

## Eco-church update for the Annual PCC report April 2026

*Your core eco-committee members*

Jenny Mant (Mutch) Chair  
Rosemary Willis  
Andrew Goodman

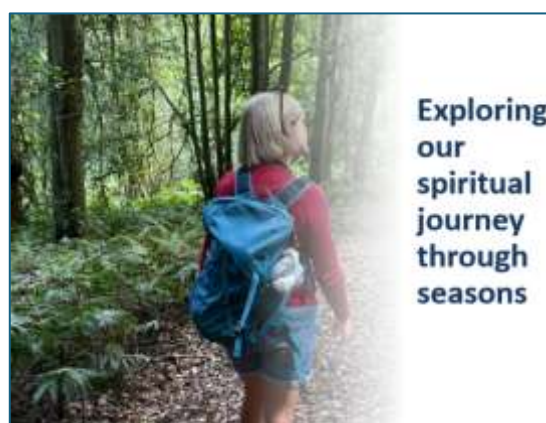
St Andrew's Church Eco Church aims to grow the church community focus on sustainability, community engagement, and care for creation. Here is a summary of a few key initiatives that reflect both practical action and increased awareness across the congregation.

### **Raising awareness**

The parish magazine has played an important role in this effort, regularly sharing eco-themed articles and reflections on environmental stewardship. These contributions help keep sustainability visible in church life and encourage members to adopt greener habits at home and in the wider community.

The church's coffee morning in October 2025 saw our monthly coffee morning being run by the eco-committee with grateful help from others in the congregation. It aimed to incorporate eco-related stores including Oxfam selling eco-friendly products, the sell of eggs direct from the local farm and the selling of homemade jams and chutneys which was a great success. The coffee morning was set at this time of the year to sit within the period of creation tide.

Also, as part of creation tide Jenny led the October *Soul food* (now called Soul Sunday), entitled a time for every season, finding God in the rhythm of creation. Some of the presentation slides were then displayed in the Church during October to remind everyone that God always present in our live.



### **Action**

A major activity over the last 2 years has been determining the validity of an air source heat pump to be installed in the St Andrew's community centre and raising the funds for this and associated insulation improvements in the John Summers-Gill room above the vestry. We have been successful in raising funds from various organisations. We are very grateful to Hertford Town Council who have provided £4K specifically towards the air source heat pump. We have also received funding from the St Alban's diocese large project pot, raised funds from the coffee morning and had an anonymous donation to support both the air source heat pump but also the other ongoing insulation work. By moving away from traditional fossil fuel heating, the church is demonstrating leadership in practical climate action, in line with the Church of England's objective, while also creating a more sustainable space for community use.

And – finally as of this Easter – the air source heat pump is installed and being used.

The eco-church committee would like to thank everyone who has been involved with making this project happen. There really are too many people to mention here but has included the PCC, church wardens, the community centre trustees, fund raisers, technical expertise and a lot of project management.

## Flowers in our church yard and for our church

We have with the help of Rosemary Willis been encouraging our fantastic team of flower arrangers to stop using oasis and think about the use of sustainable flowers.

We are pleased that the Church of England Synod motion was passed this February as follows:

*'That this synod:*

*a) embraces the principles of the Sustainable Church Flowers movement which encourages a living into the Fifth Mark of Mission by promoting the use of local, seasonal and fully biodegradable/compostable flowers and foliage.*

*b) encourage cathedrals, churches and churchyards – wherever possible – to source flowers and foliage locally and seasonally for use in worship and church life.*

*c) call on cathedrals, churches and churchyards to eliminate the use of floral foam (oasis) and all similar non-biodegradable and non-reusable products and techniques, while rediscovering traditional and environmentally-friendly methods of presentation and display.'*

Meanwhile Debbie Ledsam has been documenting the number of species that there are in our church yard each month. We now have a very valuable and comprehensive list, and it just shows how many plants we have to hand to cherish and at hand for use in our celebrations.

## Churches together

Jenny recognised that being an eco-church was more than just St Andrews. We now have a Churches together committee that is growing. It is proving already to be a great way of promoting our events, thinking of ways to work together, and making sure we don't have clashes. We have met twice now and plan to have update 2 or 3 times a year going forward.

## Looking forward

If you are interested in joining the eco-church committee we would be really pleased to hear from you.

We are planning to carry on with our insulation progress to date with a focus on specialists double glazing options for the John Summer-Gill room as an example.

Publish Debbie's list of flora in the church yard.

## Events planned or in progress

- **21<sup>st</sup> May** we are looking forward to a great evening related to celebrating nature with a talk from Tony Juniper (chair of Natural England) – don't forget to buy your tickets!
- **October coffee morning** – come along and learn more about what we are doing and enjoy the eco-stores and produce
- **October (date TBC)** A Taizé style service to fit with creation time
- **4<sup>th</sup> October Soul Sunday** with an environmental theme.

Jenny Mant

**CELEBRATING**  
*The Natural World*  
An evening exploring the beauty, wonder and importance of the countryside and its rivers through music, art and conversation

**Speaker: Tony Juniper**  
Chair of Natural England and one of the UK's leading voices on nature and the environment.

**Artist: Clay Thompson**  
An illustrated talk about capturing nature's patterns and beauty through drawing

**Singer: Craig Joiner**  
Award-winning singer-songwriter and passionate advocate for the natural world.

**TICKETS £15**  
Licensed bar

**THURSDAY 21 MAY**  
7.30pm  
St Andrew's Church  
Hertford SG14 1HZ

Use the QR code to book or visit:  
[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/celebratingthenaturalworld](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/celebratingthenaturalworld)

MOORE INFO ⓘ

QR code