



St Mary's Eaton Socon
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Creation Care
Loving, caring supporting



CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Churchyard News

If you haven't already done so, do walk around the churchyard and spot what has been done in recent weeks:

- New hedge and flower bed behind the Circle of Remembrance
- New flower bed by one of the Hall walls, and nearby a new water butt and a wooden box to contain vases
- Tree trunks have been removed and a new bed for fruit bushes planted further along by the boundary fence
- New sign in the noticeboard at the entrance (near the path to Willow Bridge)
- Four nesting boxes in various trees, and a fifth on a hall wall
- To help wild flowers to grow the grass is being cut differently this year. Some areas are "Spring Meadows" and some, "Summer Meadows". There are signs to explain what is going on.
- You can read about all this and much more in our new Churchyard Management Plan - see the church website at www.eatonsocon.org/churchyard.



Proposed "Quiet Area":

The PCC has agreed to a circular paved area on which, in time, will be placed five wooden park benches. Individuals and groups from church and community will be able to use these to sit and meditate or to meet. In preparation, the Council have planted a yew hedge to give some privacy from the main footpath. If you would like to have one the benches in memory of a loved one, please speak to the Vicar.



Flower beds:

Did you know we now have 16 flower beds in the churchyard? While they look lovely, each one needs tidying up, weeding and pruning particularly during the growing season. There is a plan showing them on the church website. We are looking for more individuals, families or groups to "adopt" a bed for the year to keep them looking good. Please email us (creationcare@eatonsocon.org) if you would like to help. Thank you.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

**Bronze Eco Church
Award Certificate**

This is to certify that

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed *Andy Atkin* Date **24th May 2021**
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk

Eco Church Survey:

For over a year we have been working our way through this excellent scheme, which has over 90 questions in five sections. The questions cover our worship and teaching, our land and buildings, our engagement with the outside community and worldwide issues, and how we encourage each other.

We are delighted to say that on 24th May we were awarded the "Bronze Award".



National News: most churches in the UK, including the Church of England, and development charities such as Tearfund, are coming together under the banner of “**Climate Sunday**”, in preparation for the important COP26, the intergovernmental climate conference to be held in November in Glasgow. As followers of a loving and Creator God, we should be the sector of society most prepared to act first, boldly, in faith and service. Each church is asked to:

- Hold a climate-focused service to consider creation care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action’. ***Ours will be on Sunday 6th June.***
- To make a short and simple commitment to greater action to address climate change in their own place of worship and community, and to raise their voice to urge bolder action by governments. ***Our commitment will include recognition of the climate crisis, our acceptance of the CofE target to net zero carbon by 2030, and our benchmarking our environmental activity by measuring against the Eco Church survey.***
- Sign up, both as a whole church ***and also as individuals*** to the ‘Time is Now’ petition, organised by The Climate Coalition. This is a secular coalition of concerned organisations (Wildlife Trusts, RSPB etc) and includes several Christian environmental groups. This petition calls for the UK government to take much bolder action towards a cleaner, greener, fairer future in advance of COP26. ***Please sign-up by visiting the website, www.thetimeisnow.uk.***
- On behalf of St Mary’s, the Vicar and the PCC has written a letter to our MP about these issues. See the PCC’s resolution and letter [here](#).

Topical Tips: turn central heating off for the summer; put bird feeders and bird baths in your garden; consider diverting water from a down-pipe to a water butt to save water – you can see an example outside the Church Hall; put food and water out for hedgehogs; don’t mow all of your lawn – leave an area for wild flowers to grow.



Overseas Spotlight: Teresha Karahukayo, our mission partner based in Uganda, wrote earlier this year to describe how the weather has changed where she lives. The “wet” season lasts longer, rain is heavier and floods more common. She describes vividly, *“One evening I was at a bible study in Jinja town and a friend and I drove home. We drove back down the road towards my house. We had no idea how bad the situation was. The next thing we knew we found water coming through the doors of the car. My car was stuck, a few prayers and SOS prayer requests later we got my car out. Tropical rains are incredible but also incredibly dangerous!”*

Please pray for Teresha and her family in Uganda.

St Mary’s Creation Care Team:

James Faulkner, Anthony Harris, 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).