



# Eco Church group plan

REVISED MARCH 2024

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Action	2024 Actions	2025
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## A. Worship and Teaching

A1. Hold special Sunday services about caring for God's earth and include related hymns and songs, prayers, sermons, and liturgies celebrating God's creation.

A2. Invite guest speakers from Christian and other environmental organisations to speak about environmental issues.

A3. How we 'Care for God's Earth' features in our work with local schools.

A4. Create a prayer labyrinth and interactive outdoor prayer stations in the churchyard and invite village members and pupils from the school to add their contributions. <https://www.urcwales.org.uk/news/outdoor-prayer-ideas/>

A5. Our website, newsletter and other publications feature regular items relating to the theme of 'Caring for God's Earth' to encourage more participation across the Parish.

- Prayers and hymns relevant to 'Caring for God's earth' are now a regular feature in church services
- An Eco-themed service is being planned during Pentecost
  
- Plans for FT First school are visiting the church on:-  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** looking for signs of Easter,  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** during café ¾ children coming to create an Easter themed collage.  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** children representing all year groups to talk to members of the Eco-group about our project and how they can become involved and perhaps start their own Eco-project in school.
- Preparations have started in 2024 and will feature on 2 'Interpretation Boards' to be installed at each entrance to church once church approval secured.
- The Parish newsletter and website regularly includes information and features relating to 'Caring for God's

<p><b>B. Building</b></p> <p>B1. All future buildings will be subject to BREEAM criteria (national sustainability assessment for building projects)</p> <p>B2. Measure our energy use and have set targets to reduce our carbon footprint annually. Replace existing radiators with improved energy saving heating appliances.</p> <p>B3. Ensure that our electricity supply is generated from renewable sources.</p> <p>B4. Explore possibilities of generating renewable energy (air or ground source heat pump, solar panels, wind turbine). Explore ways of retaining heat within the building insulation and glazing.</p> <p>B5. Ensure that we have the most economic form of external lighting internally and externally.</p> <p>B6. Collect rainwater install water butts and explore ways to use 'grey water'.</p> <p>B7. All cleaning products used are environmentally friendly.</p> <p>B8. Facilities for recycling are in place both inside and outside the church building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any new building work carried out in 2024 will comply</li> <li>- Energy use is measured regularly.</li> <li>- Following the DCC's decision to take forward the proposal to fit solar panels at SLC a paper for DCC prepared by RW &amp; KH outlining first steps and actions</li> <li>- An official planning application will be made to the LA for installation of solar panels in March 2024.</li> <li>- DCC decision not to install air source heat pump made in November 23</li> <li>- Our electricity supply is from a renewable supplier.</li> <li>- One is in place; consideration will be given to an additional water butt in 2024</li> <li>- This needs to be rigidly enforced in 2024 once all existing supplies are used up</li> <li>- Not all church users are recycling properly, further advice/training and enforcement necessary</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>C. Land</b></p> <p>C1. The DCC will develop a management plan for the church land which involves our local community especially the school; community group, church gardener and WI and includes the following:</p> <p>C2. Managing the church land in ways which encourage wildlife by installing boxes for: birds, bats, insects, and hedgehogs.</p> <p>C3. Establishing a mowing regime appropriate to the conservation of the grassland.</p> <p>C4. A 2-year management plan has been developed Compromises have had to be made to achieve a balance between aesthetics and improving the eco environment.</p> <p>C5. Developing a section of the churchyard for wildflowers.</p> <p>C6. Avoiding the use of chemicals and pesticides in the management of the land apart from paths and driveways.</p> <p>C7. Developing a specific plan for the management (disposal and re planting )of trees within the churchyard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A collaborative approach has been taken in managing and transforming the church land to become more ecologically sustainable, 12 working parties are planned for 2024</li> <li>- Work with the probation service will continue in 24 24</li> <li>- Bird counts to take place</li> <li>- Bat boxes to be considered in 2024</li> <li>- Requests for plants, cuttings and seeds put out in the community</li> <li>- A new gardener has been appointed and is in tune with our Eco-church ethos a mowing regime will be agreed with him.</li> <li>- Significant clearing of the churchyard has taken place and dry-stone walls around all perimeter walls should be completed in 2024</li> <li>- More unkempt graves to be cleared and renovated</li> <li>- Wildflower seeds will be planted in a newly prepared section of the churchyard in March/April 24.</li> <li>- Reinforcement &amp; path maintenance No chemicals/pesticides to be used.</li> <li>- We will seek expert advice from a local tree surgeon about the management of our trees to ensure that they are safe and in good order.</li> <li>- At least 1 wildlife survey will take</li> </ul>	
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## E. Lifestyle

E1. A subgroup of the DCC has been set up to champion the cause of our church community in becoming more environmentally sustainable and able to meet the Church of England's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In line with the Synod motion passed in February 2020. <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment-programme>

E2. Walking, cycling, and car sharing to church will be encouraged.

E3. Information and advice will be made available on how to undertake a carbon footprint audit to church members.

E4. Information and advice will be made available to church members through our web site, newsletters, and presentations on methods to reduce waste, energy consumption, re and up-cycling and in how to invest personal savings through ethical investments.

A clothes/household goods swap and upcycling café event to be organised in ?collaboration with a

- The Eco Church subgroup to continue meeting monthly and submit notes of meetings and an annual budget allocation plan for approval to full DCC
- Opportunities to apply for External Grants to be explored with approval from DCC.
  
- A significant number of members walk to church services and activities, car sharing is encouraged
  
- A Lifestyle audit tool & Individual carbon footprint questionnaire will be available for our parishioners in 2024.
  
- An Eco household product display/ campaign being planned for 2024.
- 2 Forage walks planned in spring around Farnley Tyas by qualified Medical Herbalist and advertised across the Parish and community.
  
- An 'old fashioned Jumble Sale planned in spring.

