



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

ASSESS

Be clear about what you want to do and how this will benefit you.

More importantly, think about how this will benefit others,

Think beyond churches as spaces for worship.

DEMONSTRATE

Get professional advice that you can share with others.

Show commitment through schemes such as A Rocha's EcoChurch Awards.

Communicate this commitment well in advance, through the church website and newsletters.

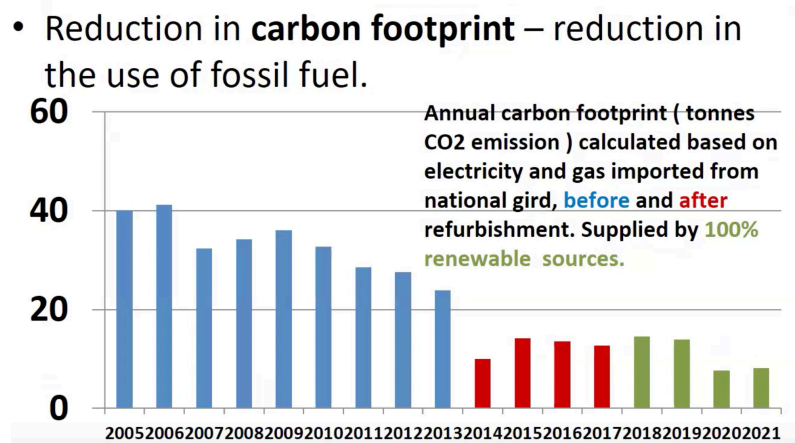
Creation Matters

Newsletter of the Southampton Eco District

At our most recent "Creation Mondays" webinar, Tim O'Brien (Yorkshire North & East) and Ho Lim (Stratford upon Avon) presented two aspects of 'Understanding Sustainable Buildings'. Tim outlined the approaches that should be adopted for a major project, and Lim described the results of a project that has been in preparation and implementation for about 10 years. You can view both their talks from the [Southampton District website](#).

Tim's & Lim's talks

Changes in the carbon footprint of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church from 2005



Active Hope

Amesbury Methodist Church

Congratulations to Amesbury Methodist Church in the Salisbury Circuit for receiving an Eco Church Bronze award on January 17, 2024. Revd Rosemary Fletcher was minister of Amesbury during the period leading up to the award. Her churches had been involved in Eco Congregation and Eco Church through her ministry, and she wrote this about the steps taken at Amesbury last year.

Jim Gillings (the Circuit Eco Champion) met with a small group of us last August 2023 (it was open to all but only 3 plus me came) and I was not expecting it to go as positively as it did. Jim explained to the others (very very sadly the most committed of the group and who was going to continue the link I made with Medic to Medic died suddenly just after I left AMC).

Anyhow all the small group were on board, and we agreed to take it to the autumn Church Council and in the meantime work on the congregation e.g. articles in the monthly newsletter. I had already booked an A Rocha speaker for the first Sunday in September for the Season of Creation and my Harvest themes linked in with eco themes and Fair Trade .

And alongside that Jim and Gillings Anna Bishop and I were wanting to organise an Eco Fair – in the end it ended up being billed in Amesbury as a community event and in other churches across the Circuit as a Circuit Event.

So, by the time the Church Council happened on 8th November 2023, and I introduced officially both Eco Church and renewing our Fair Trade commitment. They had joined in 2005 but done nothing for years.

We believe that care for God's creation and urgent action to tackle climate change form part of our Christian calling and responsibility.

We actually got GOLD in the worship and teaching columns, but we have a lot of work to do to get the silver award for the building. We have appointed an Eco Champion George Watt (one of the stewards) who will liaise with the Circuit Eco Champion and with A Rocha. I have passed on the Amesbury Methodist Church batten to the Reverend Steve Hawkes, and I wish them all well on their continuing eco journey.



[Amesbury's latest newsletter](#)

Eco tips and recycling

Amesbury Methodist Church have regularly provided tips and recycling opportunities to their communities. Here are two examples:

Mobile Phones If anyone has an old mobile phone lying around, please do give it to Rosemary, to pass on to Salisbury Methodist Church. for the Christian Aid appeal.

Recycling of Pens

We are in the process of making a link with Medic to Medic and have started by collecting old pens – all sorts of pens but not pencils .

Eco Fair at Amesbury Methodist Church

An account of the Eco fair is available in the November 2023 edition of the church newsletter:

This Eco Fair was held on September 30 last year within the Season of Creation. It was organised by the minister Revd Rosemary Fletcher, Revd Anna Bishop, her daughter Grace and Jim Gillings, the Eco Champion of the Salisbury District. The Mayor of Amesbury opened the event.



