

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ECO-BULLETIN 8

BECOMING AN A ROCHA ECO-CHURCH AND NET ZERO CARBON

Who or what is A Rocha?

"A Rocha is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches to care for the environment."

What is an eco-church?

Eco-church is a project launched by A Rocha UK to equip churches in England & Wales to care for creation. The vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

There are 3 levels of Eco-church to work towards (bronze, silver and gold) and 5 areas to address with varying numbers of targets in each. The 5 areas are:

1. Worship & Teaching 2. Buildings 3. Land 4. Community & Global 5. Lifestyle.

Leeds Diocese is working towards an Eco-Diocese award under the A Rocha scheme and has an Environment group working on climate action.

More information can be found on ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Net Zero Carbon

This is a C of E initiative calling on all parts of the church to become Net Zero Carbon by 2030. A checklist has been produced to help churches achieve this.

You can find this on the Diocesan website [leeds.anglican.org/caring for creation](http://leeds.anglican.org/caring_for_creation)

What is All Saints' Ilkley doing?

As the initiatives have some common targets the Environment group has drafted a document combining the two under the 5 headings above. We have prioritised targets in each section to start working on. Other action points will be addressed in due course. As you might expect, some are quite long term, especially some of the building issues which may be more complex (& expensive) because of our listed status.

Members of the group have taken on the 5 areas to work on and we will meet as a whole group to review progress & discuss but we urgently need more members. At present we do not have enough people to have 2 heading up each section so **MORE ARE NEEDED!! PLEASE!! Just speak to Clive Brook, Felicity Bedgegood, Jenny Lawson, Stuart Saxton, Nick Bailey or Kathy Allen. Any help no matter how small will be a help & most welcome.**

Season of Creationtide Sept 1st - Oct 4th

This is a period in the church calendar dedicated to God as creator and sustainer of all life. A time to hold special services and events to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to renew our commitment to caring for our one planet home.

The Church of England theme for the Season of Creation 2023 is **Let Justice & Peace Flow**.

"The prophet Isaiah proclaims: "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43: 19)

Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate.

The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created."

Archbishop Welby says" It becomes ever clearer that climate change is the greatest challenge we and future generations face, it's our sacred duty to protect the natural world we've been so generously given, as well as our neighbours around the world who will be the first and worst affected. Without swift decisive action the consequences of climate change will be devastating."

We are already witnessing devastating scenes around the world.

A prayer for Creationtide

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory. Amen