

# Audio file

[All Saints Nettleham.m4a](#)

## Transcript

This is a transcript of an audio recording taken at the church service at 10:00 on 08/02/2026 at All Saints Nettleham.

### Bishop Nigel

We have a very distinguished panel with us today. Three members of the All Saints, eco group Ced, Russ, and er... Andy. Senility is round the corner.

Michelle is elsewhere in the deanery today, so Jenny's going to make a contribution towards the end.

So, I'm going to start with Ced, who is knowledgeable about all these things, and we've got a roving mic, so where are you? OK, let's take, stay seated.

I thought, perhaps, Ced, you could start by telling us what this scheme is all about, who Rocha are, and why the Church of England is involved, and then how we became involved. Is that all right?

### Ced Hanson

Yeah, that's right.

I should say that Bishop Nigel didn't share any of the questions that he was going to ask us, so I'm a little bit hesitant, you'll know why.

But anyway, in terms of who Rocha are, they're not to be confused with Roche, who are the international pharmaceutical company, I think they're Swiss-based.

So, this is a Christian charity. It's an international one about climate change and biodiversity protection of the environment. Started out in Portugal in 1983. It's now international and there is a UK arm of that which has actually some local links. The CEO there is Pete Atkins' brother\*. So, anybody who knows Pete Atkins from the Methodists will know that. So, that pretty much answers the question as to who they are. They're about helping churches in terms of trying to improve the environment, social justice and improve biodiversity in their local area practices.

\*N:B: Correction: although Ced does say it is Pete Atkin's son on the audio it is actually Pete Atkin's brother who is the CEO

### Bishop Nigel

Okay, and Church of England has now nailed its colours to this movement?

### Ced

Yeah, it has Yeah, and the Church of England have a target of being net zero by 2030, which basically means balancing all our things that we burn, gas and the like, and trying to reduce that with renewables in pretty much our churches.

**Bishop Nigel**

So how long has our diocese been involved with this scheme?

**Ced**

So, I'm not sure how long the diocese has been involved, but at the moment there are about 622 churches and then about 100 have signed up and about 50 have a bronze, silver or gold. There's only one gold in the area. There's now 20 silver and about 30 bronzes. So, it basically is trying to encourage people to improve what they're doing. I mean, perhaps we'll get on to talk about later as to what we've been trying to do in the church.

**Bishop Nigel**

Okay, so do you want to hand to one of your colleagues? And shall we start at the beginning about, maybe talk about, Russ, the topics. I think there are five things that a church is meant to be thinking about and improving on. So, can you tell us what the five are so that we can have them in our minds?

**Russ Coulter**

The 5 topics are worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, global engagement and lifestyle. And this is an example of worshiping and teaching. The Rocha scheme is a questionnaire basically, which we've answered on behalf of the parish.

**Bishop Nigel**

When did we get the bronze award? When did we get the bronze award? I think it's 2024?

**Russ**

No, it was 2016 then.

**Bishop Nigel**

Oh, right. And was that just a tick box exercise pretty much? Did you mark your own hard work? Yes. Right, why don't we hand on to Andy and you can tell us how we've got the silver award really recently?

**Andy Lewis**

Indeed, we have. This all started in the last 12 months. There's been a feeling within the PCC that, as Russ said, we got the bronze in 2016. We've not developed and moved on from it. So, we thought, well, it's about time we blew the dust off it. Hence the setup of the Eco Church group that Ced very kindly volunteered to lead. Your arm wasn't that far up your back Ced was it? So, we then got to grips with the questionnaire. I think there are 91 questions.

**Bishop Nigel**

91.

**Andy**

91 in those in those five categories.

**Bishop Nigel**

I don't think we need to know about all the 91. We've already had Genesis this morning.

**Andy**

Well, it made 91 questions. What we did as a group was revisit those questions and go through it and score ourselves and see where we have improved, where there are opportunities to go forward and get better scores further on. And by doing that, reappraising ourselves, embedding some of the things that we had done without, unconsciously done without knowing about it, we were able to re-score ourselves. Ced might be able to say a bit more about that, because he did a lot of the donkey work on it, but we re-scored it and we have now just achieved the silver award.

**Bishop Nigel**

Okay, so Ced, here's a question for you. Is that why the church heating is not very warm most of the time? Are we reducing our carbon footprint?

**Ced**

Fantastic. In terms of carbon footprint, we've, as a church, we've moved to renewable electricity and renewable gas. That reduces the carbon footprint of every unit used considerably. So that's number one.

Secondly, we have to make the church dry. And you can see the scaffolding outside that's going to start taking place in terms of the restoration of the tower. And then, because basically the damp takes up a lot of energy to keep the church dry, potentially.

