

Eco Church Annual Summary for Holy Trinity APCM 2024

- **Activity since 2023 APCM report**

1) Worship and teaching –

- a. **Guest speakers Pamela and Ian Gamble from A Rocha** attended our 10 am service to preach on Christianity and environmentalism and discuss A Rocha UK' s work. We publicised this in Seer Green and Jordans ahead of time to give people in the village a chance to attend and benefit.
- b. **Morning Praise for Environment Sunday, 11/6/2023**, accompanied by posters within the church on environmental issues.
- c. **Explore Popup church** in Long Grove Woods was led jointly by Janna Holder for Holy Trinity and Louise Gilbertson for the Baptist Church on various dates throughout the year, providing fun and faith in nature for families with young children.
- d. **Eight O Clock Club** – this club is sponsored by Holy Trinity although hosted at the Baptist Church; it regularly offers speakers on nature and environmental issues; in the past year John Tyler spoke on 'The World of Fungi'; and in May 2024 John will be speaking again on 'Animal Architecture', explaining the amazing structures animals create to house themselves.. Many thanks to Monica Sado for running this organisation.
- e. **Diocesan Care for Creation newsletter** - a regular link appears to this in our new Holly Trinity newsletter; and the old format pew sheets also regularly included the link with a brief overview of the information to be found there.
- f. **Parish magazine articles relating to environment and nature** – in addition to the features listed below, the magazine provides monthly articles from the Allotment Association and Seer Green Gardeners with valuable advice and information about environmentally sound garden management; and regular updates on Toddlers in the Woods.
 - i. April 2024: A Rocha UK; Woodfine Wine, Food & Farming; Felling of a Giant – huge village oak falls; Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush.
 - ii. March 2024: Jordans Heritage Trail walk; 'green' walk on ourlivingvillage.org; Black Park.
 - iii. February 2024: Seer Green scouts on Grimsdyke; Buckinghamshire Council's 'Bucks Tree Mission'; a walk in Forty Green.
 - iv. December/January 2024: 'A Bug's Life' – how to support our insects; 'The holly and the ivy' and the wildlife they support.
 - v. November 2023: the old Churchyard Yew; Seer Green Pre-school new Sensory Garden; Ian and Kathleen Hawes, animal rescuers for Tiggywinkle Wildlife Hospital.
 - vi. October 2023: Eight O' Clock club visit to Harefield's Church Gardens; Manor Farm Field Biodiversity Project; a walk around Forty Green; local outdoor play areas part 2.
 - vii. September 2023: A Rocha UK, our annual environmental charity; new team managing the churchyard; Eight O'Clock Club hosts John Tyler on 'The World of Fungi'; The Red Admiral butterfly; local outdoor play areas part 1.

- viii. July/August 2023: Jordans Flower Show, test your soil fertility; local gardens open for charity in July; the Eurasian Magpie.
- ix. June 2023: 'No Faith in Fossil Fuels' protest in London attended by clergy and parishioners of Holy Trinity and Chalfont St Giles; 'The Wilder Side of Seer Green & Jordans' walk on SGJ Society website; Eight O'Clock Club hosts Kay McHugh on her renovation of Harefield Church Gardens; Seer Green Gardeners visit Seer Green School; Hodgemoor Wood photos by Phil Moody
- x. May 2023: Spring photos by Phil Moody, Chris Weymouth; the Dunnock; a walk round Aldbury, Ashridge and the Ridgeway.

2) Buildings -

- a. **Heating** – the church's two gas boilers were repaired using spare parts, as following research it became clear that more environmentally 'advanced' solutions such as electric underfloor heating are not currently practicable.
- b. **Replacement of energy inefficient lighting** - All lamps within the church are now LEDs. In the vestry and parish hall most are fluorescent, which are relatively low carbon, so not urgent to replace.
- c. **Electricity tariff** – Audrey Hardy plans to change us to a 'green tariff' as soon as possible, i.e. when our current contract runs out.
- d. **Smart meter** – we finally were able to get a smart meter installed in summer 2023, after many attempts by Janine to focus the minds of the utility company. Ideally this will enable us to better understand our usage and see how we could economise most effectively.
- e. **Parish return carbon footprint data** - Data on hours of use of the church in the past year, and figures from the past 12 months' utility bills, was gathered and submitted to the CofE by Janine, as part of our online parish return for 2024.

3) Land –

- a. Fineland Forestry pruned the yews and magnolia in the churchyard. At our request, work was scheduled for September 2023 to avoid bird nesting season; a very satisfactory result was achieved.
- b. Mowing is being carried out by commercial contractor Fernando Mirando and his team.
- c. Sustainable maintenance is the aim for the churchyard, with a view towards tidiness and easy upkeep, but also allowing some aesthetically pleasing areas of long grass and wildflowers to preserve our wild plant heritage and the insects, birds, small mammals, amphibians etc whose home it is.
- d. Following a suggestion by Monica Sado, Kathy and Richard Campbell designed and constructed signboards explaining to the community that some areas were left long for environmental reasons and these were deployed in Summer 2023, hopefully to be used again this summer for wild areas.

4) Community and Global Engagement –

- a. **A Rocha Charity of the Month** service, 21/04/2024. A Rocha is our April charity of the month this year. We were fortunate to obtain guest speakers Ian and Pamela Gamble to preach and teach on 21/4 about Christianity and the environment, and A Rocha's work in the UK.
- b. **Fair Trade** – Holy Trinity has stated as part of our Bronze Award that we use fair trade cleaning products and items such as tea, coffee and biscuits. We continue to use Fair

trade tea and coffee and are now aiming to substitute Ecover washing up liquid for the usual store brand. The PCC has decided not to use Fair Trade biscuits as it's not clear how much they directly benefit Fair Trade growers.

- c. **Parish Church biodiversity committee** - This group which was formed by the parish council in March 2024 to engage villagers in implementing, on Parish Council land, the biodiversity survey commissioned by the council last year. Nora Bennett is participating in the committee, not as an official representative of Holy Trinity, but with an eye towards how HT might contribute to fostering biodiversity in the parish.
- d. **Toddlers in the Woods** – Weekly fun in Crutches Wood with activities fostering love of nature, fellowship for children and parents/carers, and a brief devotional song in each session. Involvement from Holy Trinity includes Ali Cork, Rachel Gibson and Nora Bennett. Rev Jez and Janna attend on occasion and are always welcome.
- e. **Seer Green Open Gardens** – Holy Trinity participated in the annual Seer Green Open Gardens event on 11 June by hosting some beautiful floral displays for everyone to enjoy inside the church.

Nora Bennett, 26 April, 2024.