

Eco Church Committee

The Eco church headway has been limited this year in terms of specific actions. However, during the year the Eco church committee has been discussing the synergies between Eco church ambitions and the Diocese's clear guidance that all church PCCs' need to sign up to and, support the Church of England's actions to achieve Net Zero carbon by 2030 along Eco church accreditation. As a result a paper was presented to the PCC at the last meeting outlining what is needed to achieved the Diocese's goals recognising that these cannot be underestimated.

On the basis of this paper and discussion it was decided that the PCC need to collectively consider the type, scope and hierarchy of actions St Andrew's can realistically commit to with actions and realistic timelines. This discussion will be the focus on the PCC awayday in May. A clear plan of ambition will then be set.

At the PCC away day an energy audit for St Andrews church and its wider assets will be provided to help understand what is feasible during the coming months and years related to reducing our carbon footprint in terms of energy use.

As such the focus this year has been on compiling the bigger picture. However, the committee has also been working towards some of our ambitions and the key points are as follows:

- Bike racks diagrams and potential positions we provided to the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) for agreement. A few minor questions have been asked and we are now waiting for final agreement on position.
- We have been successful in securing some funding for the project from the East Herts Grant for £750 and will plan a working party to later in 2024.
- Eco church articles have been written in the parish magazine on a range of topics.
- The recent awayday included a workshop on wholeheartedness in the natural world.
- We now have posters in the coffee area in the church stating we aim to use sustainable sources of ingredients where possible and have encouraged our bakers galore teams to consider what ingredients are used.

There is clearly a lot more we can and need to do to embrace wholeheartedly more eco and carbon neutral church. We hope that some of the ways forward (including quick wins) will become clear at the PCC away day.

Jenny Mant