



# Creation Matters

## Newsletter of the Southampton Eco District

Headline photo: Predictions of annual flood level in 2050.

[coastal.climatecentral.org](https://coastal.climatecentral.org)

What is an [Eco District](#)?

Newsletter of the Southampton [Eco District](#) group:

<https://www.sdmc.org.uk/resources/eco-church>

Order your copy on: [ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk](mailto:ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk)

At the November Creation Monday webinar Ian Souter, Eco champion of the Bristol District, provided us with a thoughtful account of how they became the first District with an A Rocha Bronze Award. A recording of his presentation is now available on our District's [YouTube](#) channel.

Here is Ian's overview of the role of an Eco District:

**The District can act in.....**

- **Engraining in District life**
- **Encouraging Change**
- **Equipping and Education**
- **Exchanging Experience**
- **Enforming**
- **Engagement**
- **Ecumenism**
- **Economics**
- **Connexional Link**

Crucial for all of this is that the District supports and enables churches and circuits in their journey on creation care.

# Active Hope

## Meon Valley Repair Café

The Meon Valley Repair Café based at Waltham Chase Methodist Church continues to be a great success. We were originally funded by a small grant from Hampshire County Council (HCC) in its efforts to reduce the amount of stuff put into landfill.



Flick Drummond MP cuts the Grand Opening cake

People have realised the potential of recycling their portable items and reusing them instead of throwing them away. Now demand is in danger of exceeding the “supply” of volunteers, their time and even their premises. On the first Saturday morning of each month the church is buzzing with “customers” queuing at the door to get their items repaired. From vacuum cleaners to clocks, from mowers to watches we try to repair all of them. Sometimes things are not repairable so we have to say this. We only charge for any items we have to purchase as spares, but appreciative customers are always willing to leave us a small donation, and it is so satisfying to be able to hand back a repaired item to its owner.

For advice about engaging with your local authorities, view this [video](#):



As well as repairing items we have bacon butties, coffee and tea and of course – cake. There’s a little area where people can sit and chat, even read the newspapers, all to help the wellbeing in our community, which is part of our commitment to HCC and of course to our faith.

If you are considering starting up a Repair Café come along and see what we have achieved in our community.

**Martin Letts**

Meon Valley Repair Café member



A Rocha Greener  
Christmas:

[https://arocha.org.uk/  
our-twelve-tips-for-a-  
greener-christmas/](https://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas/)

A Rocha supports the  
[Nature 2030 campaign](#)



## Active Hope

### A Greener Christmas

The A Rocha website has twelve ECO tips for a greener Christmas. Here are just four of them.

- 1) Start with your advent calendar. Support overseas farmers by ensuring that your advent calendar, and any Christmas chocolate, is Fairtrade. You'll be helping those farmers to make a decent living, and encouraging them to farm in a more ecologically sustainable way with every bite.



- 2) Create homemade gifts. Baked goods for example, or buy gifts from a charity shop – you'll be amazed at what can be found. You could buy an attractive glass or vase and fill it with chocolates or flowers. Kilner jars, and other glass jars, filled with small items also make attractive gifts.
- 3) Give the gift of time. Too many unwanted gifts end up in landfill. Here's an idea. What about a gift of cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, house cleaning... or whatever. Just make a 'gift of time gift voucher' and put it in a card for them.
- 4) Re-use cards and wrapping. Help reduce the huge amount of trees that go into making Christmas tags by re-using old Christmas cards. Recycle the section that carries the greeting, cut out the picture and use that as a tag. Recycled brown paper has a much lower ecological footprint than Christmas wrapping paper.

**Alison Judd**, Hedge End Methodist Church

# What's going on?

## Creation Mondays

[Creation Mondays webinars](#)

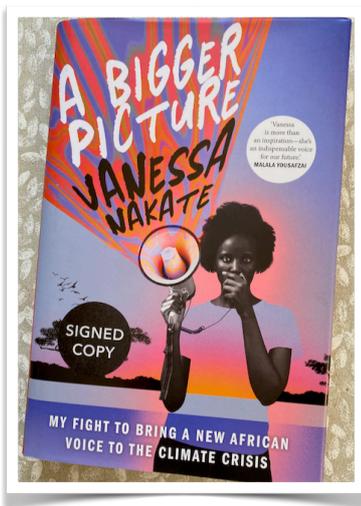
Creation Monday webinars are scheduled on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. The program is available on Eventbrite. Please book in advance to receive details of the appropriate link on Zoom. There is plenty of time for small discussions following the main address

[Climate Stewards](#)

The next webinar is to be given on Monday, December 11 by Adrian Frost of Climate Stewards on Carbon Calculators. If you want to learn how to estimate the carbon footprint of your church, and of yourselves, then this is a great opportunity for you. After all, Adrian designed these tools to help churches.

[360oCarbon](#)

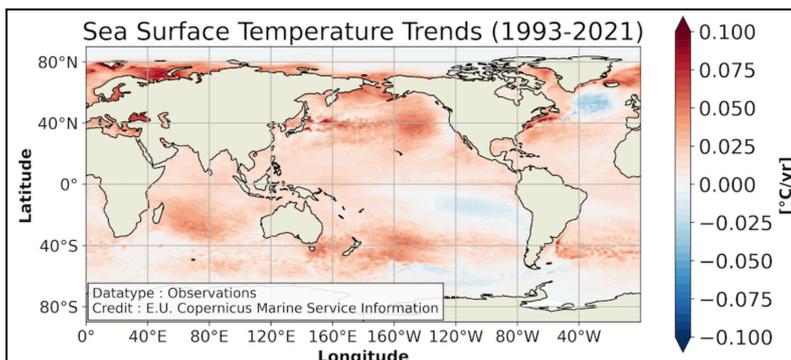
## What has been achieved at COP28?



COP28 is just starting, and we all await the discussions, and, more especially, the decisions coming from this vital meeting. It is good to see that a fund for Loss and Damage was established on November 30. The fascinating book of Vanessa Nakate explains some of the efforts of people of the Global South in bringing this about. For the damage done to them this must be a very large fund!



Reports in the normal media can be perfunctory and we may be sceptical about the background of the authors. What might be their 'spin'? Over the past COPs, Carbon Brief have been diligent in tracking the decisions being taken, as they are being forged. This [Climate Brief](#) website is supported by the European Climate Foundation and provides authoritative and independent assessments presented in a clear way. You can sign up for their daily brief or delve into their in-depth analysis for your topic of interest . Here is a very recent example showing the trends



in sea surface temperatures since 1993. In addition to the general warming, there are particular hot spots around Scandinavia, North America, and the Black Sea which will have strong regional consequences.

**John Evans,**  
Eco District champion