

Church of South India

Madhya Kerala Diocese



March 2024

CSI Diocese looks to make all parishes Carbon Neutral



Officers of the Christ Church, Trivandrum Receiving the Green Parish five Star Award from the Bishop of Madhya Kerala Diocese during a function organised on 27th January 2024)

At the CSI Christ Church in Thiruvananthapuram, carbon neutrality is woven into every aspect of its existence. Steeped in history that extends up to two centuries, this church is now powered by a set of solar panels on its roof while it harvests water directly from the rain. A vibrant green patch comprising a flower garden and an organic vegetable farm embrace its precincts while single-use plastic remains a strict no-no there. Above all, it has adopted an action plan that requires parish members to embrace a green protocol at their homes, set up green patches, and lessen their carbon footprints.

For the CSI Madhya Kerala diocese, the parish serves as the gold standard in its ambitious plan to turn all 400 parishes under it into green parishes within three years. The project, kicked off in January this year, is being initiated under the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocesan Department of Ecological

Concerns, which has rolled out a green protocol for the parishes to follow.

Commenting on the initiative, Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, Director of Madhya Kerala Diocesan Ecological Department, has sought to highlight the huge potential of the churches to facilitate and inspire action locally. With the CSI Church adopting 'Environment' to the fore of its social teachings, parishioners are beginning to give serious thought to having an environmentally friendly space as a reflection of their spirituality.

"There is a real drive from members of congregations to support these efforts. To begin with, ten parishes will be achieving carbon-neutral status by the end of this year," he says.

Key aspects of the programme involve the constitution of ecological committees at the parish level, conducting self-audits, conserving

energy and water, managing waste, and other measures.

Beyond the churchyards, the diocese is also looking to inspire the homes of its parishioners to deliver nature-positive impacts and turn all educational institutions under it into carbon-neutral status in the long run. The diocese's bishop Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian regards the new initiative as a natural outgrowth of the values nurtured by the church, which sees the sacredness in nature.

“The integrity of Creation is the mission mandate of the CSI Church. How can churches fulfill their mission to spread the gospel in a world increasingly beset by environmental challenges? The answer lies in the churches’ inherent responsibility to foster a world where all beings can coexist in harmony and peace,” the Bishop said.

(News appeared in The Hindu News Paper on 25th Sunday, March 2024, Reporter Hiran Unnikrishnan from Kottayam)

Carbon Neutral Parishes



Annual Clergy Conference

In an era where the spectre of climate change looms large, casting a shadow over our collective future, the imperative for concerted and meaningful action has never been more urgent. The crux of this global crisis is the unchecked escalation of global warming, driven predominantly by the excessive accumulation of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. This predicament, stemming directly from human activities such as the combustion of fossil fuels like petrol and coal, threatens the very fabric of our existence. Developed nations’ relentless pursuit of economic growth has exacerbated this issue, leading to a stark increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million (ppm) 200 years ago to an alarming

440 ppm today. Despite the convening of 28 Conference of Parties (COP) meetings aimed at curbing global warming, there remains a palpable reluctance among developed countries to reduce their carbon emissions significantly.

In the face of these challenges, the principle of “Think Globally, Act Locally” underscores the pivotal role that localised efforts can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change. The State of Kerala, India, exemplifies this approach through its pioneering Net Zero Carbon Kerala-Through People project under the auspices of the government’s Green Mission, which calls for grassroots involvement in achieving carbon neutrality.

A carbon-neutral society seeks to nullify its carbon dioxide emissions through equal measures of reduction and offsetting. To embark on this journey toward carbon neutrality, it is essential to quantify the carbon emissions within a given area and undertake measures such as afforestation to absorb an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. Although precise calculation of carbon emissions may pose a challenge for parishes, they can contribute to reducing overall carbon levels through participation in various carbon offset projects.

The question arises: How can churches fulfil their mission to spread the gospel in a world increasingly beset by environmental challenges? The answer lies in the churches' inherent responsibility to foster a world where all beings can coexist in harmony and peace. Thus, parishes are well-positioned to support government-led efforts towards carbon neutrality, with the success of such programs hinging on active parishioner participation.

To achieve carbon neutrality, parishes can adopt a series of measures:

1. All residences and establishments within the parish are encouraged to perform self-audits to evaluate their carbon footprint. This involves assessing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by one's home and organisation and identifying strategies for reduction. Efforts should include endeavours to decrease monthly electricity bills and a mindful approach to vehicle usage, ensuring they are used only when necessary.

2) Installation of solar power systems are encouraged and can be supported by government subsidies. When these systems are connected to the electrical grid, the generated electricity can offset consumption costs post-use. All eligible entities are urged to avail themselves of this opportunity. Solar panels can also be installed atop church buildings to supply electricity to the grid;. However, this specific application may not qualify for government subsidies; subsidies are available for parsonage installations. Such initiatives are

vital in reducing our reliance on biofuels such as petrol and coal for energy.

3. Energy Efficiency: New buildings should be designed and constructed to minimise energy consumption. This can be achieved by incorporating LED lighting, significantly reducing energy use. Additionally, it is advisable to invest in electrical appliances rated with five stars for energy efficiency. To enhance overall energy efficiency, seeking expert guidance to implement energy-saving practices and technologies is highly recommended.

4. Everyone should take measures to prevent water wastage through leaks or careless use. Implementing rainwater harvesting systems can channel rainwater into the ground, enhancing groundwater levels. Maintaining soil moisture through these practices helps in drought prevention and reduces heat. Organic waste, dry leaves, should be composted rather than burned, contributing to soil health. Mulching around coconut trees can also conserve soil moisture and reduce the need for frequent watering.

5. Protecting water resources is crucial in mitigating the effects of climate change and ensuring a sustainable drinking water supply. Adopting drip irrigation for agricultural and other uses is highly recommended as a water-efficient technique, significantly reducing consumption and preserving precious water resources.

6. One of the most effective methods for carbon sequestration is enhancing greenery. It is essential to plant and maintain trees actively. The Biodiversity Board is facilitating the development of mini forests in previously barren areas within church and school grounds, contributing significantly to environmental restoration and biodiversity enhancement.

