



St Mary's Eaton Socon
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Creation Care
Loving, caring supporting



CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

“Quiet Area”:

We are delighted that the area is now ready for use. The Rotary Club St Neots St Mary's kindly made a donation towards the foundations which were laid in the autumn. The benches, installed in January, were paid for by various families, and plaques will soon be fitted. Please do make use of it – a lovely spot to sit, think and pray, or to have meetings.



Churchyard News:

In the autumn we planted in many areas of the churchyard with over 500 bulbs including, hyacinths, daffodils and tulips. These are beginning to flower now. Do spend a few minutes enjoying them.

Most of the flower beds are now looked after by members of the church, and others, through the “**Adopt a Bed**” scheme. We are also running **monthly working parties** 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!

We have installed a hedgehog feeding station and by using a “trail cam” are getting some interesting videos of various mammals at night.

Soon, we will erect a new large glazed noticeboard on the outside of the church hall near the circle of remembrance, in which we will post information about the churchyard.

For further information, visit the churchyard page on the church website

www.eatonsocon.org/churchyard.



COP26:

After all the noise about COP26 last November, was it a success or a failure? There were some steps forward, such as naming fossil fuels as a key problem. But shouldn't that have been done years ago? Many younger people, poorer nations and low-lying island states were especially disappointed.

Since then, climate change has not been in the news so much. However, the UK government remains the steward of the agreement until November when COP27 takes place in Egypt. The Climate Sunday Coalition highlight two very important issues:

- Ending fossil fuel development in the UK
- Compensating poor countries for the irreparable damage of climate change

Our vicar has recently written to our MP on behalf of the PCC about these and other issues.

We can all pray that our and other governments will increase their commitments to reducing carbon emissions, and take practical actions to follow them up.



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".

Topical Tips: recent research published by academics from Leeds University suggests that if people from well-off countries (that's us!) made 6 life-style changes, this would help avert climate breakdown:

- Eat a largely plant-based diet, with healthy portions and no waste
- Buy no more than 3 new items of clothing a year
- Keep electrical products for at least 7 years
- Take no more than one short-haul flight every 3 years and no more than one long-haul flight every 8 years
- Get rid of personal vehicles if you can – and if not keep hold of your existing vehicle for longer
- Make at least one life shift to nudge the system, like moving to a green energy supplier and insulate your home

Recycling:

Look out for the new bins in the Hall lobby, opposite the kitchenette - two at floor level and two above them:

- The upper small red bin is for used batteries
- The lower red bin is for old printer cartridges
- The big bin with the blue top is for anything that should go in the Council blue bin - Cans, plastic, paper and Card, etc
- The bin with the black top is for anything that should go in the Council black bin - waste that can't be recycled.

Please bring your used printer cartridges and batteries from home - we will pass them on to people who can use them to raise money for charity.

Although we believe the paper disposable cups we use for tea and coffee can be recycled in the blue bin, it would be better if you can bring your own mug to services and other church events – it would also save the church some money.



Are you interested in Fair Trade?

We would like St Mary's to become a "Fair Trade Church". If you would like to champion this aspiration, please talk to us.



Church Carbon Footprint:

Our PCC has agreed that St Mary's should do all it can do be "carbon neutral" by the year 2030, a target set by the CoFE for the national church. We have estimated our church's carbon footprint for the years 2019 and 2020. Unsurprisingly, the biggest source of carbon was the gas used to keep the church warm. For those interested, the totals were 42 and 23 tCO₂e respectively - 2020 was much reduced due to the pandemic. We plan to calculate the figure each year.

We have begun to "offset" the carbon we produce as a church through payments to [Climate Stewards](#), starting at 10% for 2020, 20% for 2021, and so on, hoping to reach 100% by 2030. The CoFE target, to be carbon neutral by 2030, is ambitious but achievable.



Overseas Spotlight:

The photo above and the story below, taken from a report on the Tearfund website, show the increasing problems arising now due to climate change.

Recently, Tropical Storm Ana caused a wave of destruction across Mozambique. More than 126,000 people have been affected as health centres, schools, power masts and water supply systems were destroyed. And now, another storm is on the way. 'Our immediate priority, alongside providing food, safe drinking water and shelter, is to ensure that unaccompanied children in particular are able to access safe spaces where they are cared for,' shares Edgar Jone, who leads Tearfund's work in Mozambique. The sad reality is that people who were struggling before a storm like this will often become even more vulnerable – especially where they have been forced to flee their homes.'

Would you like to join our Creation Care Group?

We are a small group which would welcome one or two enthusiastic people to join us. If you feel strongly that we should be taking better care of God's Creation, including our church and churchyard, then do speak to us. We would be delighted to hear from you.



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).