**Eco-Diocese Update March 2020**

**Progress since the November 2019 Diocesan Synod motion on becoming an Eco-Diocese**

At the November 2019 Diocesan Synod, the motion was passed committing the diocese to register its intent to become an Eco-Diocese, and to achieve bronze Eco-Diocese status within two years.

Since then the progress made so far includes:

* A new draft **environmental policy** for the diocese is being worked on by the Environment Group to come to Bishop’s Council later this spring and will include a travel policy.
* The Environmental Group has agreed to be the **working group** to pilot the Eco-Diocese work and an invitation is being sent out for others to join the group to increase diocese-wide representation.
* The ratcheting up at General Synod in February of environmental targets for the Church of England (to achieve net zero carbon by 2030), [as supported by Bishop Martyn,](https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/bishop-martyns-latest-blog.php) is being taken account of alongside our Eco Diocese agenda.
* Conversations have begun with **St Martins House and St Martins Lodge** about the Eco Diocese agenda.
* There are initial ideas for a **launch day** when registration of intent to become an Eco Diocese formally occurs, which might include:
* A photo focus on a parish that has already achieved Eco Diocese status to give encouragement and inspiration to others
* Clear communication of how parishes/individuals viewing the communications can respond: links to Eco-Church website and named individuals within the diocese etc
* In order to encourage **local applications to become Eco Church**, ideas are being developed by Environment Group for a day event (‘Eco Church on the cheap’) to encourage parishes and fresh expressions that want to get on board with Eco Church.
* Webpages about environmental matters will go live on the diocesan website this month.
* Links to other diocesan and county-wide faith groups are progressing: advice and encouragement being sought from Birmingham, Coventry and Lichfield Dioceses.