7. Waste Management: Parishioners are encouraged to use cloth bags as an alternative to single-use plastic bags. For the necessary use of plastic, it is advisable to wash, dry, and then hand over such items to the green garbage collectors facilitated by local governments.

Waste decomposition produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By supporting and enhancing the Green Garbage Collection initiatives, we can work towards becoming a garbage-free community.

8. Plastic water bottles available in stores are often made from low-quality plastics. Research indicates that phthalates and bisphenols, commonly found in these inexpensive plastics, can leach into the water when exposed to sunlight. The ingestion of these chemicals may lead to hormonal imbalances and increase the risk of cancer. Water bottles stored in areas like railway stations and shops frequently come into contact with sunlight. Carrying drinking water in steel bottles or PET plastic bottles is healthier, which are less likely to release harmful substances. Plastic bottles are typically marked with numbers ranging from one to seven at the bottom, with #1 being the safest option for storing drinking water.

9. Kitchen bins can transform household waste into compost, turning waste into a valuable resource. There is also potential to establish a business focused on converting waste into fertiliser, offering a sustainable solution for waste

management and promoting environmental conservation.

8. A culture of interior decoration utilising organic materials can be fostered in homes and institutions. In certain dioceses, planting a tree during significant ceremonies such as weddings and baptisms is a tradition. Additionally, in some regions, it is customary for the bride and groom to water a potted plant during the ceremony as a symbolic gesture. Cultivating indoor plants in schools, places of worship, and banks contributes to creating an environment that emphasises the importance of nature and sustainability in our daily lives and rituals.

When people in a parish live according to green protocols, we call that parish a carbon-neutral parish. This should inspire the community to become a carbon-neutral village.

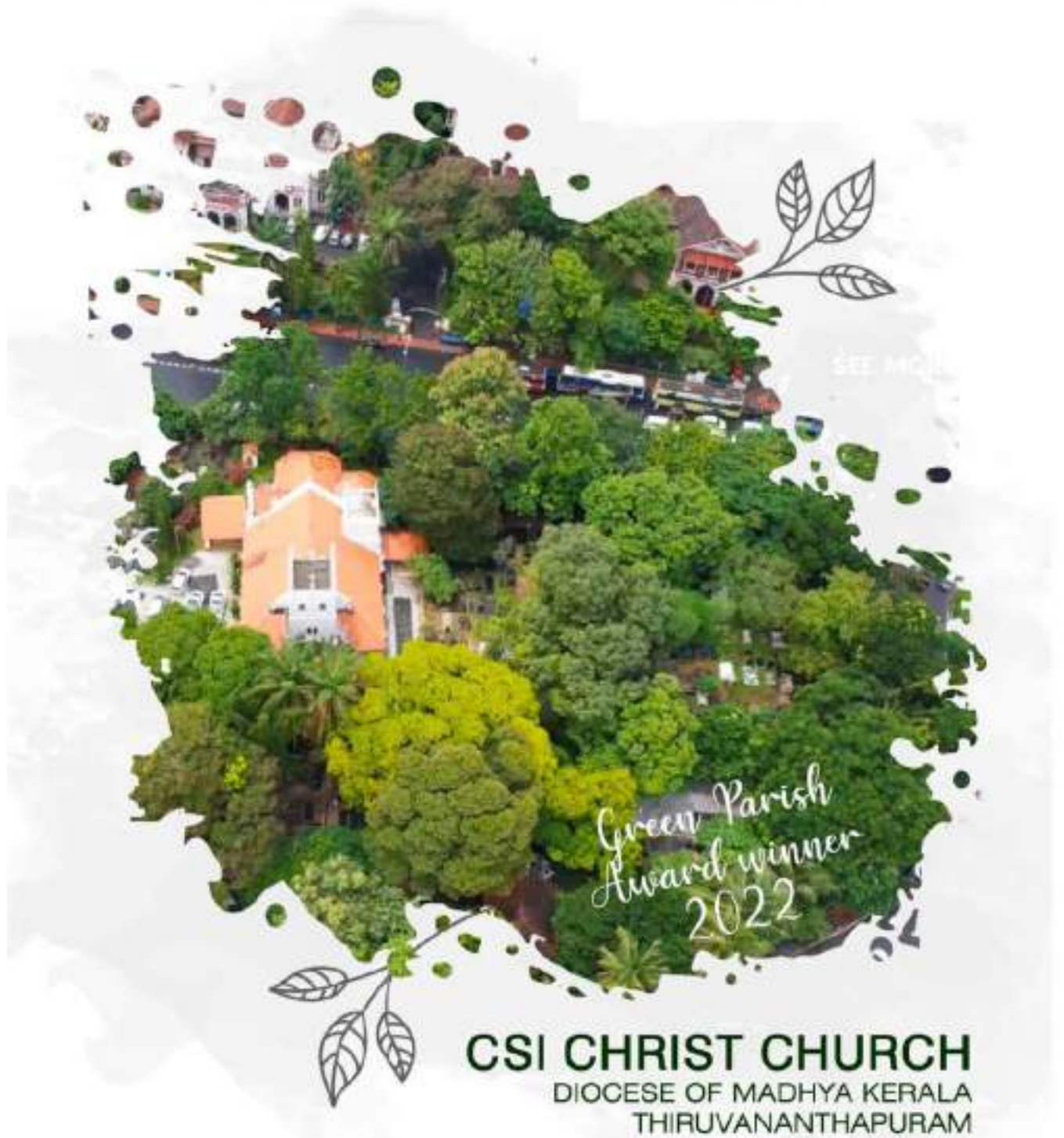
(Paper presented by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, member of the Commission of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of WCC, at the CSI Clergy Conference held at Nilackal Ecumenical Centre, Near Pathanamthitta, Kerala, India)



