



St. Christopher's Church

Growing together in Christ



Church - Diverse (40 languages), Family (150 congregation, 45 under 18yrs), Evangelical tradition, edge of inner city and 'Balti-belt'

Buildings – 1 vicarage, 1 church (no tower), 1 community centre, nurse's office and offices, multi-use garden

Users of buildings – Church charity (4 staff, volunteers, groups) Springfield Project charity (60 staff, 100 volunteers, groups and community events)

Why we did ecochurch?



For a long time we were doing lots already

Teaching

Lighting

Reducing waste

Low energy light bulbs to homes where our Bible study groups met

Litter picking with the Mosque opposite

Place of welcome – donated near date supermarket food for community meals

But we needed a framework to stick all the pieces in that...

Covered more than climate change

Included all aspects of our church life – not just buildings

Easy to use and tailor for your situation

What did we do?

Worship and Teaching 🏆 <hr/> <p>Gold</p> <p>Select Worship and Teaching</p> <p>You've answered 10 out of 10 questions</p>	Buildings 🏆 <hr/> <p>Silver</p> <p>Select Buildings</p> <p>You've answered 33 out of 33 questions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is your church responsible for the premises in which it meets?</p>
Land 🏆 <hr/> <p>Silver</p> <p>Select Land</p> <p>You've answered 16 out of 16 questions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does your church have influence over any land? (e.g. churchyard, community nature reserve)</p>	Community and Global Engagement 🏆 <hr/> <p>Silver</p> <p>Select Community and Global Engagement</p> <p>You've answered 27 out of 27 questions</p>

Lifestyle 🏆 <hr/> <p>Silver</p> <p>Select Lifestyle</p> <p>You've answered 15 out of 15 questions</p>



1. **We did the ecochurch survey** (ecochampion, vicar, and church administrator)
2. **We consulted** with children (using duplo) and wider church on how we could improve on our weaker areas – to draw up an action plan.
3. **We went to the Church Council** to agree:
 - Budget allocation from our mission budget
 - The action plan – ecochampion reporting back on others actions every 6 months
 - Submission of application - Awarded Silver first month of COVID lockdown March 2020

What did we learn?



Don't do it alone – involve a small team

Make sure it is seen as central to the work of the Church – part of 'mission'

Involve the Church Council – and aim to make gradual progress and reporting

Can be 'technical exercise' allow space – to involve God, be guided by his priorities for your community, let him bless whatever you can offer