



DIOCESE OF  **SALFORD**

Parish Environment Guide

At a Glance

Welcome to the redacted, “at a glance” version of our [Parish Environment Guide!](#) Starting a new parish project is undoubtedly daunting, and when we look at the scale of our environment crises, it can be difficult to see what difference we can make.

But *Laudato Si'* - the environmental encyclical from the late Pope Francis - reminds us that there is always hope, even in the smallest of actions; a message echoed by his successor, our new pope, Pope Leo XIV. And so, we've put together a short guide to give you one or two ideas on how to begin the process.

Please continue reading for practical ideas to begin and remember to root each and every action in prayer. Don't forget, everything is connected! We worship Creator God through our care for His creation, and we can care for His creation through our worship of Him and remembering our common home in our liturgies and catechesis.

We hope you find this quick guide a helpful place to start. A more in-depth version with supporting resources can be found by scanning the QR code at the end. For any further queries, and to let us know how you get on, please do get in touch at laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.



Getting Started

1

Gather a number of volunteers to form your group

Your group will focus on being stewards of God's creation, encouraging the parish to reduce the use of resources, be efficient, support nature and bring caring for our common home into parish life. This can also be an extension of an existing group you already have in your parish or you may want to recruit by through a sign-up sheet in church, an insert in the parish newsletter, or speak with parishioners after Mass.

2

Sign the Care for Creation Promise

Once your group is established, sign the Care for Creation promise to remind your group of its purpose. Get a copy by scanning the QR code at the end of this booklet.

3

Survey your Parish

Before implementing regenerative practices, which renew and restore leaving a healthier environment, it's essential to assess your parish's current environmental footprint. Gather a team of volunteers to conduct this assessment, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment among parishioners. A copy of the survey can be found by scanning the QR code at the end of this guide.

4

Establish goals

Now that you know exactly what your parish is like, the good that already happens and areas for development, think about what you would like your targets to be and ask yourselves the question that Pope Francis posed to us, 'what kind of world do we want to leave those that come after us?' (LS, #160). What is it your group would like to achieve?

5

Action Plan

All goals are now set, and you know exactly what you have already going on in your parish. Each parish is unique, and your parish action plan will depend on what your audit has highlighted. The next step is to start looking at actions that will help you achieve your targets. You can set your action plan up in any way that suits your group. Again, find an example action plan by scanning the QR code at the end of this guide.

Top Tips

Energy

- Upgrade Lighting
- Switch to Smart Thermostats
- Explore electric heating systems
- Consider kettle Usage
- Use energy-efficient appliances
- Unplug devices when not in use
- Be mindful of energy use

Water

- Upgrade to water efficient fixtures
- Explore opportunities to save water
- Water plants efficiently
- Monitor Water waste

Waste

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Compost kitchen waste
- Explore meat-free catering
- Go digital and reduce paper waste
- Buy sustainable products

Travel

- Explore carpooling initiatives
- Encourage use of public transport
- Encourage walking or riding a bike

Green Spaces

- Explore ways to support wildlife by not mowing, or adding a water source
- Look at ways to introduce beneficial plants even to small, urban areas
- Research ways to encourage local wildlife with bird boxes or insect houses

Visiting the Laudato Si' Centre

If you are looking for further inspiration about how you can ensure your parish grounds are working to support nature, then why not visit the Laudato Si' Centre?

As well as support with all of the items mentioned above, we also provide other opportunities during a parish visit. Please see our digital brochure available [here](#) for more information about what you can do at our centre or visit our website to see what events are upcoming.

Visit our website: laudatosicentre.org.uk

By email: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Follow: @laudatosicentre on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

Resources

For copies of the resources mentioned in this guide, or to read our full-length version, please scan the QR code to the right or click [here](#) if you are reading on a digital device.

For any further resources or support, please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or visit <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/parish/>

