

## **Summary of the Archdeaconry Environmental Workshop**

### **Held via Zoom on 14 January 2026**

#### **Presenters**

Chris Lynch: Diocesan environmental officer with a background in carbon management auditing. [chris.lynch@europe.anglican.org](mailto:chris.lynch@europe.anglican.org)

Michelle Lavaud: newly appointed Archdeaconry Environmental Officer from Biarritz, focused on building local networks and communication channels for environmental initiatives. [michellelavaud@hotmail.com](mailto:michellelavaud@hotmail.com)

#### **Archdeaconry Structure and Challenges**

- The French Archdeaconry has about 80 worshipping communities but only 15 own their buildings.
- This means ecumenical cooperation is vital and complicates environmental responsibility, especially for carbon footprinting and funding.

#### **Carbon Footprinting and Net Zero Strategy**

- Use of the Carbon 360 tool (adapted for European context) to measure carbon emissions from chaplaincy activities. *(See link below)*
- Explanation of net zero carbon versus zero carbon targets, with net zero acknowledging residual emissions offset by accredited schemes.
- Offset schemes highlighted as controversial, with emphasis on accredited, verifiable projects like renewable energy rather than simple tree-planting.

#### **Funding and Grants**

- Access to funding streams like the Quick Wins program for small-scale, cost-effective improvements (e.g., draft-proofing, insulation, porch construction to reduce heat loss).
- Eligibility generally requires building ownership or control and registration with the Eco Church program or equivalent (eg, France's Église Verte).
- The diocese has a funding officer to assist with grant applications.

#### **Strategic Development**

- Diocesan-wide environmental strategy is in development, with a focus on capacity building, better communication, and measurable action plans aligned with the Church of England's broader net zero ambitions.
- Emphasis on building a network of Local Environment Officers (LEOs) at chaplaincy level to facilitate communication, share resources, and empower local action.

#### **Practical Challenges**

- Many churches are historic or listed buildings, which limits modifications like solar panel installation or even changing the lighting.
- Agreements with towns or other bodies determine who is responsible for building improvements and carbon accountability.
- Participants are encouraged to build relationships with local authorities to work towards energy efficiency projects.

#### **Community Engagement and Education**

- Interest in climate education workshops like those run by Climate Fresque, aimed at raising awareness among congregants and the wider community.

- Support for small, visible, environmental actions to maintain motivation and show real benefits.

## Glossary of Key Terms

Net Zero Carbon	Achieving a balance between emitted carbon and carbon offset, recognising some residual emissions.
Zero Carbon	Complete elimination of carbon emissions with no residual impact.
Carbon 360	Online tool for carbon footprint measurement tailored for European churches.   <a href="https://360carbon.org/en-gb/?r=">https://360carbon.org/en-gb/?r=</a>
Eco Church	Church of England's environmental accreditation program promoting sustainable practices <a href="https://www.europe.anglican.org/site-search?key=Eco+church">https://www.europe.anglican.org/site-search?key=Eco+church</a>
Quick Wins	Funding program for small, cost-effective environmental improvements in church buildings.
Offsetting	Investing in projects (e.g., renewable energy) to compensate for unavoidable carbon emissions
Local Environment Officer	Local chaplaincy environmental contact coordinating initiatives and communication.