Muttambalam Green Parish award

March 2024

APPLICATION FOR GREEN PARISH AWARD 2023



CSI CHRIST CHURCH
DIOCESE OF MADHYA KERALA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
WWW.YOURSITE.COM

CSI MADHYA KERALA DIOCESE, KOTTAYAM**GREEN PARISH AWARD SCORE SHEET****January 2023- December 2023**

I	ORGNISATIONAL	Answer	Details appended	Score
1	Name and mobile number of the person in charge of environmental issues in the Church Committee (if there is no person in charge, award will not be given) Mr. M. J. Kuruvila (Church Warden) Phone: 9447734292	YES	Church Warden Mr. M. J. Kuruvila has been nominated by the Church Committee, as the person in charge of Environmental Issues	
1	Is there an Ecology Committee functioning at the parish level? One mark if Yes	YES	Christ Church Ecology Committee is functioning since 2008 (16 years)	1
2	How many meetings of the committee was held during the last year? One mark for each meeting (Max.3)	5 meetings	Appendix 1 Table 1	3
3	How many Ecology related events were conducted in the Parish? One mark for each event (Max.3)	5 events	Appendix 1 Table 2	3
II	ECOLOGY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED			
1	Are there rain water harvesting structures in the church campus ? (Five marks, if Yes)	YES (1 well for Rain Water Harvest and 2 pits for rain water recharging)	Appendix 1 Item 3	5
1 b	Are there rain water harvesting systems in homes of church members? One mark for each home (Max.5)	YES (In 5 homes)	Appendix 2 Table 1	5
2	Is there compost making structures in the church campus? (Five marks if Yes)	YES (2 compost tanks)	Appendix 1 Item - 4	5
2 b	Is there compost making structures in homes of members? One mark for each home (Max.5)	YES (In 5 homes)	Appendix 2 Table 1	5
3	Are there Solar Panels for electricity generation in church / institutions? Five marks If Yes	YES (2 Panels in church & one in Institution)	Appendix 1 Table 5	5
3 b	Are there Solar Panels in the homes of members? One mark for each home (Max.5)	YES (In 15 homes)	Appendix 2 Table 1	5
4	How many tree saplings / shrubs were planted during the year? One mark for each plant (Max.10)	YES (108 saplings)	Appendix 1 Table 6	10

5	Is there vegetable cultivation in the church campus? Five marks, If Yes	YES (9 types and 36 vegetables)	Appendix 1 Table 7	5
5 b	Is there vegetable cultivation in the homes of church members? One mark for each home (Max.5)	YES (In 20 homes)	Appendix 2 Table 1	5
6	Is there organic cultivation in the church campus? Five marks, If Yes	YES (9 types; 36 No.)	Appendix 1 Table 8	5
6 b	Is there organic cultivation in the homes of church members? One mark for each home (Max.5)	YES (In 20 homes)	Appendix 2 Table 1	5
III	HEALTHY PRACTICES (Diocesan Level)			
1	Was there any Eco Awareness events (Planting, Meetings etc) conducted on World Environment Day, 5 th June? One mark if YES	YES (tree planting and sale of safe to Eat Agri products)	Appendix 3 Table 1	1
2	Whether Ecology Sunday has been observed? One mark if YES	YES	Appendix 3 Table 2	1
3	Green Homestead Awards and Green Home prizes were instituted by the Parish? One mark if YES	YES (Two Green Homestead Awards & 12 Green Farming prizes given)	Appendix 3 Table 3	1
4	Is there separate session for ecology in the church conventions?	NO	Not Applicable	0
5	Is there a special arrangement for dealing with environmental matters in the Parish Magazine? One mark if YES	YES	Appendix 3 Table 4	1
IV	ECO AWARENESS PROGRAMMES			
1	Whether Ecological theology classes and sermons were arranged in the parish? One mark if YES	YES	Appendix 4 Item 1	1
2	Are there any environmental programs organized for the youth?	NO	Not Applicable	0
3	Are there any environmental programs organized for the Sunday School students? (1 mark if Yes)	YES (11-11-2023)	Appendix 4 Item 2	1
4	Has any ecological event been arranged under the leadership of Women's organization?	YES (4-11-2023)	Appendix 4 Item 4 and Annexure	1
5	Has any event been arranged by the church to promote organic agriculture among parishioners?	YES	Appendix 4 Table 5	1
6	Has it been possible to cooperate with Krishi Bhavan in the area that includes the parish or church members?	YES	Appendix 4 Table 6	
6 b	Is the church promoting co-operation of members with the KrishiBhavans?	YES	Appendix 4 Table 6	1

	One mark, if Yes			
7	Does your parish use reusable cups and plates instead of single-use cups and plates at events? One mark if Yes	YES	Appendix 4 Table 8	1
V	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & NETWORKING			
	Does the parish budget have provisions for ecology related activities?	YES	Rs .10000 in 2023-2024 Budget (Appendix 5)	1
	Have donations been collected from people for ecological activities?	YES (For Ecology stalls in Harvest Festival and for Sale events)	Appendix 5	1
	Have you been in contact with local environmental organizations?	NO	Not Applicable	0
	GRAND TOTAL MARKS	79 / 82 = 96.4 %		

The Diocesan Bishop has officially endorsed the prescribed format for giving the green rating for Parishes in 2023. We will incorporate valuable suggestions from our church members during the upcoming year. The final date for submission of all required materials is the 15th of December 2023. All submissions are to be addressed to the Convener of the Ecological Department, CSI Diocesan Office, Cathedral Road, Kottayam 686001.

