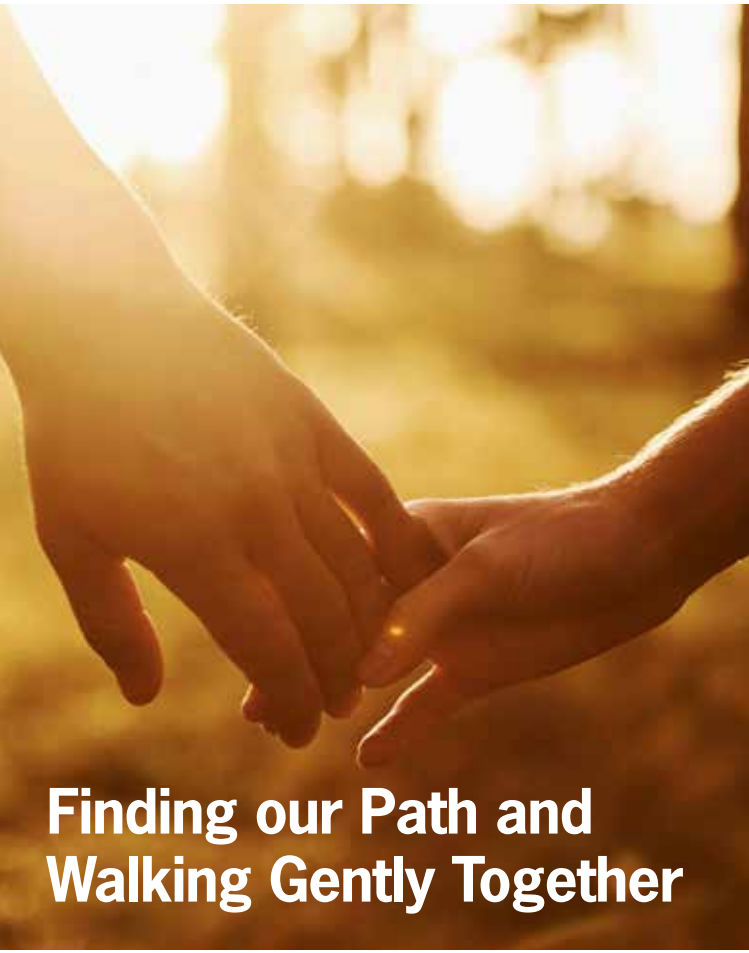
The Way of Life
Community



Finding our Path and Walking Gently Together

GreenChristian
Responding to the Cry of the Earth

Many spiritual communities have Rules or Ways of Life at the heart of which is a set of disciplines to assist believers in living out their faith in a deeper and more structured way.

The Green Christian Way of Life Community is offered to GC members for whom care of God's creation in all its forms is a fundamental outworking of their faith. The Way of Life is a calling for deeper engagement and shared encouragement. Followers of the Way are called 'Companions', who have committed to following four disciplines:

Daily Prayer & Devotions; Living Gently on the Earth; Public Witness; and Encouragement.

The Disciplines and how they may be followed

In following the four disciplines Companions can use many resources and become actively involved in a variety of activities, depending on their contexts, personal, local and beyond. There are many resources covering **Daily Prayer & Devotions** and **Living Gently on the Earth** at www.greenchristian.org.uk/resources

Public Witness: committing to specific current or planned action for creation care, e.g. through active involvement in local, regional or national projects/campaigns.

Encouragement: supporting fellow community members, either in pairs or larger groups such as one of our 10 regional groups of Companions and Explorers.

GC members who have expressed an interest in the Way of Life but do not yet wish to commit to following the Way are called 'Explorers'.



Why a Green Christian Way of Life Community?

Many GC members already follow Rules (or Ways) of Life of other Christian communities and indeed some churches have constructed their own Rules of Life. So why introduce a specific GC Way of Life?

While many of the other organisations include care of creation in their Rules of Life, that is one of several elements. The GC Way of Life Community's 'rule' arises out of the need embraced by Green Christian that Christian discipleship and spiritual formation in the 21st century must be informed by a lifestyle which nurtures God's creation, not destroys it. 'For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.' (Romans 8:19).

The time in which we are now living requires much prayer and mutual support in living simply on the Earth, tackling

the climate and ecological crisis, challenging Government/ local authority/business policies and practices, participating in campaigns, influencing our churches etc.

The Green Christian Way of Life Community offers an opportunity for those GC members who choose to commit to and be accountable to each other in their care of God's creation in all its forms.

The Community aspires to more deeply explore what it is to be a green Christian.

Way of Life Companions are dedicated to help each other grow in active and effective creation-nurturing spirituality in a way that is personally authentic to them and the context in which they live, work and worship. In short, we aim to offer 'formation' – nurture for radical Christian ecological discipleship.

How do we all keep in contact with each other?

GC's Formation Group is responsible for administering the Way of Life programme and sends Monthly Letters to all Companions and Explorers, all authored by fellow Companions.

These letters are not newsletters informing of upcoming events, but rather personal reflections on the author's journey as a Companion. They are more personal – thoughts, feelings and experiences – sharing how their journey is going and perhaps what resources and practices they have found helpful.

Gatherings via zoom are hosted every two months and day conferences are held in January / February of each year.

The Commitment Prayer

This prayer is a public statement of commitment to the Way of Life Community, a covenant between Companions and God and each other as members of an intentional, dispersed community. The following words form the end of the prayer...

"May the Earth sustain our strength

May Christ sustain our love

May we sustain one another's joy

And may we live as a blessing

To God, to the Earth and to humanity

Amen".

If you are a GC member and would like to find out more about the Way of Life, please visit our website at www.greenchristian.org.uk/introduction/encouragement/way/



Green Christian

About: We are a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we care for creation through prayer, action and encouragement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith.

We welcome new members. Join us!
greenchristian.org.uk/join-us

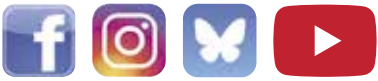
Events: Conferences, courses, retreats and workshops – online and in person.

Projects: Borrowed Time (response to climate crisis); Joy In Enough (green economics); Food; Way of Life Community; Rainforest Fund.

Resources: Annual brochure, twice yearly magazine, monthly *Prayer Guide*, free email newsletter for all, members' email discussion group. Leaflets for use in church: Seven Rs: Respecting Creation, Food: Use Your LOAF! Nine Ways of Living Gently, Nature: God loves all things.

Visit greenchristian.org.uk/resources for prayers, poems, hymns, news of workshops and courses, posters and videos to inspire you and your church.

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