

Speaker script

Overview of Eco Church and A Rocha UK

Tips for presenters

- **Practice:** Have a go at talking through your presentation with the slides. Be aware of the time and adjust your presentation accordingly.
- **Less is more:** Don't overwhelm your audience with information, but choose relevant slides and key messages.
- **Tailor your presentation:** Adjust your presentation for your audience. Share stories and examples to bring it alive. Instructions and suggestions for the script are made in blue text.

This presentation is approx 30 mins. (4,000 words)

**For support downloading/saving this document so you can edit it and add your own notes, please find instructions on the final page (11).*

Slide 1 - Welcome

Introduce yourself, your role and how you are connected with A Rocha UK or Eco Church.



Slide 2 - Outline

Share the outline of your presentation, and let the audience know if you have a break, time for questions, workshop section etc. For example, you may add more information about the climate and nature crises, statistics about the environmental impact of biodiversity loss, global climate change, local issues etc. There are some additional notes at the end of this document to help you.

outline

- A Rocha UK
- Overview of survey
- Practicalities
- Resources
- Inspiration

Amend as required



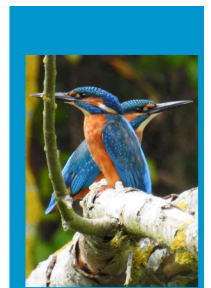
Slide 3 - Hope for the future

The mission of A Rocha UK is 'Caring for the earth and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world.'

'A Rocha' is Portuguese for 'The Rock', reflecting the origins of the international A Rocha family in a field study centre located on the Alvor estuary in Portugal, back in 1982.

Hope for the future

Caring for the earth and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world



Slide 4 - A Rocha UK

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people. They inspire and equip individuals and families, churches and church leaders, build partnerships and manage land for nature and people.

A Rocha UK is part of the worldwide family of A Rocha organisations committed to conservation action as an expression of the Christian mission. These are the elements of A Rocha UK:

Our Partners In Action network supports Christian land owners and managers to work together in practical ways to improve the biodiversity of their land, address climate change, and share their learning through environmental education programs.

Our Wild Christian programme is a community of individuals and households enjoying and learning about nature together, taking practical action in homes and communities, and joining our voices for national impact.

Our Eco Church programme is a learning community of churches across England and Wales open to all denominations with resources and awards for progress.

To share more about these projects visit the relevant pages on our website: [Wolf Fields](#), [Foxearth](#), [Partner in Action](#).



Slide 5 - Transition slide



Slide 6 - Eco Church

Eco Church was launched by A Rocha UK in 2016 and provides a practical framework for churches across England and Wales of all denominations to engage practically in caring for the earth and for this to be embedded into every aspect of church life. It's an award scheme which is free to join.

There are now 8,800 registered churches and over 4,500 awarded churches, including 112 golds (October 2025). [Check for the most up-to-date numbers with your denomination lead](#).

Eco Church has become a community of learning and engagement and is part of a bigger movement of the Church taking creation care seriously and beginning to integrate it as a core part of its mission.

Our goal is to see 20,000 churches engaged with Eco Church by 2030.



Slide 7 The survey ethos and emphasis

The Eco Church awards are not an end in themselves. While it's great to achieve an award and they are an important marker of progress and a cause for celebration, participating in Eco Church is about more than gaining an award.

The survey is designed to reflect;

- **An increasingly diverse church base:** Churches participating in Eco Church come from a broad variety of traditions. We have cathedrals, Quaker meeting houses, and expressions of church that meet mainly outdoors, or online all of which bring enormous breadth and richness. The survey is designed to be utilised by churches from all backgrounds.
- **A recognition of the twin crises** of climate change and the loss of nature throughout the survey. There is an appreciation that there is a fundamental issue of injustice being experienced as a consequence of climate change. There is recognition of us as created beings, part of God's great cosmos of creation sharing a common home.
- **Urgency:** There is a depth to the survey. We need to ensure we're taking the most impactful actions, so the Eco Church survey goes into detail about practice, aligning closely with denominational ambitions to reduce carbon, and being forward-thinking in protecting nature and anticipating a shift toward climate resilience.

