



York Methodist  
Circuit



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A photograph of a small green seedling with two leaves growing out of a pile of dark soil. The seedling is inside a clear glass lightbulb that has been placed in the soil.

# Eco Task Force

## Inform, Support, Encourage

## A year in Review 2023-2024





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# A year in review 2023 - 2024

From a few informal conversations two years ago to an established part of Circuit life, the Eco Task Force has had an evolving role in helping churches and congregations on their journey towards Eco Church.

The tag line of 'Inform-Support-Encourage' has become a summary of the purpose the Eco Task Force, and the phrase 'Progress not Perfection' has become a bit of a mantra. The journey to becoming sustainable as a circuit, church, or as individuals, can sometimes be daunting, so the first thing we want people to know is that they don't have to do everything at once. It's all about getting changes under your belt one at a time and encouraging and supporting each other. And having a giggle. And cake, or biscuits. That's important.

We now have an 'official' programme at the request of the members, so they can get the events in their diary. There is a variety of different things to engage in. There have been site visits to Allerton Park and another to St Nicks Nature reserve to look forward to in July. We'll be having a circuit trip to Summerbridge Methodist Gold Eco Church in August, with a picnic afterwards, which anyone is invited to. We have talks from various people to help inform our work and our theology. When there is something else happening that is of interest, the group supports that instead - such as the ACT Now Eco Conference in Acomb or the Festival of ideas run by York University.





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In between meetings, Lorraine Jones will email around things of interest or pass on book recommendations, podcasts or other events that people have shared. These may also be shared with the Circuit through the Quarterly Newsletter. As you will have seen, many of the group share interesting thoughts, reflections and photos.

Sometimes smaller groups will get together to take action and the Task Force has enabled the relationships that helps us get together more. For example, some of the churches north of York are organising an Eco Fair, there have been meetings about pulling together a hustings for environmental issues. Lorraine and Angie have worked with others on the Circuit Environmental Policy (to be reviewed at the June Circuit Council) and also to apply for some funding for energy audits which may lead to 100% funding for the subsequent work to be done. Lorraine is also on the District Net Zero Board as a Circuit representative.

Around the Circuit, we now have 7 churches who have attained their Bronze level Eco Church and are making great progress in their journey to silver. Southlands Church garden is looking amazing, Strensall's holiday clubs rope the children into doing 'nature audits', Acomb has hosted a 'Tea and PV' event, Clifton have enlisted their uniformed organisations to create 'Btingham palace' and Poppleton continue to supply people with the BIO-D refills!



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Haxby and Wigginton, having very little in the way of 'land', still managed to find different ways to move towards silver by roping in some local children and the one x youth group to paint some tyres. Their community garden is now also up and running. The 'Flourish Rose' is now planted there and coming along very nicely!

During Bible Month, there were some resources provided to help churches think about our relationship with nature. We hope to produce more information in the coming year that will help us to prepare our Climate and Nature Services or provide information you can pass on to your congregations.

Are you thinking about becoming an Eco Church but not sure where to start? Just give us a shout - there is a ready made community here to get you started and provide you with encouragement.

