



A Rocha UK eNews: April 2021



The critical need to reconcile economics and nature

In 2019 the UK Treasury commissioned Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta and University of Cambridge to consider the role and importance of natural capital in global economics.

A Rocha UK Head of Conservation, Andy Lester comments on the groundbreaking Dasgupta report.

[Read more](#)



Churches action on climate

It's been a poignant week with the marking of a year - on the 23 March - since lockdown was first announced in the UK. Despite still not being able to meet and worship freely in our church buildings, there's been lots of church activity on climate change during these last 12 months, with Eco Church playing a major role.

Churches across the UK have held or are planning to hold a Climate Sunday service; 35 Churches for example have committed to making this a year of climate action as part of the '**Make COP26 Count**' initiative by holding a Climate Sunday service, signing up to Eco Church as their practical action and

committing to political action through engaging with their MP.

We have continued to receive award applications throughout the lockdowns including those at denominational level too; congratulations to the URC Church's West Midlands Synod for achieving a Bronze Eco Synod award - the first one to do so. A Rocha UK has also just awarded the Church in Wales Diocese of Llandaff the first Bronze Eco Diocese award for Wales. Congratulations also to St Cuthbert's Croxteth Park for achieving their Eco Church gold award, becoming the 16th church to do so.

If you're feeling inspired to find out more about Eco Church and also what climate action you could take with your church community, then why not sign up to one of our forthcoming Spring conferences (24 April and 8 May), register for our upcoming webinar on processing climate grief (11 May), participate in 'Churches Count on Nature' (between 5-13 June) or save the dates for our Church Demonstration Days taking place at our nature reserves (at Foxearth Meadows on 10 July, and at Wolf Fields on 18 September).

[Find out more](#)



Farming and Partners in Action: our vision for the future

Thanks to the generosity of supporters in responding to our PIA appeal, our Partners in Action network continues to expand rapidly. Many of our current partners, with a few exceptions, are conferences and retreat centres. With our new goal to bring much more land into play for nature, we are particularly keen to partner with farms owned or managed by Christians, to further explore productive land use and nature. That's why we've been particularly excited to welcome two farms, Aldermoor

Community Farm and Tinhay Retreats to our network in March.

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Journeying to COP26 with *Get to Glasgow*

Did you know that over 100 household 'teams' have already begun their journey (locally) to Glasgow for the [#COP26](#) climate change talks happening in November later this year? Hannah Persaud, one of the founding families of *Get to Glasgow* and [Wild Christian](#) team member explains, 'It's 353 miles from our home in Northamptonshire to Glasgow, and we've set ourselves the challenge of walking, running, cycling or scooting that distance – not actually to Glasgow, but around our local area, finishing in time for world leaders arriving in Scotland. More people are signing up every week! We're just very ordinary families learning together how to respond to the climate crisis; we reflect, listen, learn and pray as we travel together, even though we may be apart.' We are very grateful that some co-founding teams are raising money for A Rocha UK on their way. If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so on their JustGiving Page [here](#).

Could you create your own unique pilgrimage journey, joining the organisers in doing 353 miles or pilgrimaging shorter/longer distances? See below if you'd like to take part in this shared environmental pilgrimage locally or share with others who may be interested to take part!

[Get to Glasgow](#)



Celebrate Spring! In a season signifying new beginnings and as restrictions slowly ease, we pray that you can find peace and refreshment in God, and in signs of His love and splendour in creation. Make sure you're giving yourself quality time enjoying creation; smelling the blossom, tapping catkins, copying bird song, finding a footprint or identifying spring flowers with the [Pl@ntNet](#) app. Nature can boost our happiness so take time to observe nature in your gardens, on your balconies, and in your local green spaces.