

Eco-church Report 2024-25

St Andrew's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 27 April 2025

There are 5 themes associated with the eco-church requirements as set out by Arocha and endorsed by the Church of England.

These are:

1. Community and global engagement
2. Worship and Prayer
3. Buildings
4. Land
5. Lifestyle

During this year we have made achievements in each of these categories with the key elements as follows:

Community and global engagement

Though the actual day for the Council's eco-fest was cancelled due to inclement weather, St Andrew's was able to support the initiative on the day before by leading a walk around Hertford's rivers and Jenny Mutch gave a presentation about how to value nature at All Saints as part of the same event.

We have demonstrated our commitment to the environment during our Harvest Fest by inviting the local Wild Life Trust to attend the event.

There are regular discussion items in the monthly magazine.

We are engaging with the local council via part of a group on climate issues with our MP Josh Dean.

Worship and Prayer

Praying for the environment is now embedded in our services as part of our intercessions.

We are having early discussions regarding how to better embed eco-related topics to our young church members.

At our last Church away day a workshop on the environment was included.

Buildings

We now have bike racks at the front and the back of the church. There are regularly used both by the congregation and those using the church and the hall for other activities.

We are in the process of looking at the feasibility of changing the boiler in the hall to a more eco-based air sourced boiler to replace the current boiler that is coming to the end of its life.

Land

Debbie Ledsam and Jenny Mutch have completed an audit of the plants in the church yard and plan to add to this with information in the church. We will also take part in A Rocha's Love Your Burial Ground week in June to help carry out an additional audit of plants in June.

Lifestyle

New recycle bins have been introduced in the church.

Bakers galore are encouraged to use eco products where ever possible.

We are aiming to use flowers sourced locally from our church grounds where possible and reducing the use of Oasis within our flower arrangements.

Notes:

We have meetings throughout the year and will continue to update on progress around these key elements with the aim of achieving silver eco-church status.