When completing the survey;

- **We encourage ownership of your Eco Church survey.** Eco Church is designed to be owned and interpreted for its local context with integrity, and aligned with the overall spirit of the questions.
- **We encourage a church to make a commitment.** There is a question at the start of each category asking the church whether they have made a commitment in this area. These are not compulsory questions and we've not been prescriptive about what this commitment looks like but answering positively will get churches off to a good start in terms of laying the foundations.
- **Make use of additional comments:** At the end of each category, there is space to add additional comments. This is helpful to explain where you have interpreted a question in a particular way. These responses are useful when the survey is being reviewed as well as being a helpful record when you come to complete the next level of survey.

Let's now explore the five categories of the Eco Church survey. The questions in each category are grouped into themes to help you navigate through the section by grouping similar questions together.

The next set of slides explore the survey **categories**. Expand or condense the following slides depending on your audience and event. You may like to explore some of the questions or provide an example from a church you know. Refer to the [category overviews](#) for more details and an explanation of the themes.

The Survey

Ethos and emphasis:

- Diverse church base
- Recognition of twin crises
- Urgency
- Ownership
- Commitment
- Additional comments

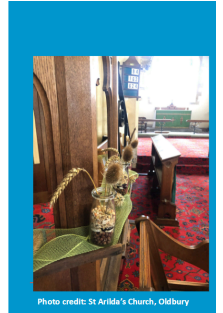


Photo credit: St Arilda's Church, Oldbury

Slide 8 - Worship and Teaching

Worship and Teaching

Commitment

Theme 1: Worship & Prayer

Embedding creation care in worship, prayer and learning

Collective worship is an integral aspect of most churches. Many of the questions in this survey category relate to aspects of collective worship including special services, music, preaching and prayer. The format for teaching within our churches can take many forms, such as preaching during collective worship, small groups, preparation courses, and working with children and young people.

Commitment

Each category begins with a question about commitment. For example, in this category, the statement says:

Our church recognises and teaches that creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to Christian faith, life and worship and has made a visible commitment to A Rocha UK's Eco Church award scheme.

These are not compulsory questions and we've not been prescriptive about what this commitment looks like but answering positively will get churches off to a good start in terms of laying the foundations.

Each category encompasses different themes. The Worship and Prayer category includes three themes; Worship and Prayer, People and Teaching and Discipleship. If you wish to provide more information about the themes of this category, please refer to the [Overview of Worship and Teaching](#).

Slide 9 - Buildings and Energy

Finding energy-efficient and innovative ways to manage our places of worship

This category draws on practical steps that help a church work toward 'net zero carbon'. Many of the questions in this category point toward good building maintenance for the long term, as our buildings endure a changing climate, with more extremes, and as we seek to maintain them as welcoming spaces, glorifying God.

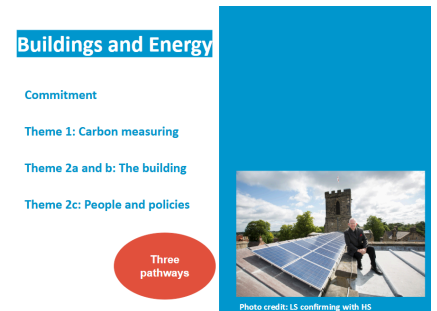
There are 3 pathways through the 'Buildings and Energy' category. Choose the pathway that, on balance, best suits your setting. When considering the pathway to choose, remember to include all the buildings you own, manage, or use. If you have more than one building, then you will be able to reflect your overall situation as 'a blend'. There are three pathways through this survey:

Pathway 1 - Cathedrals and churches that are used regularly (at least weekly) and have energy and water supplies.

Pathway 2 - Small, intermittently used churches, including those without energy or water supplies.

Pathway 3 - Churches without their own building (e.g. those that meet in rented space or outdoors).

If you wish to provide more information about the theme of this category, please refer to the [Overview of Buildings and Energy](#).



Slide 10 - Land and Nature

Nurturing spaces for people and nature

The purpose of this category is to guide you through practical actions to care for God's earth. Be it land owned by the church, even if only around the church building itself, or land in the local community, churches need to manage land for nature.

There are two pathways through this survey category:

Pathway 1: for churches which own or manage land such as a garden, churchyard or burial ground

Pathway 2: for churches with very *limited* land such as a paved car park, a perimeter or other hard-standing areas and for churches that do not own or manage *any* land. This pathway asks you to consider your own small amount of land, if you have any, **and** also how you can have an influence on land managed by others.

Choose the pathway that best suits your setting. For most churches, this will be straightforward. In a few cases, it might be worth exploring both pathways before settling on which one is the best to complete for your situation.

If you wish to provide more information about the theme of this category, please refer to the [Overview of Land and Nature](#).