Contact Nos. 9847275754, 9037293858

Name of the Parish: **CSI CHRIST CHURCH, TRIVANDRUM** Address: Christ Church Parsonage, DBRA- 61, Near Devaswom Board Jn, Nanthencode, Trivandrum 695 003

Contact Phone numbers

1. Rev. P.K. Chacko, Vicar :
Mobile: 9447176033 ; 9961616929

2. Mr. M.J. Kuruvilla, Church Warden
(authorised by church committee on ecological matters)
Mobile: 9447734292

(Sd/-)

(Sd/-)

Name of the Vica
with Signature Rev. P.K. Chacko

Name of the Church
Warden with Signature M.J. Kuruvilla

Date : 24-02-2023

Appendix-2 Details of Parishioners who have implemented various Eco Friendly Projects in their residence

No	Name and Directory Info	Phone Number	Location	Rain Water Harvest	Composting Units	Solar Panels	Vegetable cultivation	Organic Agri	No.
1	John Kurian Pg 351/J-117	9847175080	Peroorkada	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
2	M.M. John Pg 156/J -105	96524832244	Kunnukuzhi	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
3	Thomas T Kunjummen Pg 089/T - 046	8921063323	Kowdiar	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
4	Prabha Thomas Pg 330/ S - 060	9400033598	Ambalamukku	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
5	P.K. Mathew Pg 345/ M - 063	9497264607	NCC Road	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	2
6	Roy Philip Ambatt Pg 323/R -062	9846165640	Kowdiar	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
7	Reji Easo Cherian Pg205/R -032	7994455788	Nanthancode	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	2
8	A.J. Thomas Pg 227/R - 062	9447020738	Nanthancode	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
9	Anil T George Pg 230/A - 087	9447897897	Nanthancode	YES	No	No	No	No	1
10	Kurian C.Abraham Pg 231/K -028	9446554155	Nanthancode	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
11	Kuruvilla Varughese Pg 481/K -041	9496201395	Poojappura	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	2
12	P.K. Luke Pg 512/L - 010	9847028922	PTP Nagar	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
13	Koshy Oommen Pg 547/K - 022	9847705961	PTP Nagar	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	2
14	Oommen V Oommen Pg 455/ O - 009	9447728940	sreekaryam	YES	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
15	Suresh Philip Pg 459/S -120	9999761238	sreekaryam	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
16	Laji Wilson Pg 449/W -003	9495336753	sreekaryam	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	2
17	Shashi Thomas Pg 100/S -058	9483535385	Kariyam	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
18	Aleyamma Joseph Pg 471/ J -075	9495201644	Ulloor	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
19	George Cheriyan Pg 064/G -063	9447212761	Mannanthala	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
20	Jacob Samuel Pg 034/J -041	9656222965	Darshan Nagar	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
21	Joseph George Pg 418/J -145	9447958370	Valiyathura	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
22	Total No. of parishioners who implemented Eco-friendly projects in their residence		Eco-friendly projects	5	5	15	20	20	5
23	Marks awarded as per the Green Parish rating of MKD			5	5	5	5	5	5

APPENDIX - 1**Basic Information on Ecology based activities of the Church****Table 1****How many times did the Ecology Committee (the 14-member Christchurch Ecology Committee) meet during the reporting year?**

	Date	Ecology based agenda of the meetings held
1	16-03-2023	Annual Report and Ecology study Tour
2	22-05-2023	Observing World Environment Day; June 5 th , 2023
3	12 -10-2023	Campus Cleaning Day and Election of Office Bearers of EF Committee
4	30-10-2023	Green Homestead Award and Harvest festival
5	30-11-2023	Application for Green Parish Rating by MKD
		Total: Five meetings of the Ecology Committee

Table 2**Environmental Awareness Programs / Conferences / Study Trips conducted for parishioners during the year under report**

	Date	Conferences on Environmental Issues / Awareness program
1	2023 April 24 to 26th	Three day environmental study trip and awareness talks Kuttalam, Chenkota, Aryankav, Tenkasi, Madurai, Kodaikanal: Environmental studies were conducted in ecological, agricultural and biodiversity areas.
2	2023 June 4 Sunday	Awareness and distribution of Safe to Eat vegetables, indigenous agricultural resources, value added products, honey products, seeds, planting materials and biofertilizers were conducted for the congregation, on the previous day (Sunday) of the of World Environment Day.
3	2023 September 13 Wednesday	45 senior members of the church participated in the seminar on “Safe Food: For Health and Spirituality” at the Area Conference organized under the auspices of Health Guild.
4	2023 October 21 Saturday	Cleaning of church yard, planting of two hybrid coconut seedlings, mango saplings and distribution of Safe to Eat vegetables, organic farming resources, pure honey products were conducted and discussions were followed.
5	2023 October 31 Tuesday	In the conference held under the auspices of Christu Seva-Sauhrudam, 35 senior church members participated in the discussion class on “Safe to Eat agriculture and Healthy Food habits” presented by Dr. Thomas Biju Mathew
		Total 5 Eco Awareness programmes



Saturday, October 21, 2023: Cleaning of church yard by volunteers, planting of saplings, Distribution of Fresh and Safe to Eat Agricultural products to create awareness

Item- 3.

One well for Rain water Harvest and two Pits for Rain Water collection and Recharging - 2 and associated pipes (Total 3) installed in the church campus during the reporting year

Rainwater wasted from the terrace of the church's new common vault complex and the trussed roof of the old common vault is being collected in a new rainwater tank (underground) through separate pipes.

A system has been made this year to collect rainwater from the three parking areas on the north and west sides of the church and from the roof of the Centenary Hall through gutters/drainage and special pipes in two rain water pits newly built with underground concrete rings, for re-charging of sub surface water, into the soil/bore wells.



The new well for rain water harvest and two pits for rain water collection and Recharging in the church campus.

Item- 4 Vermicomposting units installed in the church campus during the reporting year - 2 units A Rectangular compost tank measuring 17 feet long x 5.5 feet wide x 5 feet height was constructed and divided into two compartments behind the toilet complex of the church. The fallen leaves of the trees of the church compound and other organic matter of the campus are regularly collected and converted into organic manure for the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants, vegetables, banana and yams in the campus. The composting unit has a total storage capacity to produce up to 470 cubic feet of compost. A truss worked roof was also constructed and separate metallic covers were installed for each tank. The production of organic compost is made possible by getting advice from technical experts in order to make enriched compost in a scientific manner.



Composting unit established in the church campus (A tank is divided into two units)

Table 5 . Solar panels installed in church campus - 2 nos

Two solar panels of 6 KW and 8 KW each were commissioned during the report year (2023) to make the church self-sufficient in electricity needs by converting the uninterrupted sunlight on the terrace of the new common vault complex and on the roof of the old common vault into solar energy. Another 6 kw plant was also installed for the needs of the church's Christ service.

