

Climate Sunday 2023

Report from the Land Group

We have put up bird boxes and will put up a more secure bird feeding post. (this will be put into concrete). We have cleared around the hall from brambles and other dangers to children of the nursery. We had hoped to get some wildflowers on display, but time ran out.

We will carry on pruning the yew, cotoneaster and the mahonia as these are the best sources of food for birds over the year. Would like to involve children to work and plant new growth. We will carry on checking the large compost to make sure it is still safe for hedge hogs to over winter

Members of the congregation who take part in environmental work:

Roy is involved with the Residents' Association organised monthly litter pick in HW

Dave Ellis at Claremont maintaining the grounds

Margaret T working for the Elmbridge Rangers to maintain the commons and put in hedges etc.

Roger T voluntary manager for Surrey Care Trust. Will be taking part in the Wilding of the Banks of the Thames in partnership With Thames Landscape Strategy (patron David Attenborough)

Have restored wetland meadow on the Wey by St Catherine's Lock

Report from the Buildings Group

When St Christopher's applied for the Silver Award, we were already in a favourable position due to investments made previously – around 2015 to 2016 - in solar panels on both church and hall, double glazing in the hall, new boilers in the church. We also made sure that all our light bulbs were low energy LEDs and that our other supplies were eco-friendly.

Now, we're working towards the Gold Award and need to make further improvements. Double glazing in the church would be desirable, but will be costly and we will need to look at whether we can find any sources of funding for this. Similarly, a more efficient boiler in the hall would cut down on our energy usage, but would also be expensive.

We will need to look at what is achievable.

Community & Global Engagement Group

The Community and Global Engagement Group has sent out emails, to those who have signed up to receive them, as part of a campaign to raise issues with political and business leaders to make decisions for an environmentally sustainable future.

We continue to pray regularly for The Great Green Wall project in Africa which is a response to the combined effect of natural resources degradation and drought in rural areas.

St Christopher's is registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade Church and we support this initiative, whenever possible, by using fairtrade food and drinks at church events.

Looking to the future, we need to provide an opportunity to engage with local leaders and our MP on local environmental issues and we need to organize environmental awareness-raising events. Members of our congregation need to be involved in local conservation work.

Report from the Lifestyle Group

The lifestyle group have arranged for regular fortnightly eco tips to be included in the Weekly briefing. As well as encouraging recycling generally, we organise an annual parish Christmas card which can be signed by all church members who would like to send Christmas greetings to the parish in this way instead of just to individuals. This saves quite a lot of paper.

In the autumn, as well as continuing to take care over our use of fossil fuels, we hope to encourage church members to do an annual lifestyle audit, and to think carefully about what we eat and consume using the LOAF principal. LOAF stands for Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly or Fairly traded.

I hope this has given us all some FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

Worship & Teaching

We are very blessed in that you, as a congregation, have really taken Eco Church seriously and this has been reflected in the way people have included Climate Change concerns in the intercessions, in the choice of hymns we sing, and in encouraging us to have services for Creationtide, like this one today, as well as Harvest Festival in October and sometimes an Eco Sunday in the summer. We've also reflected on God's wonderful creation in various ways at Messy Church. This has meant that in the category 'Worship & Teaching' we are at Gold level. So thank you to all of you for that!