The **Salisbury Circuit** 

Season of Creation

Eco Fair

Saturday September 30th 2023
from 10am to 3pm
at Amesbury Methodist Church, SP4 7ET
(ample car parking at the rear)

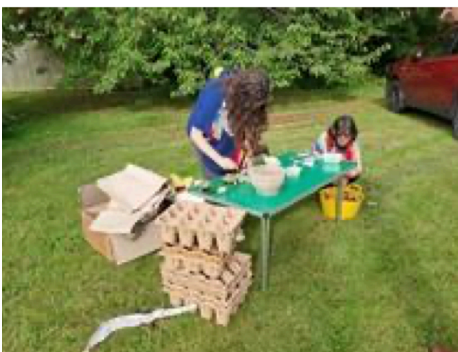
The event will be opened by Councillor Monica Devendran,
the Mayor of Amesbury

Information Stands **Stalls** **Recycle**
your used
Printer Cartridges,
Mobiles, Stamps
and Greetings
cards*

Refreshments will be served

* Old mobile phones and printer cartridges. Postage Stamps – used and any from your collections. Greetings Cards (not Christmas Cards) for recycling into future cards.

Further details from salisburymethodistcircuit12@gmail.com



Hilary and I were impressed by the range of stalls and the understanding and enthusiasm of those tending them. These proved to be fund raising for contributing charities and for the church. In addition, the garden provided a suitable opportunity to be schooled in making eco friendly bug and bird feeders, and we could put these to good use once we returned home.

What's going on?

Creation Mondays

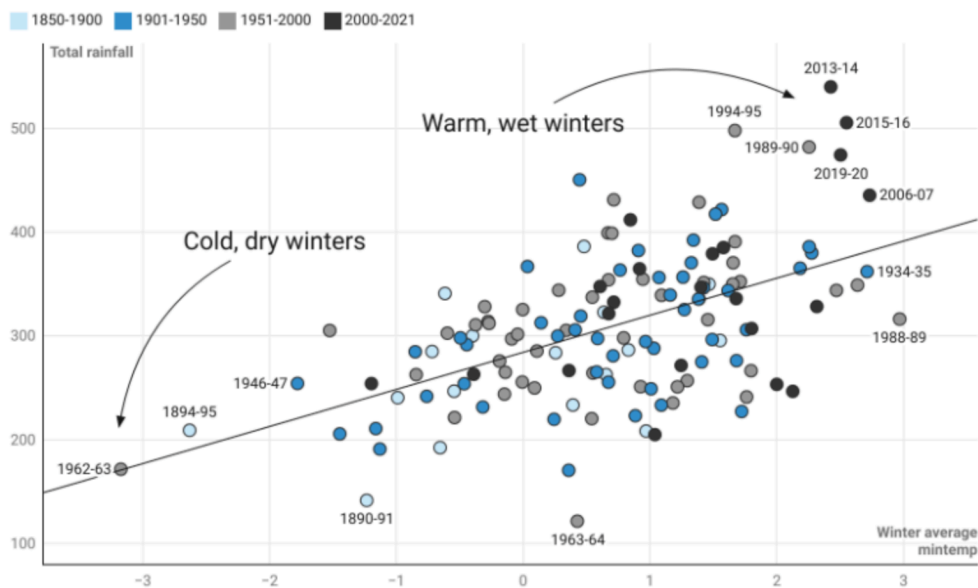
Creation Mondays webinars

Creation Monday webinars are scheduled on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. The program is available on Eventbrite. Please book in advance to receive details of the appropriate link on Zoom. There is plenty of time for small group discussions following the main address

The next webinar is to be given on Monday, March 11 by Jo Crocker, who is executive director of Winchester Action of the Climate Crisis. Her topic is “**So what should we do about climate change?**”.

How are things going?

Average temperature (C) and total rainfall (mm) during UK winters



Source: UK Met Office

CarbonBrief
CLEAR ON CLIMATE

Carbon Brief report

16 February 2024

Creation Matters is the
newsletter of the Southampton
Eco District group:

**To order your own copy and to
provide news items contact**

ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk

If you think that our winters (December-February) are getting warmer and wetter on average, then you would be right. Indeed the 30 year average winter temperature has increased by 1.16° since the end of the 19th century. And the average winter rainfall in the UK has increased by nearly 100 mm since the early 19th century, that is 36%. Half of that change has been in the past 40 years. There is every likelihood that this will continue and our local and national plans should take this into account.

John Evans, Eco District champion