Number	Solar Plant	Position	Power distribution	Capacity	Inverter Make	Solar Panel Make
1	Existing Plant	On the truss work roof of existing common vault	Lights in Centenary Hall and premises	6 KW	Delta	Vikram
2	New Plant	On the terrace of the new Family Vault	Church, premises and Upper Room	8 KW	V Guard	Premier
3	New Plant	On the Terrace of ChristuSeva Buidings	Old Age Home and Guest Rooms	6 KW	V Guard	Premier
Total Capacity				20 KW		



Existing Plant 6 KW

On the truss work roof of the existing common vault



New Plant 8 KW

On the terrace of the new Family Vault Complex



Switching on function of the 6 KW Solar Power Plant at the Christu Seva Charitable Society by our Vicar Rev. P K Chacko and exchanging the official documents of the installation to Shri. Robin Sam Kurien representative of the V - GUARD Solar Division.

Table 6. Fruit tree saplings, other tree saplings and shrubs planted in the church campus during the reporting year,2023 - Total 108

Between January and December 2023, 105 saplings of the following fruit tree saplings, other tree saplings and shrub plants were planted in the church compound, cemetery area, near parking area and behind the centenary hall.

Number	Name of the Sapling	Number	Scientific Name
A	Fruit Trees		
1	Lemon	1	Citrus aurantifolia
2	Miracle Fruit Tree	1	Synsepalum dulcificum
3	Papaya- Red Lady	1	Carica papaya
4	Coconut CYD (Chavakkad Yellow Dwarf)	1	Cocos nucifera
5	Coconut CGD (Chavakkad Green Dwarf)	1	Cocos nucifera
6	Mango (Kottukkonam)	1	Mangifera indica
7	Hybrid Mango	1	
8	Guava	1	Psidium guajava
9	Jack(VietnamSuper early)	1	Artocarpus heterophyllus
10	Abiyu	1	Pouteria caimito
11	Seedless Lemon	1	Citrus limon
12	Drumstick	1	Moringa oleifera
B	Saplings of Other Trees		
1	Olive	1	Olea europaea
2	Curry Leaf	1	Murraya koenigii
C	Shrubs		
1	Hybrid Shoe Flower	34	Hibiscus rosasinensis
2	Crotons	13	Codiaeum variegatum
3	Bougainvillea	28	Bougainvillea glabra
4	Anthurium	19	Anthurium andraeanum
	Total	108 saplings of different types planted in 2023	



Planting of tree saplings (Miracle Fruit Tree, Moovandan Mango, Coconut CYD)

Table 7 .

Vegetable Crops cultivated in Church Campus during 2023

From January 2023, the following vegetables are grown in large pots, special airc pots and soil in the church compound, cemetery side, parking area and centenary hall sides. The initiative was taken by two Sextons and a gardener. The limited amount of vegetables and bananas obtained from this were sold to the church members every Sunday by open auction and the sale proceeds were credited to the church fund..

No.	Vegetables Cultivated	No.	Scientific Name / Variety
1	Bird Eye Chilli (Kaanthari)	1	Capsicum annum
2	White Kaanthaari	1	Capsicum annum
3	Curry Leaf	1	Murraya koenigii
4	Drumstick	1	Moringa oleifera
5	Elephant Foot Yam	3	Amorphophallus esculentum
6	Yam	10	Dioscorea alata
7	Banana-Rasakadhali	16	Musa paradisiaca
8	Banana Palyamkodan	2	Musa paradisiaca
9	Banana Robusta	1	Musa paradisiaca
	ആകെ	36	

Item 8 .**Organic Cultivation Implemented in Church Campus (Parish) During the Report Year:****Total 9 Species : 36 Plants**

The following vegetables, Elephant Foot yam, Yam and 3 varieties of banana were cultivated in the church compound, in the cemetery side, parking area and behind the centenary hall following fully organic farming principles. Only organic fertilizers like cow dung, ash, vermicompost, organic manure and neem cake were used for this. Application of chemical pesticides was completely avoided. Two sextons and a gardener took the initiative and managed the cultivation. A limited amount of organic produce was sold to the congregation on Sundays by open auction and credited to the church fund.

Appendix-3

(HEALTHY PRACTICES - Diocesan Level)

Table 1

Parish Events on June 4th & 5th related to the World Environment Day

	date	Ecology based Events
1	04-06-2023	On the previous day of World Environment Day being Sunday (June 4) post-worship awareness and distribution of non-toxic vegetables, indigenous agricultural resources, value-added products, honey products, seeds, orchid planting materials, bio-biofertilizers etc were distributed to parishioners to create awareness about safe agricultural products.
2	05-06-2023	World Environment Day: Under the auspices of the Ecology Committee in the church campus, special plants such as miracle fruit (<i>Synsepalum dulcificum</i>), which has the ability to change the taste on the tongue, were planted in A block.

Table 2

Observance of Environment Sunday acc. to MKD guidelines: June 11, 2023

	Date	Environment Sunday observance
1	11-06-2023	On 11th June 2023, which was observed as Environment Sunday by MKD, members of the Ecology Committee conducted parts of the worship services. Master Anpin David Koshy delivered a deputation speech On the topic "Creation Groans For Liberation", in English and Malayalam worship followed by Message on Environmental Theology by Mr. M. J. Kuruvila (English) and by Mrs. Laji Wilson (Malayalam)

Table 3

Those honored with Green Homestead awards and prizes at the church level

A separate competition was conducted in each category of Green Farming, by inviting applications at the church level to encourage parishioners who excel in green homestead, beautiful garden, terrace garden/farming, homestead farming, solar energy generation and in nurturing pet animals and birds. On the basis of evaluation by the expert team of the Ecology Committee, the following 2 members were honored with Green homestead Award (Haritha Bhavanam) and 12 other members with prizes in various categories of Green farming, on Sunday, February 12th, 2023 after the Malayalam worship service.

