifts of land and money' to 'God and the Bridge' and in 1176 Peter De Coleridge, a priest and head of the Fraternity of the Brethren of London Bridge, began building the first stone bridge across the River Thames.

Over the centuries London Bridge generated increasing income through taxes, rents, tolls and bequests and, as a result of strong and thrifty administration, a considerable fund was accumulated. In relatively recent years the charity has built Blackfriars and Tower Bridges, purchased Southwark Bridge and in 2002 took over the ownership of Millennium Bridge.

The maintenance of these bridges remains the prime objective of the charity but, since 1995, significant surplus funds have been available for charitable grants 'to work for change to benefit the people of London'.

The City of London Corporation is the sole trustee of The City Bridge Trust.

For further information about the Trust, visit their website:  
[www.citybridgetrust.org.uk](http://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk)



# *The London Church Leaders Group*

We are very grateful for the support and advice of the London Church Leaders from a variety of denominations and traditions during the development of this book:

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The Rt Revd David Hawkins

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres

The Rt Revd Peter Broadbent

The Rt Revd John Broadhurst

The Rt Revd Michael Colclough

The Rt Revd Stephen Oliver

The Rt Revd Peter Wheatley

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Nazir Ali

The Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines

The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

The Revd Joel Edwards

His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios

The Revd Ermal Kirby

The Revd Jenny Impey

The Revd Dr Stuart Jordan

The Rt Revd Thomas McMahon

Mgr John Armitage

The Most Revd Kevin McDonald

The Rt Revd Paul Hendricks

The Rt Revd Patrick Lynch

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor

The Rt Revd John Arnold

The Rt Revd Alan Hopes

The Rt Revd Bernard Longley

The Rt Revd George Stack

Major Ray Irving

The Revd Roberta Rominger

The Revd Nigel Uden

## *About the Authors*

Thanks for reading this book. We first decided to write it in 2005 because we share a personal interest in the links between the Church and a growing public concern for environmental issues. This is a personal attempt to help other like-minded people with some practical advice and some encouragement. Although we both happen to be from the Anglican tradition, we hope that our ideas will appeal to people from all Christian denominations. There are loads of people out there with a lot of enthusiasm and we want to give them a hand.

We also hope to work on producing more advice for people of other religions. We started with Christianity for no other reason than because we know most about it. If anyone can help, let us know.

**Gillian Straine** has a PhD. in Atmospheric Physics (Imperial College London) and has worked in several London churches conducting Environmental Audits. She is currently in training for the ordained ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford.

**Nathan Oxley** is a Partner at Futerra, a company dedicated to communicating social and environmental issues. He heads a team producing graphic design, websites and other communications materials for organisations from big businesses to small charities.  
[www.futerra.co.uk](http://www.futerra.co.uk)

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