



Issue 4  
Lent 2019

# Eco Church Newsletter



Welcome to the fourth St Marys Eco Church Newsletter. In this edition the main focus is once again carbon footprint and reducing plastic in our daily lives.

## **Eco Church Update - Plan towards Eco Church Gold level**

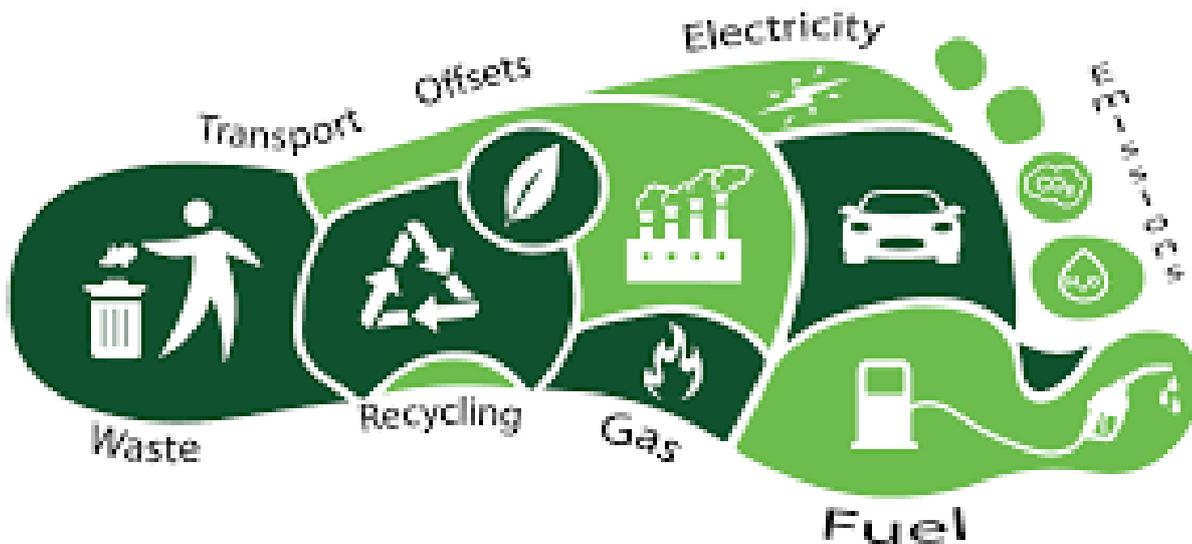
Over the past few months the Eco Church plan has been reviewed and was considered by the PCC this month. Without investment in insulation and double glazing in the church centre achieving the gold standard will be difficult.

## **Church Carbon Footprint**

The PCC set a target to reduce the church power usage by 5% a year. Once we had collected 2 years of data we were able to make the comparisons to find out if this target had been achieved. This showed that the electricity usage had significantly reduced as expected following the installation of the new lighting in the church. The gas usage had increased (due to the repair of the damaged gas supply main). Overall the target had been exceeded. A full year effect of the change to the lighting has yet to be reflected in the calculation.



## How is your Carbon Footprint?



In an earlier edition of the Eco Church newsletter we asked you personally to review how you can reduce your carbon footprint. Have the changes you personally made delivered the progress that you hoped? Perhaps you could once again look at your position and make further improvements? Try the Calculator at [footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://footprint.wwf.org.uk).



### Why not reduce your footprint by using your car less?

Over past editions we have suggested that on occasion you think about walking to church or give lifts to others. Why not consider walking more and not using your car for short journeys of less than a mile every day. On the television news we are regularly made aware of the impact of car emissions on the air quality around busy roads and how that affects the health of all, but particularly the young and the old.

Southampton city centre already has air pollution levels above the recommended safe levels at busy times. We all have a responsibility to reduce the impact of our actions on the air we breath so why not set an example and use your car less every week?



## Plastic Free Lent Challenge



[www.shrinkingthefootprint.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.org)

The Church of England has produced a daily challenge throughout Lent for us all to consider the amount of plastic used in every aspect of our lives is reduced. Why not consider this? In times past, in the middle of the 20th century, most shops routinely wrapped fresh food in paper bags. Supermarkets today are now looking of ways to package items without the use of plastic.

Could you purchase loose fruit and vegetables rather than the pre-packed items?



## Milk Bottle Tops



Thank you to everyone who bought milk bottle tops to the church in the last few weeks and to Jane Bazire and Paula Deverill for taking them to onto the collection points for recycling. The response recently has been amazing. Thank you.

## Future Dates for your Diaries

- WWF Earth Hour 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Christian Aid Week 12-18 May
- Litter Pick – date to follow in Grapevine



## Do you have any suggestions?

If you have any suggestions for improving our church environment please contact Ann Smith via the office.