



Creation Matters



Jim Gillings

Salisbury Methodist Church

Venturing beyond Bronze with Eco Church was the topic of the January edition of the Creation Mondays series. The speakers were from two such churches.

Jim Gillings has led the charge at **Salisbury Methodist Church** in Wiltshire taking them to Bronze and then Silver awards since the Covid interruption in many church activities. He has also supported other churches in the Salisbury Circuit, three of which have received Bronze awards in the last two years.



Rose Gosling

Summerbridge Methodist Church

Rose Gosling's church, **Summerbridge Methodist Church** in North Yorkshire, has just the one Eco Church award, but that was a Gold in 2020, only the third Methodist church to receive that award. Since then she has been an important member of the Eco Church assessment team for Gold awards. The change in Eco Church surveys has resulted in a Gold Rush of applications, so she is busy! Her experience has included gems, such as the imaginative 'tweak' at Settle Methodist Church shown above.

[Creation Monday
videos](#)

[New Ecochurch survey](#)



Commitment:

Our church recognises the significant contribution churches can make to make the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030..

[A Rocha's Target 25](#)

Venturing beyond Bronze

The new Eco Church survey is now the only one accepted for submissions. Jim Gillings provided his observations on the effect of the changes in the survey on how a church might attain an award level. Whilst he could pretty much manage an application for a Bronze award based on his own knowledge of how Salisbury Methodist Church worked, the level of evidence now required is more detailed and so he would have had to involve more people in the church to provide that evidence.

This indicates that a spread of people in a church will have to be involved with the Eco Church mission. A core team is important for a church rather than leaving it to a solitary champion. The long term effect is likely to be that creation care becomes more deeply embedded into the life of a church.

Jim also highlighted the increased emphasis on care for nature. Salisbury church is blest with an attractive garden, and one of the key aspects has been the availability of such a location as a reflective space which may be visited reasonably freely. There were aspects of nature care in the survey, but the question shown here is more forceful about the church's commitment to the contribution that collectively we can make to the protection of nature. This commitment is described in more detail in our Edition 8.

Land and nature



Q2/16 Our church recognises the significant contribution churches can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. We have established a plan to manage our land for nature to help us do this in the most impactful way.

Answer options:

Yes

Partly

No

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A Rocha UK have provided much resource material both in the survey topic of Land and Nature, and also in the associated programme of Target 25. Target 25 invites churches to concentrate on one of the UK's habitats, species or types of fauna - perhaps that might be T9 butterflies, T10 bees or T16 house martins in a city garden?

Repair, reuse, recycle



Rose brought us some inspirational examples for other churches to ponder. These included Silsden Methodist Church in West Yorkshire who host a Repair Cafe and Refilling Station.

Rose's own church, Summerbridge, run a neat and well organised recycling scheme which affords opportunities for members of their community to recycle waste streams which are not covered by their local authority either at the door step or at recycling centres.



This is a partnership with TerraCycle in which the streams are recycled permanently.

SUMMERBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH WE RECYCLE THE FOLLOWING:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Babybel packaging | Coins and notes - old or foreign | Personal care/beauty packaging |
| Batteries | Contact lens wrap (Disposables) | Pringles/gravy tubes |
| Biscuit, Cake and Cracker wrap | Crisps/snack packaging | Print Cartridges |
| Black plastic trays etc | Ferrero Rocher plastics/foil | Razors - non electric |
| Bread, bagel, crumpet wrap | Light Bulbs | Soft plastics - veg wrap, clingfilm |
| Cheese wrappers | Make up | Stamps/postcards |
| Clothing for refugees/by weight | Mobile phones | Toothbrushes |
| Coffee Bags | Pens and felt tips | Toothpaste tubes |

Please make sure everything is clean.
For info email summerbridgechurch@gmail.com

RECYCLING CENTRE OPEN WEDNESDAYS 9-12



How are we doing?

We've reached 50 and batting on!

It is great that 50 of our churches are now registered for Eco Church. The increase since the start of 2024 is thanks to commitment of **Binsted, Dorchester, Bemerton, Bourne Valley, Woolston, Emsworth, and Fareham** churches. The number of churches with awards is now 28 of which 9 are Silver or above. In the last year, **Amesbury, Bemerton, Milford on Sea, Broadmayne and Dorchester** have earned Bronze awards and **Bedhampton, Broadstone, Woolston, and Tilehurst** have all attained a Silver award. Congratulations to all who have worked so faithfully to take those steps.

Please do use the videos available from our [District website](#) for information and inspiration for your next steps. If you considering embarking on Eco Church, there is an introductory video on the Connexional YouTube channel ([The Methodist Church](#)).

We're delighted to congratulate **Salisbury Circuit** for the award of Bronze Eco Circuit made at the end of 2024. There are very few circuits that have achieved this accolade!

The steps for the Bronze Eco District award take us close to being eligible for receipt of an Action for Hope grant. Our Treasurer has been monitoring travel records for District business to allow a policy to be monitored, and this should complete the criteria.

It is likely that the criteria for a Silver Eco District award will be launched this spring. We can expect that the threshold percentages for Eco Church stages will be 40, 30 and 10% for church registrations, awards and silver/gold, respectively. Currently we stand at ~33, ~19 and ~6% for these three levels. Perhaps in 2026?

What can Eco District do to help you?

We would love to have your views on how the Eco District group can assist you in your humble walk of discipleship "to the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." Your own stories with a picture or two can be a unique testimony worth sharing across the Southampton District and beyond.

Eco Circuit

Bronze Award

This is to certify that

Salisbury

has achieved a Bronze Eco Circuit Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in their work across the Circuit. Find out more at ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/eco-circuit

Signed *Andy Atkin* Date 13/12/2024
CEO, A Rocha UK

Creation Matters is the
newsletter of the
Southampton

Eco District group:

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found from the Ministries
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