

Living Water: Actions for UK churches



Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026



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This resource from Operation Noah offers practical ways your church can help protect and restore rivers, lakes, wetlands and coastlines during the Season of Creation (1 September to 4 October 2026).

Where to start?

- *Find out more about your local waterway* - what is its source? Where does it reach the sea? Who is protecting it? The Rivers Trust and Rights of Rivers have helpful information.
- *Organise a prayer walk or pilgrimage* - use prayers and readings from the Season of Creation resources.
- *Join a citizen science project* and help monitor the health of your local waterway.
- *Reduce your water impact* - both as a church and as individuals.



Pilgrimage

Lead a pilgrimage to your local river/ waterway during the Season of Creation.

- Use some of the prayers and readings from the Season of Creation resources.
- Invite people to make a personal commitment to care for creation, and suggest opportunities for further action, locally and/or nationally.
- Invite your MP or other elected representatives to join you, as well as other local churches.
- Combine with a citizen science activity, such as monitoring the water's health.



Join in citizen
science

There are a number of ways your church can help monitor the health of your local river, lake or sea. This could be combined with the Pilgrimage, or a separate activity.

- Join **The Big River Watch** in September or April to record wildlife and signs of pollution, using the Rivers Trust app.
- Take part in the **Great UK WaterBlitz** (18-21 September) by testing your local waterway. Registration is required in advance so that you can receive a testing kit.

Consider whether a group from your church might want to commit to longer-term citizen science monitoring, as part of your care for God's creation.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark blue jeans, is bending over to fill a black watering can from a green rain barrel. The rain barrel is positioned against a red brick wall. The scene is set outdoors on a paved area with some grass at the bottom. The text "Reduce water impacts" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**Reduce water
impacts**

As climate change brings hotter summers and greater pressure on freshwater supplies, we can all use water more wisely.

- Install water butts to harvest rainwater for gardens and church grounds.
- Use water-saving settings on washing machines and dishwashers, and consider cistern bricks and eco shower heads.
- Encourage schools, businesses and other high water users in your community to reduce their water use.

Check out the [Eco church guide](#) to water use and capture.

Speak up for Clean Water



The UK Government is expected to introduce new water legislation in 2026/2027. The **Clean Water Now** campaign is calling for a Water Bill that will:

- *Stop the polluters* – crack down on sewage and intensive agricultural and chemical pollution.
- *Fix the broken system* – stop water companies putting profit before people and nature
- *Restore nature* – bring rivers, lakes and seas back to life with cleaner water, healthier habitats and safe access.

Consider writing to your MP/MSP in support of the campaign. Why not host a letter-writing session in church, or invite your MP/MSP to an event to discuss the campaign?



**Support the
Rights of Rivers**

Consider signing the **Rights of Rivers Declaration**, either as an individual or as a church. The declaration recognises that all rivers are living entities, with fundamental rights, including the right to legal guardianship, healthy watersheds and river basins, and protection through laws and public action.

For Christians, recognising the rights of rivers reflects our calling to care for God's creation, honour the intrinsic value of the natural world, and protect the ecosystems on which all life depends.

The global campaign to recognise the Rights of Rivers ensures representation of indigenous communities in river guardianship, whose deep relationships with land and water have sustained creation for generations.



Operation Noah is a Christian charity inspiring the Church to respond to the climate crisis.

As climate change increases flooding, drought, and the warming and acidification of our oceans, caring for rivers and waterways is an important expression of our faith and our commitment to God's creation.

Find out more about our climate action at operationnoah.org

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