A. Haritha Bhavana Award Winners in February 2023			
1	Sri. Thomas V Oommen	2	Sri. Joseph George

B. Haritha Prize Winners in February 2023			
3	Sri. Roy Philip Ambatt	4	Sri. Thomas T Kunjummen
5	Sri. M.M. John	6	Sri. Reji Easo Cheriyan
7	Smt. Prabha Thomas	8	Sri. M.K. philip
9	Sri. P.K. Mathew	10	Sri. Sudeep Abraham
11	Smt. Aleyamma Joseph	12	Sri. Jacob samuel
13	Sri. Anil T George	14	Sri. Isaac Itty



Haritha Prizes
were presented on 12.2.23 during Malayalam Service in Church

Mr Thomas V Oommen
Sreekariyam , First Prize

Mr. Joseph George
Pettah, Runner up



This year's Green House Competition - Judging by the Judging Committee



Item - 4

The TIDINGS magazine for the month of July focuses more on issues of environmental importance.

1. The environmental theme for the July 2023, Tidings was "Creation Groaning for Liberation" (Author: Rev. Jacob P. Devasya, Principal KUTS)
2. Starting from October, 2023 a special column called Organization corner for church organizations is published in Tidings, which publishes ecology related events and activities conducted under the auspices of the

Ecology Forum and other church organizations.

Appendix - 4

(ECO AWARENESS PROGRAMS CONDUCTED)

Item 1

Learning Ecological Theology

When the Environment Sunday was observed On June 11, 2023, in addition to the speeches by deputies from the Diocese, representatives of Ecology Forum delivered messages on environmental theology issues in English and Malayalam worships.

Item 2 A study tour on Environmental Awareness was organized for Sunday School Students (Sunday School Report is attached)

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, a one-day environmental study trip and work study was organized to Ponmudi Forest under the leadership of Sunday School teachers for Sunday School students. After discussions on forest trekking, tree walking, biodiversity study, eco-sensitive areas, soil transformation, streams and waterfalls in Ponmudi eco-tourism area, Mr. Roy, Ecologist and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) member gave a talk on the topic "Biodiversity Conservation in Kerala". An outdoor learning class led by Abraham was also organized as an unforgettable experience for the city-dwelling students.



Saturday, November 11, 2023 : Ecology tour to Ponmudi forest area for Sunday School students: Study trip and outdoor class on Biodiversity



Environment-Biodiversity Study Trips conducted under the auspices of various church organizations

Item 4

Ecology Awareness Program organised by Womens Fellowship

An Environmental program was organized under the leadership of Christ Church Womens Fellowship on Saturday, 4th November 2023. Dr. Thomas Biju Mathew, Former Professor & Lab Head, Kerala Agricultural University delivered a power point presentation on "Organic Farming and safe to Eat Food". Members of the Womens Fellowship attended the presentation class and participated in lively discussions.



4th November 2023 Saturday : Seminar conducted on "Organic Farming and Safe to Eat



Food"



Wednesday, September 13, 2023: Seminar on "Safe Food: For Health and Spirituality"

Table 5

Programme/ activities undertaken to promote organic farming

1	On Sunday 4th June 2023 and on Saturday 21st October 2023, awareness programmes were conducted. Indigenous organic agricultural products, Safe to Eat vegetables, value added organic products and biofertilizers for the parishioners were also distributed under the initiatives of the Ecological Committee
2	Green Homestead awards and Green Home prizes were awarded to church members who practiced organic farming and ecofriendly practices in their home premises and on their own farmland.
3	Organic farming awareness programs were organized under the auspices of various church organizations on Wednesday 13th September, Tuesday 31st October and Saturday 4th November 2023.
4	Vegetable and banana demonstration was carried out in fully organic method in the church campus and encouraged the church members to promote organic agriculture.

Item 6

Encouragement given to parishioners to cooperate with Krishi Bhavan

1. Church Members who are members of the Krishi Bhavan WhatsApp communities are beneficiaries of seed, planting material, organic fertilizer and bio-pesticide distribution and other subsidised supplies by the respective Krishi Bhavans.

2. All church members who are members of WhatsApp communities of Krishi Bhavans keep themselves informed about the Government Agricultural Assistance Schemes at Ward and Krishi Bhavan level.

Item 7

Environment Friendly Budget and provision for Eco friendly activities of the church

Rs 10,000 has been earmarked for environmental activities in the 2023-2024 budget of the Parish: Donations of planting materials and plants have been accepted from the people to organize an ecology stall in conjunction with the first Fruit Sunday week.

<i>Home of Love-Parkal</i>	30,000.00	52,450.00	50,000.00
<i>Jambua</i>	1,000.00		5,000.00
<i>Midland</i>	2,000.00		5,000.00
Socio-Economic Development			
<i>Home for the needy</i>	1,00,000.00	2,04,733.00	2,50,000.00
Funds of Church Organisations			
<i>Almaya Fellowship</i>	4,00,000.00	2,79,339.00	3,00,000.00
<i>Choir</i>	75,000.00	2,15,617.00	1,00,000.00
<i>Ecology Forum</i>	10,000.00		10,000.00
<i>Golden Age Fellowship</i>	15,000.00	19,719.00	20,000.00

Green Parish awards 2023

CSI Christ Church, Trivandrum five star ★★★★★

CSI St Mark's Church, Muttambalam Three star ★★★

Carbon Lent

The CSI Synod has been making a call for Carbon Lent from 2017 onwards. Many parishes have been observing Carbon Lent seriously. "Carbon Lent" refers to a period similar to the Christian observance of Lent but with a focus on environmental stewardship, particularly reducing carbon emissions and adopting eco-friendly practices. It's a time for reflection and action on environmental issues, encouraging individuals and communities to make conscious efforts to reduce their carbon footprint, conserve resources, and promote sustainability. During Carbon Lent, people may commit to actions such as reducing energy consumption, using alternative transportation methods, supporting green initiatives, and raising awareness about environmental issues. It's a way for communities and individuals to integrate environmental consciousness into their

