**Holy Trinity APCM - Eco Church Team Report**

**(Please can we refer to this as ‘Eco church team’ report not ‘creation care’ report)**

Our main objective in recent months has been to make progress towards a silver award as a church. We waited until October for the new eco church survey questions to be released before making detailed plans but we already had a number of important initiatives in hand.

We have encouraged and supported the PCC in making major improvements to the energy efficiency of the church halls thanks to the money given in the special church offering in March 2024. We now have air-to-air heat pumps in all the meeting rooms and improved insulation above the ceilings in those rooms. We are also progressing cavity wall insulation in the meeting rooms. LED lights have been installed wherever possible throughout the church.

We have also made further changes and improvements to the church garden. Over the last year we have installed a rain butt and two more compost bins and continue to maintain the flower beds with pollinator friendly plants. We also grew vegetables in the raised beds and shared the crops with the congregation over the summer. We want to encourage both church members and the wider public to visit the church garden and enjoy the peace and tranquillity and the flowers, trees and wildlife.

For the silver award, the church needs to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to eco church principles and ideas. Showing that we are communicating regularly and consistently with the congregation is an important part of that commitment. Therefore, every week in the mailchimp there is a new ‘eco church idea’ with a practical hint or tip on how people can live a more sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyle. This is deliberately kept short to encourage people to read it and the website will have more details and information where appropriate.

We have just released a new website page which includes:

* Hints, tips and ideas for the month
* How to measure your carbon footprint
* Links to various environmental organisations and charities including A Rocha

Achieving a silver award is not just a matter of making energy improvements to our buildings. It is also about encouraging every one of us to make realistic changes to our lifestyle that will help the planet – and also help us live healthier lives that also spend and consume less.