And then in terms of looking at the buildings and the energy we use and the heating, we put a class A boiler now that we didn't have, so that's definitely improved things. It's moved from say 75% to 90% plus improvement, so we're using less energy that way.

In terms of the heating of the church though, which is critical to us. There are things we can do in terms of draught proofing, in terms of the windows, making sure they're also draught proof, getting heating experts come and advise us in terms of balancing of the radiators and actually installing thermostatic radiator valves, which you have at home, but we haven't in the church. So, we can balance and turn off radiators we don't use and rebalance that potentially.

Ultimately, we can also try and improve the central nave in terms of the heating because at the moment all the heating is at the side. And if we get to that point, then there's an opportunity to use infrared to put direct heating into the church at a lower cost because it's instantaneous. So, the critical thing is to use renewable energy to conserve and prevent heat loss and then optimise the balance of energy.

**Bishop Nigel**

Okay, so that's just some stuff we can do here in the church, much as Ced says, you can address these challenges in our own homes. But there's so much bigger things here.

What's this global engagement all about? In a sense, why is, All Saints Nettleham, surely, we're just such a small part of, the big questions facing Earth.

Simon Hardy, who I interviewed for the 8.30 service, had a really good answer. He said, well, every little bit helps, every little helps. I think it's Tesco, isn't it? So, any thoughts about global engagement? What did you put on the bronze award for that?

**Russ**

I can't remember.

Bishop Nigel

I can't remember. I bet it was one of the 91 questions.

**Russ**

It was towards the end of the 91 questions. Well, one of the things we can do is look at the charities that we support. We've recently asked you to nominate charities for the award of money from us. We can choose to support charities that are eco-friendly or have eco-credentials or not. We can also choose a bank that's got eco-friendly credentials

**Bishop Nigel**

OK, so that's really helpful.

**Russ**

Well, that last one is one that I'm taking into my lifestyle. I looked at the list of banks provided by Ced and the bank we use now is in the red sector. But one of the ones in the green sector would be convenient. So, we might move banks.

**Bishop Nigel**

Well, you know what they say about people would rather not change their bank accounts than virtually anything else in their life. But there we are. So, there's a challenge for us there. Now, Andy, lifestyle. How are we going to improve our lifestyles?

**Andy**

Well, it's one of these ones, Bishop, where it's so easy to say, but how do we walk the talk on it? And I think this is something that it's pretty straightforward to say, as Ced has said, we've got an A-rated boiler now, we may move to infrared.

So that's, it's hard, practical stuff. When it comes to lifestyle, it's more a case of how we feel about as a church, as individuals, as a church community, about our impact on the environment, how we want to live our lives. Because the earth is the Lord's and everything that's in it. As such, then something for us to reflect on, to think about, how we can perhaps, are we doing the most eco-friendly purchasing of our vegetables? All these sorts of questions. There's no right and wrong answer on this, effectively.

It's not a case of the church saying, we've got to do this. It's something we've got to work on and think about ourselves and pray about and reflect on. So that, I do say, Simon's statement this

morning, every little helps is so true. Without going too much into detail, that is how the British cycling team won so many gold medals because they took care on every little microsecond. You know, you took a hundredth of a second quicker than the French or the Germans to win the gold medal. So, it all builds up. So, everything really matters.

### **Bishop Nigel**

Well, that's a really, good example. As well, we're about to watch the Winter Olympics. And if you think about it, is there going to be any snow? That's a big question in Scotland. I can tell you, the ski slopes there have had a lot of problems because there isn't any snow anymore. And when Anne and I went to Japan a little while ago, snow hadn't come on Mount Fuji. Well, you can't go on Mount Fuji without snow, you know? But it was a very obvious, you know, the winter was just coming later.

So there we are. There are some things for us to think about, and I hope you'll want to support this. Yesterday morning there was a PCC morning and your speaker, I think, if I've remembered correctly, was from Barrowby Church. All Saints Barrowby here in the diocese is the one church that has got gold. So, we want to join them and you've all contributed today, all of you.

Know why? Because we've used this service book, which is full of stuff about eco-church, creation, all the prayers, all the hymns. And I know Ced's going to take a copy of this, a nice copy, and we can actually submit it, can't we, towards our golden award. And I don't know how many people here are... How many people are here today, roughly? Eighty. Eighty? 80 people and there were 24 at the 8.30. So, you can tell that to the people marking our homework, that over 100 people used this service book, which I think is quite significant because a lot of churches in our diocese would dream of having 24, never mind about 80. And just finally, you'll notice that we do use eco paper in the church. And will you please recycle this after you finish with it?

So, would you like to give a round of applause for our panellists? They've been great. Thank you very much.