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA Department of Ecological Concerns							ECO LENT 2024
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
MARCH 31 			FEBRUARY 14 <i>Gifts of Nature:</i> Symbol of love Genesis 43:11	FEBRUARY 15 <i>Jute:</i> Is plastic a substitute? Leviticus 16:4	FEBRUARY 16 <i>Decoration:</i> Colour and content? Leviticus 23:40	FEBRUARY 17 <i>Manna:</i> Sale and hoarding Numbers 11:7-10	
FEBRUARY 18 	FEBRUARY 19 <i>Water:</i> Elixir of Life Genesis 21:15	FEBRUARY 20 <i>Ground Water:</i> To be kept secured-Handle with care Genesis 29:3	FEBRUARY 21 <i>River:</i> For consumption and cleansing Exodus 2:5	FEBRUARY 22 <i>Water Pollution:</i> First Plague: Lessons to be learnt Exodus 7:18	FEBRUARY 23 <i>Water Springs:</i> Blessing from beneath of the earth Numbers 21:17	FEBRUARY 24 <i>Water bodies:</i> Not a Bed for Industrial waste Deuteronomy 9:21	
FEBRUARY 25 	FEBRUARY 26 <i>Birds:</i> For Restoration and Rejuvenation Genesis 8:11	FEBRUARY 27 <i>Eagle:</i> Dwindling population of concern Genesis 15:11	FEBRUARY 28 <i>Fruit bearing Trees:</i> For Life and Shelter Leviticus 19:23-25	FEBRUARY 29 <i>Animals:</i> Gift of God to the Humanity Genesis 24:19	MARCH 01 <i>Beast going wild:</i> The risk of being Bewildered Exodus 23:29	MARCH 02 <i>Mistake of Humanity:</i> Animals go Berserk Leviticus 26:22	
MARCH 03 	MARCH 04 <i>Mountain:</i> Adobe of God's Presence Exodus 24:17	MARCH 05 <i>Hill Country:</i> Asylum for meek Deuteronomy 2:4,5	MARCH 06 <i>Mining:</i> Hidden wealth - needs caution Deuteronomy 8:9	MARCH 07 <i>The Indigenous Community:</i> Rooted to the Land Numbers 33:55	MARCH 08 <i>Desert:</i> Hostile Destination Numbers 20:5	MARCH 09 <i>Sun Shine:</i> Breathing Life Numbers 6:24-26	
MARCH 10 	MARCH 11 <i>Garden:</i> The first Shelter of Humanity Genesis 2:8	MARCH 12 <i>Hybrid Produce:</i> Quantity Vs Quality Numbers 13:23	MARCH 13 <i>Sprout:</i> Sign of Blessing Numbers 17:5	MARCH 14 <i>Trees:</i> Sustainers Deuteronomy 20:19	MARCH 15 <i>Concrete Forest:</i> Short of Wisdom Genesis 11:4	MARCH 16 <i>Serene Dwelling:</i> Hygiene and Holiness Deuteronomy 23:14	
MARCH 17 	MARCH 18 <i>Plagues:</i> Checks and Balances Numbers 16:45-50	MARCH 19 <i>War:</i> An expression of greed Numbers 31:32-35	MARCH 20 <i>Famine:</i> A standstill or renewal! Genesis 41:56	MARCH 21 <i>Burning Bush:</i> Reberance and rage Exodus 3:2	MARCH 22 <i>Climate Change:</i> A Clarion Call Leviticus 24:25	MARCH 23 <i>Fissures & Land Cracks:</i> A reminder and warning Numbers 16:31-33	
MARCH 24 	MARCH 25 <i>Coveit:</i> Step to doom Exodus 20:17	MARCH 26 <i>First Command:</i> Stewardship Genesis 2:15	MARCH 27 <i>Sacrifice:</i> Not to be a pretext for exploitation Genesis 22:13	MARCH 28 <i>Sabbath:</i> A part of creation Exodus 23:11	MARCH 29 <i>Seed:</i> Hope to Sprout Genesis 3:15	MARCH 30 <i>In Unison:</i> All in one, one in all Deuteronomy 10:14	

Dr. G.C. Abraham
Hon. Director
Department of Ecological Concerns

Rev. H. John Samuel
Hon. Associate Director
Department of Ecological Concerns



Bishop Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian



Prof. Dr Mammen varkey

The Ecological Convention of the CSI MKD was held at Baker Vidyapith Auditorium on January 27, 2024. Prof. Mammen Varkey (former Principal and the Editor of People's Reporter) inaugurated the convention. Bishop Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian presided over the function. Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, Rev. Anil Thomas and Mr. Noyel V Adatt addressed the gathering.



Audience

PunnackaduMalayil Rev. P.M. Koshy Memorial Green School Awards 2023

We are thrilled to announce the recipients of this year's prestigious awards! Congratulations to all the schools for their outstanding contributions to promoting ecological awareness and sustainability.

★★★★★ Five Star

CMS College High School, Kottayam

★★★ Three Star

CMS LPS, Muhamma

CMS LPS, Ponkunnam

Baker Memorial Girls Higher Secondary School, Kottayam

★★ Two Star

CSI VHSS for Deaf

★ One Star

CMS LPS, Channanikadu

Five-Star and Three-Star ratings got cash awards! ☹

This achievement reflects the dedication to creating a greener, more sustainable future. Keep up the fantastic work!

Congratulations to CMS College High School, Kottayam, for once again achieving the esteemed PunnackaduMalayil Rev. P.M. Koshy Memorial Green School Award 2023! This prestigious recognition, marked by a five-star rating, celebrates the school's exceptional ecological efforts and initiatives among students. A heartfelt cheer for the dedicated work that led to this accolade, not just once, but two years in a row!. A special round of applause goes to the inspirational Ms. Ashly V Thomas, whose coordination and enthusiastic leadership in ecological projects have been pivotal in this achievement. The school has been honoured with a beautiful memento and a cash award of Rs 10,000. Award, Instituted by the children of Rev. P.M. Koshy. This award is a testament to the sustainable practices and environmental stewardship fostered at CMS College High School.





Green Home Awards 2023



- Mr.Mathew K John Thingalkarikam 4 star
- Mr.Sajan John Mundukottakal 4 star
- Ms.Mollykutty George, Kattanam 3 star
- Mr.George Samuel Kayangulam 3 star



Green Farmer Award 2023



Mr Abraham Kurian Kodukulanji

Leaders, Will you Listen?

