

Eco Group (formerly Green Group) Report

Our first event in the church year 2022/2023 was a Climate care Sunday, held in September as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. We praised and thanked the Lord for the abundance of food produced from His Earth. The theme of Chris' sermon was the choice we have to heed the suffering caused in some poorer countries, if we live in a careless and wasteful way. Several children prayed and further challenged us on the subject.

We were able to announce during the service that our church had reached the standard required to gain an Ecochurch Bronze award. An Eco Church is one that shows its concern for the environment in spiritual ways, like having regular preaching, prayer and worship focussed on climate care. We also aim to take practical action in making our buildings and grounds more eco friendly, and encourage our congregation towards an ecologically sound lifestyle.

We have continued with our regular 'Green tips' in the weekly Church newsletter and our recycling of items that cannot be put into our Blue bins. The wild flower meadow that we planted last year has flowered in a spectacular manner this summer, and an enthusiastic work party has extended the pollinator bed.

Some of our group members met with Diana Cook, from Cambridgeshire Wildlife, to discuss how best to make our church grounds more wildlife friendly. Most important is to have grass mown at different times of the year to provide a variety of habitats for insects and small mammals. Tom and Fiona Swan have been very helpful with this.

Several church members helped with the Histon and Impington Ecofest in June. This was a village-wide event, held at Histon Baptist church and involving around thirty local organisations, including schools, Girl Guides and Brownies. There were speakers from British Antarctic Survey, Shepreth Wildlife Park Conservation Trust and HI Trees. We ran a stall entitled 'Climate Justice: it's not fair' jointly with St Andrews church, Histon and this was well received by visitors.

Caroline Manser