



St Mary's Eaton Socon
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Creation Care
Loving, caring supporting



CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020

Church of England Aims to be Net Carbon Zero by 2030

In February 2020, the Church of England set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon "net zero" by 2030. Following the debate, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the church's lead bishop on Environmental Affairs, said, "This is a clear statement of intent across the church and to wider society about our determination to safeguard God's creation. This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order".

As part of the Church of England we are looking at ways to play our part in this ambitious plan.

What do you think?

Eco Church Survey

St Mary's is taking part in this free online survey set up by the Christian environmental charity, "A Rocha UK". It has five parts: worship and teaching; buildings; churchyard and land; engagement with local community and global campaigns; personal lifestyles of our congregation. We are making good progress working towards the "Bronze Award". We will keep you updated via this newsletter and the Creation Care page on the church website. Our diocese, St Albans, announced on 17th October 2020 that it is working towards the Bronze Award as an "Eco-Diocese", and called on every diocese to do the same.

Our Churchyard is "closed" which means that no further burials can take place in it, and the Town Council is responsible for its overall maintenance. However, the church can still bury ashes and do some gardening. We are exploring with the council what we can do help nature in the churchyard. Possibilities include a wild-flower area, planting trees with berries and putting up nesting boxes.

What are your suggestions?



Ground Force: many of us including several from our youth group, enjoyed a few hours on 17th October tidying up various areas in the churchyard. The bacon butties were delicious!

Topical Tips!

- As cold weather approaches, feed birds in your garden
- Make sure your house is well insulated and draught-proofed - will save you money and keep you warmer
- Eat less meat (needs more resources to produce)
- Walk or cycle rather than use the car, when you can
- Make sure your toilets are dual flush (church toilets are now all dual flush)
- Join Tearfund's "Toilet Twinning" scheme to help those in need overseas. For a £60 donation you will receive a plaque to mark your contribution (www.toilettwinning.org).
- Don't overfill your kettle - heating water you don't need wastes energy
- Calculate your own carbon footprint - there's a calculator at <https://www.climatestewards.org/offset>



For More Tips - look at the Creation Care Page on the church website or click [here](#).

Have you any useful tips to share?

Local News: on 4th October 2020, All Saints Church, Grafham were presented, by the Bishop of Ely, with the Bronze Award from the Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme. As well as making their churchyard a haven for wildlife, their congregation helped to sow a wildflower area. They are already aiming for the silver award!

Why not visit and see for yourself?

Overseas Spotlight: Rachel Karanja, an inspiring Christian leader in Kenya has pioneered a means of converting cow dung into clean gas - "biogas" - which people can use to power their cooking stoves and also produces a fertilizer to enrich their farm. *Please pray for good health for Rachel as she pours her energy into helping others. Also for followers of Christ to take positions of influence in Kenya and actively seek the blessing of all of her people.*



Further information is on the CMS website: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/our-stories/waste-not-want-not/> Thanks to Corrie Verduyn for suggesting this project.

St Mary's Creation Care Team: James Faulkner, Anthony Harris, David Hesketh, Edward Jarvis, Roger Peppiatt.

Our group reports to the PCC. We have a page on the church website, found under "Get Connected". We would be pleased to hear your views and suggestions - please email to creationcare@eatonsocon.org or leave a voicemail message on 01480 352154 (church office).