Land and Nature

Commitment

Theme 1: Biodiversity

Theme 2: Monitoring and citizen science

Theme 3: People

Two pathways



Slide 11 - Community and Global Engagement

Transforming local and global communities and ecosystems

This survey category is about what your church is doing collectively as a body in terms of advocacy and action. Wherever you are on your journey with social and political engagement, this survey category is an invitation to the next step, whether that looks like starting a conversation in your church, joining local events engaging in social and environmental justice, or joining a campaign for nature.

If you wish to provide more information about the theme of this category, please refer to the [Overview of Community and Global Engagement](#).

Community and global

Commitment*

Theme 1: Awareness raising

Theme 2: Taking action

Theme 3: Communication



Slide 12- Lifestyle

Living joyfully and sustainably as followers of Christ

This category is about our churches encouraging people to act as individuals and households - integrating creation care into daily lives out of integrity, as an act of worship and obedience to God and as we grow in discipleship. Within this category, we encourage the church to play a role in educating and influencing individual church members, and wider communities, about the actions they can take and the influence they have.

If you wish to provide more information about the theme of this category, please refer to the [Overview of Lifestyle](#).

Lifestyle

Commitment*

Theme 1: Influence

Theme 2: Carbon footprint

Theme 3: Personal choices



Slide 13 Transition slide

Practicalities

Slide 14 Working toward an award

Let's explore the process of completing a survey and applying for an award.

This is an outline of the steps involved:

- **Register** at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
- **Start a survey**, update any time, see how you score and if you reach an award level.
- **Complete your survey**
- **Apply** for your award online
- **Celebrate** your award

Here is a useful terminology

- Five survey **categories**
- **Overviews** are provided for each of the categories
- **Pathway** options (in two of the categories: Buildings and Energy, Land and Nature)
- **Themes** within each category to structure the questions



Slide 15 Platform 1

This is a screen shot of the login/registration page.

All award applications must be submitted via the online platform (we can't accept paper copies of surveys in the post as award applications).

If you are new to Eco Church, you will need to **register your personal account first**, then **register your church** if it is hasn't been registered before by anyone else (make sure to check this!), or **join the existing church team** if it already has been.

Then, when you log in to your account - the name of your church will appear on the dashboard under the 'your church' section and you will be able to start a new survey under the 'manage surveys' section or see any that have already begun.

You can access the survey at any time, and make updates. You can have more than one user connected with a church, so that you can all access the church survey you are working on.

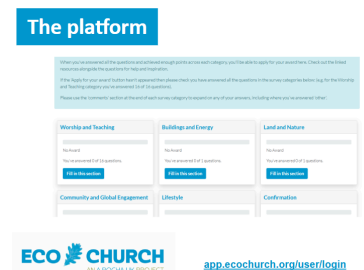


Slide 16 Platform 2

Once you've started a new survey you'll see a blank survey before you, like this.

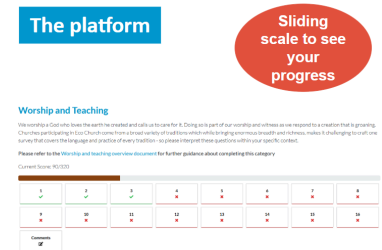
Open each category and work your way through the questions.

There are links to the relevant resource documents underneath each question.



Slide 17 - Platform 3

A reminder too that one of the benefits of churches engaging with the survey on the platform is that you can see a sliding scale of your progress, so as you respond to each question, it helps you to know how you are doing on your progress towards an award level. You can see in this screenshot that this church has reached a bronze level in the Worship and Teaching category. The line will change colour as your points accumulate to reflect the level of award you have achieved in that category.



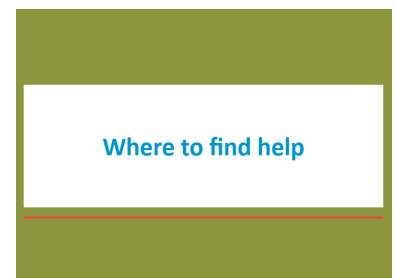
Please note, the **survey is the same for all three award levels** - it is your responses that will indicate which award level you achieve and can therefore apply for.

For example, if all the categories have turned bronze, you have reached the standard to qualify for a Bronze Award; if they all turn silver you have reached the standard to qualify for a Silver Award, and so on. However, if just some of your categories turn silver while the others turn bronze, for example, you have achieved a Bronze Award (rather than a Silver Award) because that is the level you have achieved in all the relevant areas.

