

Annual Report 2020-21



Creation Care Group

The world at large is increasingly concerned at the developing environmental crises around us. We see this in climate warming, pollution of air, water and ground, and extinctions of species. St Mary's, along with much of the church, has been slow to engage with these issues, so at the beginning of 2020 the PCC set up the Creation Care Group.

The Group's task is to help us all understand how, if we love God the Creator, we must all love his creation too. Love, care and respect for God's creation are essential parts of our Christian obedience. We all need to put that into practice in our own households, but St Mary's also needs to do it in its own building and organisation. We've registered with Eco Church, an organisation that provides advice and support, and also a do-it-yourself survey to see what progress we're making on our green journey. We're aiming for their bronze award in mid-2021.

The Archbishops got us off to a flying start, as their Lent course was on the theme of creation. About 100 people took copies of one of the Lent booklets from church. Later, in September between lockdowns, a series of sermons focused on the theme of creation and our responsibilities for it, backed up by challenging video soundbites from Christians involved in care and conservation.



Covid has stopped us doing much in the church or grounds, but in ones and twos we've made all the toilets dual flush and put up pictures of their twinned latrines in Uganda. There was a great turnout for the Groundforce morning in October, when jobs included making bug and animal-friendly piles of logs and brushwood. We've put up some bird boxes around the grounds, and are working with the Council to make some areas more welcoming to wild-life.

Looking ahead to COP26, the major UN Conference on climate warming in Glasgow in November, we want to join with other churches in urging bolder action by the government.

As a part of the Church of England, we have a goal of 'net zero carbon' by 2030. The PCC agrees that solar panels need to be added to our development plans, along with other projects to improve the church lighting and insulation.

We look forward to being able to do group activities again, whether it be litter picking in our local area, or enjoying together some of the wonderful open spaces around us.

There's more information about us on the Church website at www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care/.

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