



Issue 2
Spring 2018

Eco Church Newsletter



Psalms 89:11

The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours – you created it all.

A Message from our Environmental Representative

It is now 18 months since I started work on Eco Church. In that time in addition to what has been visible I have been reviewing my own situation in relation to the Eco Church Scheme most of which forms part of the Lifestyle section.

I have always thought I was environmentally minded and tried to do my best in reducing my impact by turning down the thermostat, recycling, walking not driving, buying energy efficient appliances and so on but find that there is always more to do.

In the Eco Church scheme this is called a Lifestyle audit and in this second edition of Eco Church Newsletter the main item relates to encouraging all the church community to review their own lifestyle choices and to do an audit of their own position.

Looking more widely this edition also informs everyone on the work of Andover Vision and how our church is having an input into the Council plans.

Finally, we have good news on Green Energy and you can find the details in the buildings section update.

Ann Smith

Buildings

Green Energy

One of the key areas for consideration in the Eco Church scheme is buying our energy wholly from a green energy supplier.

Recently we were advised that the supplier used through the parish buying scheme supplies energy totally from renewable sources.



This is a big step towards our goal of achieving the silver level in the Eco Church Award Scheme.

Carbon Footprint

Diane has now collected a year's worth of data so that the comparison of year on year data by month can commence. We can then see if we are moving towards our annual target of a 5% annual reduction or not.

Worship

On 4th February the services will both reflect God's Creation.

In the coming months we will be looking to ensure that we always pray for environmental issues and our hymns and songs celebrate God's creation.

Community and Global

Andover Vision

Our church has signed up to participate in the development of the Andover Vision 20 year plan published by Test Valley Council in April. Over the summer months we have attended meetings and had input into the first 2 years of that plan.

In Autumn 2017 discussion started on how to take the first action areas forward – in September Andover Timebank, Countryside Access, Andover Business Improvement District and Andover Health Network Wellbeing Hub were discussed and the November meeting looked at the progress to date and the consolidated plan.

If you would like to know more about this please talk to Ann Smith.

Lifestyle

Have you considered undertaking a Lifestyle Audit? This is a full look at the choices you make in your life that can have an adverse effect on the environment. Over the past year or so in the Grapevine the Eco Church notices have asked you to calculate your carbon footprint and reduce your energy usage, encouraged you to walk or cycle to church and by implication use your car less and to look at your recycling and to maximise it.

To complete a lifestyle audit consideration needs to be given to who we buy our energy from, is the food we purchase environmentally friendly, do the

products we clean our homes with and put on our gardens minimise the effects of chemicals on the environment and is where we invest our money mindful of the effects companies have on the environment.

Below a range of questions are set out and you are encouraged over the coming weeks and months to consider your position on the following and if and where you can take action to help save God's earth.

Over the past months your environmental representative has been personally looking at her own choices and is and continues to reduce her impact on the environment

Carbon Footprint – Last February we asked you to look at how much energy you use and to calculate your carbon footprint. How is it going? Have you made changes to reduce your impact on the planet?

Green Energy – Another way of reducing our impact on the environment is to change our own energy supply to a green energy supplier.

Walk/Cycle more and use the car less – the more we walk or cycle the better it is for both the environment and our own health. Have you walked or cycled more? If not why not consider this in 2018



Recycle more – The more we recycle reduces our drain on the resources of the earth. Local supermarket car parks have a range of recycling collection points so please look at what more you can recycle.

Environmentally friendly cleaning products – There are environmentally cleaning products in our supermarkets. These range from washing up liquid to toilet cleaners and these are effective. Why not try these and reduce the chemicals released into the environment.

Recycled Paper Products – In supermarkets there are now toilet and kitchen rolls made from recycled paper. Why not give these a try?

Pick up litter – Please pick up litter that you come across. Whilst it is annoying clearing up behind others if we all pick up something everyday our community will look more attractive to us all and make proud of where we live and work.

Reduce usage of plastic bags and bottles – If you watched the last episode of Blue planet 2 before Christmas you will have been shocked to find that the world is drowning in a sea of plastic that is now affecting the creatures of the deepest oceans we all must take our responsibilities seriously or much diversity of life will be lost to future generations. Please look at the plastic that comes into your home with your shopping and post and see what steps you can take to reduce it.

Reduce food waste – A major supermarket has recently announced it is trialling selling out of date tinned and dried foods at significantly reduced prices. All of us will have items in our food cupboards that are close to or past sell by dates so please think about how much food you buy which ends up in your waste bin and reflect upon the amount you buy.

Use organic, animal friendly, Fairtrade and local produce - Please consider buying products that are produced using environmentally friendly methods and that help the communities that produce them. Organic food is produced without the use of chemicals. Animal friendly food is produced without intensive farming methods and with care for animal welfare. Fairtrade, or responsibly sourced food, is food that is produced with investment, not exploitation, of farmers in the developing world. Buying local produce when you can will support local food production and reduces carbon emissions from vehicles transporting food.



How do you measure up? - If you can look at all these areas and review what you can do to reduce your impact on the environment you will have undertaken a lifestyle audit. The lifestyle audit is not defined in the Eco Church scheme and the items listed above are items that we all encounter in our everyday lives.

If you would prefer to use a prepared calculator a Footprint Calculator can be found on the Worldwide Fund for Nature website - www.wwf.org.uk.



Future Dates for your diaries

WWF Earth Hour Saturday 24th
March 2018 at 8pm

Walk/Cycle to Church 29th April.

Christian Aid Week 13 – 19 May
2018

Do you have suggestions for future action?

Remember if you have a suggestion on how to improve our environmental credentials please talk to one of the Eco Church Working Party Heather Norton, Paula Deverill, Andy Berry or Ann Smith.



 **St. Mary's**
Andover

