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Role Description – Deanery Environmental Champions

In 2020, the Diocese of Bath and Wells declared a climate emergency in response to the urgent environmental crisis and in recognition of our calling as Christians to the Fifth Mark of Mission *'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth’.* Following this, it presented an updated Action Plan which was further renewed in November 2022.  As a diocese, we achieved a Bronze Ecodiocese Award from A Rocha UK in October 2022 and are aiming to earn a Silver Award by 2025.

The Action Plan acknowledges the urgent need for deanery level champions to support ongoing commitment to achieve Net Zero Carbon and the wider principles of Creation Care (including Ecochurch/Ecodiocese) and to promote further engagement across parishes.  Therefore, we invite application from passionate advocates for the role of ‘Deanery Environmental Champion’ (DEC) to supplement the support currently available to parishes.

Role description

The role is to inspire, support and signpost parishes in committing to act for Creation Care and Net Zero Carbon. It is a voluntary role which sits within the newly forming Deanery Champions Network and the work of the wider Environment Team.  DECs will be a key part of our Creation Care commitment.  We welcome and encourage applications from all walks of life and seek to create an inclusive and diverse group to champion this work.

DECs will combine diocesan and national knowledge and guidance with local, on-the-ground experience and the passions and background of individuals.  The core of the role is to support and encourage deaneries on environmental initiatives.

This is likely to include:

* Working towards an Eco-Church award with their local church.
* Encouraging other local churches to achieve Eco Church awards and share resources and knowledge to support local ownership of change and the achievement of Silver Eco Diocese to celebrate progress.
* Promoting within the deanery training and learning opportunities and related events.
* Signposting support from the wider diocese and partner organisations.
* Building and strengthening connections with the work of the wider community including but not limited to farming community, schools, local environment groups and other community groups.
* Promote continued inclusion of Creation Care on deanery agenda.
* Supporting celebration of achievement and sharing good news stories.
* Provide information for parish magazines or websites.
* Support a deanery eco event with support from Climate Justice & Environment Officer.
* Speaking at deanery synod.

Commitment

The role is flexible, so no set times or hours are required meaning you can commit as little as a few hours a week- however, evening and weekend time may be required for deanery and parish meetings and training sessions.

Diocesan support for the role

The Diocese commits to supporting champions by:

* Sharing information and knowledge through monthly updates and upkeep of resources on website page.
* Facilitating network meetings for the champions.
* Availability for email or telephone conversation as needed.
* Provide timely training and support across the scope of Creation Care.

If this role sparks your interest, or you have any questions, please contact Sara Emmett (Climate Justice and Environment Adviser) at sara.emmett@bathwells.anglican.org

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