

## **Caring for our church and our world**

The Parochial Church Council have resolved to pursue a systematic approach to environmental matters. This is being done in conjunction with other churches in Devizes. We are using Eco Church as a platform to build upon.

Eco Church is an award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. It is promoted by A Rocha which is an international network of environmental organizations with a Christian ethos. Their free online survey and supporting resources are designed to help us assess how well our church currently cares for God's world in our worship and teaching; in how we look after our buildings and land; in how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation.

The Eco Church Award is a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and may be achieved at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, depending on what a church has done/is doing in the above categories.

Having done an initial run of the survey to gauge where St John's is at the moment, our scores were as follows:

*Worship & Teaching – 81/110*  
*Buildings – 75/525*  
*Land – 5/75*  
*Community & Global Engagement – 24/205*  
*Lifestyle – 22/160*

These are our scores out of a maximum number of points.

To achieve a Bronze Award, the scores required in each category are as follows:

Worship & Teaching – 35  
Buildings – 140  
Land – 20  
Community & Global Engagement – 60  
Lifestyle – 85

So we're already achieving 'Silver' status in Worship & Teaching. In the other categories, there is work to be done, but considerable improvement can be made at little or no cost by, for example, measuring, committing and planning. Whether or not we wish to work towards an award, this scheme does provide a good basis for guiding our thoughts and plans for St John's in a more sustainable, environmentally friendly manner.

We intend to report back to you each month in the magazine, focusing on different elements of our work in this respect.

For your diary: A Rocha, in conjunction with the Diocese, is running a roadshow about the project, which is due to visit St James' on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm. All welcome.

If anyone is interested in assisting with this work, please email: [mccllelland753@icloud.com](mailto:mccllelland753@icloud.com)  
Mike McClelland on behalf of the PCC