Slide 18 Help transition slide

So moving on to support and help available.

We have assistance on the platform itself, and the Eco Church website.



Slide 19 - Help guide on platform

For support navigating the Eco Church platform, and some of the more technical aspects of registering an account, joining a church, submitting a survey, finding the status of an award application and so on, see the help guide which lives on the Eco Church platform. You can see a screenshot of this here, and you just click on the relevant wording for the area you need help with, and you will find step-by-step instructions and screenshots to guide you through.



Slide 20 - Help page on website

For more general enquiries about Eco Church and the programme, there is a more general help page on our website. It covers broader questions like how do I get in touch, how do I order some leaflets for example, and signposts to other pages on the website where people can find the information they need, like what is required for a gold award.



Slide 21 - Resources transition slide

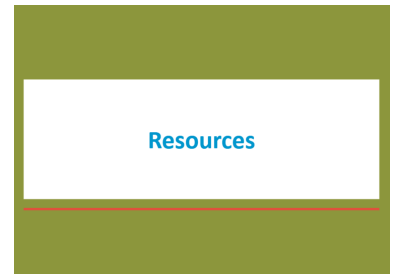
Next, I will highlight where you can access resources.

Slide 22 - Where to find resources

All these resources are on the Eco Church website, the menu bar can take you to the relevant pages.

From any page on the Eco Church website, you can hop over to the **platform** (where you will find your survey, and the help guide) - use the green button on the top right 'register/login'.

I'm going to briefly explain what you find on each of these pages.



Slide 23 Resources page

On the resources page, you can click through to each of the survey categories for **individual resource sheets** covering lots of the questions.

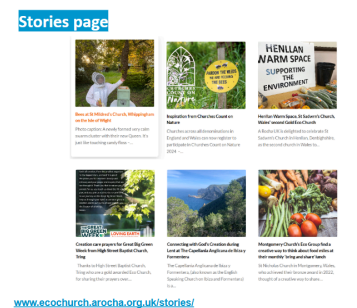
Also on this page, you can access:

- promotional material (downloadable leaflets and posters, you can also order leaflets directly from our office via this page)
- kids and youth resources - great lesson plans and detailed resources for children and young people 4yrs to 18yrs
- Plus, many of the resources available in the Welsh language



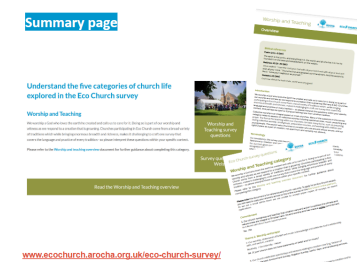
Slide 24 Stories page

Our stories pages are really worth a browse to be inspired by what's happening elsewhere. We love to add to these, so there is also a link to our 'Share your story' form to send us something that you think others will benefit from hearing about.



Slide 25 Summary page

On this page, you can view the new overview documents for each category, helping you to situate and understand the five categories of church life that the survey explores. You can also view the survey questions here in both English and Welsh, linked under each section as PDFs.



Slide 26 Getting started

Adapt this slide according to your message, use this [Getting Started](#) resource for reference.

Slide 27 Going for gold

Reaching the point of applying for a gold award is a massive achievement for any church. We just want to mention that applying for a gold award involves some extra steps beyond the Eco Church survey - it includes an in-person visit (as pictured here).

The details about applying for gold, including the pro forma we need completed, are on the website, on our 'Awards' page.

Slide 28

Add some local stories and inspiration.

Perhaps share local statistics (how many Eco Churches, how many silver/gold etc.) or screen shot the Eco Church [map of your area](#).

Slide 29

Remember to summarise your key messages or call to action as you conclude.

Slide 30

A Rocha UK provides Eco Church completely free of charge to churches in England and Wales, however they do ask awarded churches to consider an annual gift so that they are able to continue running Eco Church. Many churches also make A Rocha UK a mission partner.

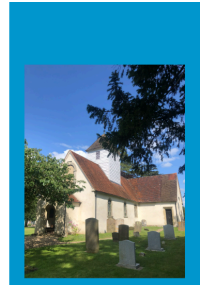
Please sign-up on A Rocha UK's website to keep in touch and do consider if A Rocha UK could be a mission partner.

Slide 31

Thank you for listening! Stay in touch and keep up to date with the work of A Rocha UK via the websites and social media pages linked.

