



St Mary's Eaton Socon
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Creation Care
Loving, caring supporting



CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021

Churchyard News

We are delighted to announce that we have been given the Bronze Award from the **Cambridge Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme**, run in partnership with the local Wildlife Trust. They visited on Tuesday 21st September (photo opposite) and have also given us a useful list of action points.

You will have seen that large areas of the churchyard have been mowed differently this year. The council did a valiant job, but due to the pandemic and weather, their mowing has not been quite on the agreed timetable. We all agree that we are on the steep part of the learning curve! However, it has been wonderful to see a more natural aspect to the meadows. Wildlife has certainly benefitted. For example, we have seen cinnabar moth caterpillars on ragwort plants – see photo below right.

Many of the flower beds are now looked after by members of the church through the “Adopt a Bed” scheme. We are now running **monthly working parties** to look after the rest of the flower beds and do other jobs to keep the Churchyard looking good. **These meet at 09:30am on the first Monday morning of each month. Do join us if you can. Refreshments provided!**

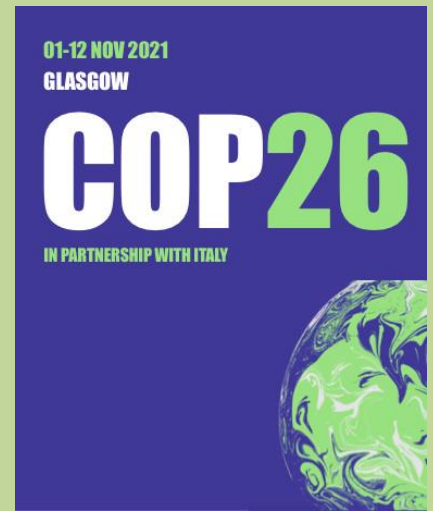


Proposed “Quiet Area”:

During the summer we received permission from the diocese to proceed with a Quiet Area for individuals or groups to use. Our builder Den will go ahead in the coming weeks. If you would like to sponsor one of the five benches in memory of a loved one, please speak to the Vicar.

National News:

The UK government is hosting the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow from 31st October – 12th November. This crucial event could bring countries together to reduce the devastating effect of climate change. We held a service in June to focus on this subject and have written to our MP. Please pray that our leaders are inspired to work towards the common good of all humanity and agree on actions that will limit the rising temperature of our world. Many scientists say this is the last chance to keep the rise to 1.5 degrees.



Queen's Green Canopy: we are exploring with the Town Council ways of participating in this great scheme, a nationwide effort to plant trees in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Topical Tips: now that Autumn is here:

- As the weather gets colder, put on an extra layer of clothing before you turn the house heating on. And keep that extra layer so the thermostat can be a degree or so cooler
- Make sure all your light bulbs are LED's – they save electricity and money, and save having to change bulbs so often. Have you seen how the new LED lights in the church entrance lobby, toilets and hall are giving us better and more reliable lighting?
- If you have a garden – leave seed heads and fallen leaves for birds to rummage through for food; put out bird and hedgehog food; clean bird-feeders regularly; consider putting up a nest box

Overseas Spotlight: see the attached information about Bishop Alan's Harvest Appeal. You can donate online to this worthy cause. (www.harvestappeal.org).

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. Having achieved the "Bronze Award" (displayed in the church entrance hall) we are now looking at the changes we need to make to reach the "Silver Award".



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).

THE BISHOP OF ST ALBANS' HARVEST APPEAL 2021

WATER IS LIFE

Water is life, but in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), water is their number one problem.

For many communities, water for drinking, cooking and washing is unsafe and brings with it a devastatingly high risk of cholera.

Your generous support for this year's Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal can bring clean, safe water to many more people in the DRC, giving them life and hope, and transforming their communities.

www.harvestappeal.org



'FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK.'

(MATTHEW 25:35)



- ☑ Above right: A drilling rig in the DRC that brings safe, clean water to people and communities
Photo: Tearfund Partner
- ☑ Above left: Children washing their hands at a water point
Photo: Will Boase/Tearfund
- ☑ Right: Children playing in fresh, clean water
Photo: Chris Hoskins/Tearfund

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