



St Mary's Eaton Socon  
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Creation Care  
Loving, caring, supporting



# GREEN SHOOTS - NOVEMBER 2024

Our occasional newsletter - number 11

## Cleaner streets!

On 28<sup>th</sup> September nine church folks picked up lots of litter from the streets surrounding the church, after which we enjoyed a hot drink and chat back in the church hall. Most of us received thanks from some of the passers-by. Our high-viz jackets told them who we were.

We plan to hold another event in Spring 2025.



## Annual Lifestyle Audit

Thank you to the 47 people who completed these forms in September. We plan to repeat the audit annually so we can all share our thoughts and suggestions with the whole congregation. We will post a summary of the results on our section of the church website in due course. Here are a few comments we noted:

- One person suggested St Mary's should install solar panels and heat pumps to reduce its carbon footprint - we would love to do this but at the moment there is no money to pay for them. (Although the solar panels would pay for themselves over about twenty years)
- Many people are concerned about the lack of bees and butterflies this year
- Several said they learned a lot from watching TV programmes about nature and our world
- Most people reported they are trying to reduce use of their cars, to eat a healthier diet, limit waste and purchase Fairtrade goods

## The Toad in the Buttercups - by Margaret Tabone

I was weeding the bed along the eastern boundary fence in the churchyard in October. There was a big patch of creeping buttercup, well-named as they spread rapidly by underground stems. As I pulled some of the plants back, there was a movement - a small brown animal. A mouse, perhaps? But no - a closer look revealed a small toad. It had hunkered down under the buttercup leaves and I'd clearly disturbed its sleep. It crawled slowly further along the fence and, feeling rather bad at having removed its hiding place, I waited for it to settle. It did just that, in an as yet un-weeded patch so as I took out more buttercups I was careful to leave the clump in which Mr. (or Mrs?) Toad was now hiding. I hope the toad makes it through the winter and it was a valuable reminder that we can sometimes be too tidy in our gardens - who knows for what creatures weeds may provide a refuge?



Photo of another toad in the churchyard a couple of years ago

## “Green Horizons”

We are introducing a series of A4 leaflets to explore some aspects of Creation Care in greater depth. Paper copies will be available in the church. Digital versions will be on the Creation Care section of the church website. Two titles are now available.

The first is “*Personal Carbon Footprints*” which we wrote in response to the Lifestyle audit (see earlier). A number of people said they would like to undertake a personal carbon footprint calculation - this paper aims to help readers to do this.

The second is “*Asthma Inhalers*”, written by Dr Catherine Salkield, a member of our congregation. Her comments will be relevant to asthma and COPD sufferers who use inhalers. She explains that propellants in these inhalers are potent greenhouse gases. The good news is that for many users, there are alternatives which are better for the environment.

Please let us have suggestions for subjects for future “Green Horizons”.

## Repair and Alteration Sessions - by Audrey Hedges

Although the majority of you do an amazing job of helping the environment by recycling, reducing and re-using, we encourage you to focus on some additional simple changes you could make.

One of the areas that I am passionate about is repairing and altering clothes. I'm proud to say that most of my wardrobe is over 20 years old! Repair and alteration sessions are held at the church twice a year (March and October) but I can also do additional work during the year. Have a hunt through your wardrobe and find those clothes that you love but can't wear because they need a repair or alteration and bring them along either on Saturday 26th October 11-2, or on any Sunday morning, and I'll make the changes to help you reduce your carbon footprint further.

## Why choose Fairtrade? - by Audrey Hedges

Fairtrade products ensure that you are not only getting a better-quality product but that you are also supporting the workers - ensuring that all genders get a fair price for their produce. You are also investing in education, better housing, schools & medical facilities in the local area.



## Diary Dates

### November

4<sup>th</sup> - Churchyard Working Party, starts 09:30am

16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Fayre

30<sup>th</sup> - Helping to erect the Christmas Tree

### December

There will be NO Churchyard Working Party

### January 2025

6<sup>th</sup> - Churchyard Working Party, starts 09:30am

The next Wildlife Walk will be 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025



## St Mary's Creation Care Team:

Anthony Harris, Audrey Hedges, Roger Peppiatt, Margaret Tabone.

Our group reports to the PCC. We have a page on the church website [www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care](http://www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care), and a group on the church Facebook page. We would be pleased to hear your views and suggestions - please email to [creationcare@eatonsocon.org](mailto:creationcare@eatonsocon.org) or leave a voicemail message on 01480 352154 (church office).