Getting started

- Create spaces to grow
- Gather a team
- Take ownership
- Make a commitment
- Take the plunge!
- Prompts for action
- Make connections
- Collaborate
- Make use of other resources and tools
- Celebrate



Going for gold

Additional steps:

- Pro forma
- Additional evidence
- An in-person visit

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/

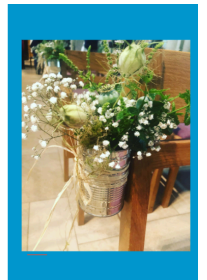


Add some local stories and inspiration

Perhaps share local statistics (how many Eco Churches, how many silver/gold etc.) or screen shot the Eco Church [map of your area](#).

Key messages

Add your final message/call to action
Contact details/weblinks



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

arocha.org.uk
ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



@arocha-uk



@arocha_uk



@Arochaorguk



@ARochaUK



Additional messages/information

Depending on your audience and the event you are presenting at, it might be appropriate to add (or remove) slides to this presentation. Here are a few more suggestions for points to consider, and you might want to create additional slides.

Climate crisis

The latest [State of Nature report from 2023](#) lays bare the stark fact that nature is still seriously declining across the UK, a country that is already one of the most nature-depleted in the world. It was the collaboration of 60 charities, including A Rocha UK. **While the UK has a long tradition of nature conservation, it is one of the most nature-poor countries in Europe.**

- The report shows we are approaching one in six UK wildlife species at risk of extinction.
- The report finds that 43% of UK birds are under threat.
- Only a fifth of farmland is farmed in a nature-friendly way.
- The data show that since 1970 UK species have declined by about 19% on average, and nearly 1 in 6 species (16%) are now threatened with extinction

In the face of accelerating climate change and species loss, we need more than ever to take action to protect and care for nature today. These are the statistics for the UK, when we look around the globe the data is equally frightening. It's not only the mammals and animal species that we are losing, it is habitats and entire ecosystems.

One of the ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change are coral reefs, which are also the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth, sustaining the livelihoods of 1 billion people. Up to 99% of coral reefs may disappear if global temperature rise is not kept below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

In other words, biodiversity is the rich tapestry of God's creation. From the minutia of microscopic organisms within the soil to giant coral reefs and all the species within.

The damage to biodiversity is in part due to climate change, but also at risk because of the way we are living. A narrow focus on materialistic values and profit rather than valuing humanity and the natural world.

The human population, reached 8 billion in 2022, from around 2.5 billion in 1960. The most common bird on the planet is the domestic chicken. Farm animals far outnumber wild animals.

People and Nature: [Sir Partha Dasgupta, Professor of Economics from Cambridge Uni](#) said

We are facing a global crisis. We are totally dependent upon the natural world. It supplies us with every oxygen-laden breath we take and every mouthful of food we eat. But we are currently damaging it so profoundly that many of its natural systems are now on the verge of breakdown.'

Our future on earth, as a species, is intrinsically linked with the future of all other living things.

Biblical mandate

Firstly what does the Bible say about our relationship with God and with the earth? In the very beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 and another familiar verse to everyone here: 'God saw all that he had made, and it was 'very good' (Genesis 1: 31).

There can be no doubt that God loves creation, all of it and that includes all living creatures. We know that humans, animals and plants are intertwined and the way we treat the whole of creation matters.

God asks us to love our neighbour and we also know that the impacts of climate change vary greatly between countries and population groups. This climate crisis is a deeply unfair one, with the poor being disproportionately affected in terms of health, food and water. What we do here in our own homes, churches and villages matter to our global neighbour.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'" Mark 12:30-31

In the face of accelerating climate change and species loss, we need more than ever to take action to protect and care for nature today. We have a Christian ground for hope. We know the earth has a future hope: 'the creation itself will be set free from its bondage for decay..' Romans 8:21

Colossians 1:19-20 *'For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.'*

Instructions for downloading an editable version of this document:

Please note, this script is shared via Google as 'view only', as a standard template. This is the 'master copy.'

To add your own notes and text, you'll either need to save a copy to your own Google Drive or download a copy to your computer as a Microsoft Word or Microsoft PowerPoint file.

To save a copy of the script to your own drive, go to 'file' in the top left-hand corner, then choose the third option 'make a copy'. Or, to download to your computer, choose the sixth option 'download' - and then you can choose what file type you'd like to download. For the script, Microsoft Word would be the standard option.

Please note, as the script and slides were designed in Google docs/slides the formatting may shift when you download these files as a Microsoft PowerPoint or Word document.