Celebrating the Remarkable Achievement of Merina Mary Pramod, Daughter of the Respected Rev. Pramod J John from St. Paul's CSI Church, Valanjavattom, and Achsah Mariam Thampy, Daughter of the Esteemed Suresh K Thampy from St. Paul's CSI Church, Eramathoor! ★

These talented young individuals, both Bishop Hodges Higher Secondary School students in Mavelikara, Alappuzha, Kerala, India, have now joined the illustrious international team of singers advocating for Climate Justice! Congratulations to the teachers at the School.

Their dedication and passion are commendable and a shining example for us all. Let's applaud their commitment to making a positive impact on our world. Ms. Nisha Ann Jacob, a Teacher at Bishop Hodges Higher Secondary School, coordinated the event. Bishop Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian distributed Certificates to the Students



Eco leadership training to the School Students

The CSI has been conducting eco-leadership training for school students. The students gained exposure through these online classes. One hundred twenty students benefited from this training program. They received certificates from the Bishop.



Introducing the Green Bible Studies in Malayalam



ഇനിയും മരിക്കാത്ത ഭൂമി
("THE EARTH THAT STILL LIVES")

PREPARE TO EMBARK ON A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY WITH THE GREEN BIBLE STUDIES – A GROUNDBREAKING APPROACH TO EXPLORING THE WISDOM OF THE BIBLE, ROOTED IN THE HEART OF OUR PLANET, EARTH.

PROUDLY CRAFTED BY INDIAN THEOLOGAINS

Eco Lent Meditations

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
 Department of Ecological Concerns *Metanoia* 2024
 A CALL TO REPENTANCE
 A SERIES OF LENTEN MEDITATIONS

JOIN OUR MEETING THROUGH ZOOM AT MONDAY 8 PM IST



FEBRUARY 19
MONDAY

A CALL TO ECOLOGICAL REPENTANCE
REV. DR. CANON RACHEL MASH
 Coordinator of Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environment Network,
 Secretary of Anglican Communion Environmental Network



FEBRUARY 26
MONDAY

ENGAGED SOLIDARITY AS A PROPHETIC RESPONSE TO EARTH'S CRY FOR JUSTICE
REV. DR. EVANGELINE ANDERSON RAJKUMAR
 Pastor, St Paul Lutheran Church, Versailles, Indiana,
 Rostered Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



MARCH 04
MONDAY

WHAT DOES RELIGION HAVE TO DO WITH ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY?
RABBI YONATAN NERIL
 Founder and Director,
 Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development,
 Author of the bestselling book Eco Bible: An Ecological Commentary on the Hebrew Bible.



MARCH 11
MONDAY

A CALL TO ECOLOGICAL REPENTANCE
THE RT. REV. DR. MARC HANDLEY ANDRUS
 Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California,
 Author of Book, In Brothers in the Beloved Community and Co author of The Stations of the Cosmic Christ



MARCH 18
MONDAY

BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE JUSTICE: A CALL FOR REPENTANCE.
BISHOP JEAN PIERRE METHODE
 Bishop, Karongi Missionary Diocese,
 West of Rwanda

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Meeting ID
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Scan Me

Release of the Book – A call to stand with Nature



Releasing the book

Rt.Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Theethos, Bishop of Marthoma Church, released the book by giving the first copy to Rt.Rev. Dr.Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian, Bishop of CSI Madhya Kerala on 11th February at the Sandbed of Maramon Convention Nagar.

In this pivotal era of environmental awakening, 'A Call to Stand with Nature' stands out as a groundbreaking exploration, seamlessly blending the profound wisdom of the Bible with a pressing call for ecological stewardship. This book, crafted by renowned eco-theologians such as Prof. Rev. Dr.Chilkuri Vasantha Rao, Prof. Rev. Dr. John Samuel Ponnuswamy, Prof. Rev. Dr. David Joy, Prof. Rev. Dr. V.J John, Prof. Dr. Laila Vijayan, Prof. Rev. Dr. Alexander M. Isaac, Prof. Rev. Dr. Mervin Shinoj Boas, Prof. Dr. George Zachariah, Rev. Shuba Keerthana Preeth, Rev. Dr. Viji Varghese Eapen, Rev. Shubin Varghese, Rev. Varghese EnathickalVarkki, Rev. Nirmal Cherian, Rev. Shaji M. Johnson, Rev. Shaji Jacob Thomas, and Rev. Sandeep Jacob, is a testament to the collective wisdom in addressing the urgent need for environmental care. As a vital resource, this eco-bible study inspires congregations, individuals, and study groups to commit more deeply to an eco-conscious lifestyle firmly rooted in spiritual teachings.

'A Call to Stand with Nature' invites us to envision and embrace a future where we live in harmony with nature, recognising Earth's marvels as divine gifts entrusted to our care.

Editor. Prof.Dr.Mathew Koshy Punnackadu. foreword by Rt.Rev. Dr.Reuban Mark, Acting Moderator of the CSI Synod, Preface by Adv. C.Fernadas Rathina Raja is the general secretary of the CSI Synod.

Releasing of the Malayalam Book – Eco Bible Studies

Bishop Dr.Malayi Sabu Koshy Cherian released the book. Writers of the Bible Studies also can be seen in the photo.



Releasing the book Malayalam book

Kerala Regional Committee



Regional-Committee-at-Kottayam-1



Bishop Dr.Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian inaugurated the meeting. Dr.G.C.Abraham, Honorary Director and Rev H John Samuel, Associate Director attended the meeting

Amazing Performance



Congratulations to the young stars of CMS Primary School, Kayipuram, and CMS Primary School, Muhamma, for their spectacular ecological skit presentation! These talented kids have shown incredible dedication and skill, making their mark at the prestigious convention in Kottayam.

Their journey wasn't short, but their passion for ecological awareness travelled even further!

A big round of applause for these little eco-warriors who remind us that it's never too early to care for our planet. Keep shining, young stars! Your marvellous presentation has entertained us, educated us, and inspired us.

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